

THE REIGN OF JUSTICE

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Is man a product of evolution, or is he a fallen creature?

MANKIND are to be likened to actors on a stage, and it is a very sorry play that is being played on Earth, it is even a tragedy with a very sad ending. The finale is made of ruins, of graveyards and of funeral urns. All the glories mankind lay claim to, melt into disappointment and misfortune.

Mankind are puffed up with a pride that borders on madness. That is due to their refusing, purely and simply, to admit their veritable condition, because their desire for fictitious things has no bounds. It is for that reason that we have likened them to actors on a stage who are determined to embody themselves in the tragedy being played there. A few become aware, at least to some extent, of this situation. For instance, Rabelais, the curé of Meudon, when about to die, said: "Drop the curtain, the play is finished."

It is interesting that men have taken to themselves a science which they call wisdom, when all the time it is only folly. They have set up schools where, after the fashion of animal prodigies, people can learn all kinds of things. After all, what is man when bereft of real spirituality? He is only an animal of a higher order, though powerfully suggestionized. He could get into unison with the greater nature which reveals the glory of God to us, and that would lead him to obtaining magnificent virtues. But his pride deprives him of sense. So high is his opinion of himself that it makes him ridiculous, because he thinks he has discovered things, only they already existed, or he has acquired knowledge that others do not yet possess.

It is the ill-mannered, selfish, stupid and wicked mentality that, in mankind, gives rise to the terrible spirit of sect that reigns as sovereign master. One feels he is superior to others owing to having acquired knowledge which in reality is not so. And that is how the various classes of human society come into being. Of old already, they took the shape of the nobility and the common people, of the clergy and the sinners, of the military hierarchy and the cannon fodder, and of professors, doctors and high-school teachers on one hand, and the ignorant on the other. There was already also big business and pauperism. Those conditions are simply the result of the line of conduct of mankind generally, which inevitably leads to protest, discontent, demands, revolution and destruction.

People very readily permit themselves to be taught by the class of those who have attended university,

which is full of pride and utterly in error. They dazzle people with all manner of thoughts and of sciences which all are nonsense, because the whole lot leads to despair and death. Owing to that terrible pride, no one will have it that man was created just as the Scriptures teach. One is much too wise and much too intelligent for that. It is explained that, in the first place, it all started with protoplasm, and that, with evolution, the monkey stage was reached and eventually that of man. The Theory of Evolution is adopted for a foundation. There is of course some evolution on Earth, but at a given moment, it stops, necessarily.

Man is not the outcome of evolution, but a direct creation, and as the circulation of blood, of gases and of lymph was in perfect motion in man thousands of years ago, it is still in motion in exactly the same way today, and has the selfsame results. Today, as of old, the organs in man work harmoniously till the time when the wear and tear due to the wrong spirituality, that is to say, to pride and folly, begin to make themselves felt in the organs, and appear in the form of deterioration and disease.

Man boasts of having acquired science, knowledge and light. He is regimented when still quite small into schools that develop nothing in his heart but ingratitude, selfishness and pride. What perverse and wicked thoughts cling to man owing to the darkness into which he has been pitched by having his brain stuffed in this way to turn him into an exploiter who speculates in fellow men! And he thinks to gain by such folly! That is why, among the human race, there are to be found many harmful things called sciences which lead it to self-destruction by forging an utterly perverted character.

Mankind do have moments of partial lucidity. In such moments, they allow their hearts to have their say: they are filled with enthusiasm over the beauties of nature, and they greatly admire the display of certain virtues. But very soon after, folly prevails once more, and pride gets the upper hand. And then everything but the truth is received with open arms.

So, mankind are terribly deformed mentally. They admire human folly and the boasts of scientists who teach things so astounding that you begin to wonder whether you are going mad yourself. In certain countries, they compel children to go and be intoxicated with all sorts of teachings, always leading to a result

that ends in nothing. How much wiser it would be to start at once, in Switzerland for instance, by putting this motto into practice which was formulated of old in a moment of lucidity: "We will be a nation of brethren." But to be a nation of brethren, you have to do away with all the banes of pride, and to allow your hearts to have their say.

Now let us impartially examine what true things are. Take the organs of our body which work to obtain the result we call life. Are they jealous of one another, do they combat one another, and is there competition in their midst? Do they monopolize anything at the expense of other organs? No, the example given to us by our organism is a magnificent testimony of harmony. The heart pumps the blood into the whole body: is it grasping like a banker who charges interest for the work done? No, the heart benefits automatically in return from the work done by sharing in the general well-being, which is the inevitable result, for the whole organism works altruistically.

The truth stares us in the face, so near is it to us. Yet we refuse to see it. Why? Because to admit the truth, to live up to it, and to be done with our folly, we should have to be honest, absolutely honest.

The proof that man is a direct creation of God lies in the fact that the organs that work in his body to produce life, are not subject to any sort of evolution. Were you to remove everything that destroys that marvel of perfection which is the human body, it would be possible to envisage eternal life, for man's destiny is everlasting life. For that purpose, his mentality must become reasonable. Mankind must turn their backs on their diabolical schools and enter the right school where a sincere heart is formed, which is honest, upright and good. That school, the only veritable one, is the School of Christ.

Christ came to Earth to be "one for all" so that all might become one in him. The fulfilment of that unity will make it possible for the nations to rally to the banner of the Cross of Christ, adopting it as the symbol of universal brotherhood. That brotherhood can be obtained only in accepting the message of the love of God.

It is that message that we are spreading with joy and gladness, to put an end to the intoxication of the masses caused by the education received at the schools of this world of darkness, and to make it possible for all hearts to have their say. Then, the truth will dawn on everyone. It will be realized that man is not the product of evolution, but a magnificent creature, perfect in his organism, and that at present he has been cast

The unconquerable power of the Truth

FRANCE: Being confined to the house by a few days of convalescence, Armand was making plans. He and his wife Renee had just moved into a roomy well-lit flat down a peaceful alley. Armand was considering taking part in the revival of the Esperanto language, which he felt must be useful in promoting agreement and peace. He was also considering taking an active part in promoting an alluring theory of the distribution of wealth which promised happiness for all men. He was also thinking of organizing a competition in the company in which he was employed, with a view to his own advancement. He was a convinced idealist and was in the habit of sharing his ideas with his wife, who was of a mind with him.

Right from early youth, he had been taken up with the thought of peace and justice.

He had been deeply affected in childhood by the grief resulting from World War One which had robbed him of his father, and he was seeking to join with people of goodwill who were striving for the good of the whole human race. He was seeking justice, but had a deep-rooted aversion to violence. As he had not yet found anything to satisfy his aspirations, he said to himself: "For a new world, what is needed is new men, and above all not to fight one against another! We ought to love one another! Alas, the religions, which preach the love of the neighbour, have not brought peace, far from it!"

After the First World War, there came another. "Yet they had made our fathers believe that the one they had fought would be the last, 'the war to end all wars', and that their sons would never have to go through what they had gone through. All lies and make-believe. The authorities in the world are authorities of misfortune, and it is impossible to

trust them at all," Armand thought. "Men, in their hands, are nothing better than 'human material' or 'cannon fodder'." Nevertheless, in spite of everything, he kept up the hope that the day was coming when all men would live in peace, in happiness and in freedom.

The doorbell rings, and when he answers, an amiable woman introduces herself: "I have come to tell you about the sublime hopes of the Kingdom of God which is now being introduced on Earth by our dear Saviour's Work."

"I'm an absolute atheist," Armand answers. "That sort of thing doesn't interest me in the least. I'll have nothing to do with your Kingdom or with God."

"Still, I've come from your cousin M. V. who thought all that might interest you. What I have to tell you about has nothing to do with religion, but with good which will overcome evil."

Armand does not answer, and her presence appears to worry him. So, the good woman

takes her leave, leaving two pamphlets on the table, not asking for their price in return.

Armand is quite fond of his cousin, who is a doctor. He muses: "If he has had those pamphlets brought to you, it can only be for your good. You'd better read them attentively." And so he does. The style in which they are written appears strange to him, but what is written corresponds with his ideals. The first thing they convince him of is that there is a lot he does not know. Among other things, three books are mentioned: *The Divine Revelation*, *The Message to Humanity* (the Book of Remembrance) and *Eternal Life*. There is also the local address and times at which meetings are held. Armand has a feeling that he has got hold of something very important that he ought to look into, something more important than anything that has been preoccupying his mind, even his own advancement.

So, as soon as he is quite well, Armand sets out one Sunday morning for the address

down from his dignity by inordinate pride and frightful selfishness.

So, we are being invited to admire the greatness, the majesty and the omnipotence of the divine Creator Who has set the seal of perfection on all his works, great and small, to prostrate ourselves before Him, and to humble ourselves, owing to our sinful state. We will, besides, offer Him all gratitude for having sent his only Son to Earth, our dear Saviour, to pay the Ransom for us, and to set our feet once more on the road to life and blessing. We will follow that road humbly, with all our heart, so that we may inherit eternal life.

Faith and the law

From the Swiss French-language magazine *Bible Info* No. 3 in autumn 2017 (published by the Geneva Bible Society), we quote the leading article written by Jean-Pierre Bezin, who deals with an important topic:

"The just shall live by faith." Romans 1: 17

500 years ago, Martin Luther [a German reformer] found peace in his life when the light of that verse spread into his heart. Through this revelation, a gift of the Lord, he finally understood God's justice: God does not condemn, he saw this in Jesus. Luther understood that he was not just [righteous] through his own efforts, but because of his faith in Christ: "The just [the righteous] shall live by faith." This was a complete change in his view of things. He, who had thought that he was only worthy of condemnation, now understood that he had been completely cleansed by God through Jesus Christ. "The righteous shall live by faith": Protestantism was born.

Thanks to Gutenberg [a German inventor] and the invention of the printing press — the common-language translation of the Bible, and the teachings of Luther, spread through Europe like wildfire. But today, does that thought from the Letter to the Romans brighten up my life as much as it caused an upheaval in Martin Luther's? In that Letter of his, Paul continues to clarify: "We therefore conclude that a person is justified by faith without the works of the law" (Romans 3: 28). He repeats it in his Letter to the Galatians (3: 11) and to the Philippians (3: 9). The author of the Letter to the Hebrews adds cautionary advice: "My righteous one will live by faith, but I will have no pleasure in anyone who turns away." Hebrews 10: 38.

Paul's perseverance and that warning to the Hebrews, let me understand that this truth is easier to talk about than to live up to and that the temptation to turn away and to return to the law, is greater and realer than one would like to admit to oneself.

Jesus Christ gave us the example of an ideal life of faith, which is free of the unavoidability of the law. Inescapable for the Pharisees, because their constant efforts to be faithful to the law, while thinking they were faithful to God — a fatal obsession — led them into spiritual death, and this was also inescapable for those on whom they had imposed the same hardness.

Are we really free of that unavoidable weakness of the human soul? Should I not tirelessly return to that verse in the Letter to the Romans in order to change my heart that likes to turn away in order to seek refuge in the protection of the law and that prefers the law to faith and the law to grace?

I understand the law; I know what it is telling me. But faith? I often do not know where it is leading me; to me, the outcome is uncertain... The law that I know protects me from the excesses of those around me and also from my own. But grace? To me, it sometimes seems risky and just like an excuse to give in to the world.

We admire the attitude of Jesus, as in the episode of the adulteress (in John, chapter 8) in which he is especially preoccupied with the conscience of the Pharisees but also with the heart of the woman. I also think about

the episode of the faith of the Canaanite woman, who became the Lord's helper for teaching the disciples (Matthew 15: 21–28), and then about his discussion with the Pharisees about tax (in Mark 12: 13–17), in which he again refuses to seek any refuge in the law.

We love those passages, and we admire the Lord's discernment, but why do we have such difficulty in following him? Why, in situations that make us lose composure, do we seek the support of the law and sometimes even refer to it? Of course, we base ourselves on the Bible (all in all, like a Pharisee). But every time when the Pharisees, in an honest or a devious way, wanted to apply the requirements of the law to the Lord, he gave them an answer of faith: suitable, disarming and freeing. What joy!

They referred to the law in order to judge and to condemn, but he proposed a freeing way: the one that he offers us today. His Spirit wants to guide our intelligence, to develop our knowledge of his Word, and to sharpen our discernment, in order to help us do his will, which is always relevant, never rigid, always adaptable and always right.

Every generation is convinced that the morals of its time are declining. But stepping back a little, one understands that this development is anything but new and that, for a long time, morals have been developing more towards individualism and rationalism. We can see that today when many previously excluded minorities (religious, sexual and cultural) demand their rights, which they were long deprived of. This development is a challenge for Christians for whom it is difficult to accept them into their churches. Of course, we can turn away or we can try to take the path of reform and go forward in faith, but without the law. In every situation that the Lord places us in, we can try to recognize and do his will to unconditionally share grace and hope with those whom we do not always understand, which makes us God's children.

500 years ago, the Reformation reminded Christians that God calls them to reform every day in the light of his Spirit. Will this anniversary help the church to accept this challenge? "The just shall live by faith."

Those considerations interest us, because even if some thoughts are justified, others show a certain trial and error, and uncertainty, which our above-mentioned predecessors — Martin Luther and apostle Paul — had completely overcome. In any case, it is necessary to establish that one cannot progress only with faith and without the law, because it is the law that gives the direction which one must go in. The divine law is perfect and unchangeable, and needs no reform. It was established by God to rule Heaven and Earth: the entire universe: the beings and things of which it is composed, so that perfect harmony is maintained, and thereby, continuity.

God Himself acts, in all things, according to his Law, which is the Law of altruism, of divine love. Consequently, all his thoughts, words and actions are in harmony with the Law. For us, it is not the same... And it is here that faith must intervene. The Law represents perfection, whereas we ourselves are imperfection. We are sinners who have been plunged into sin since the disobedience of our first parents against the Law. Our love, our wisdom and our justice, are not only imperfect, but totally wrong, because they are based on selfishness. It is the pursuit of personal interest that guides the thoughts and actions of humankind. Even those who seek salvation, unknowingly pursue it in a selfish way in order to escape an unhappy destiny.

Humankind's love is also selfish: one seeks for oneself in the person whom one thinks one loves. This self-interested love is subject to continual fluctuations and is the source of many difficulties, disappointments and worries. We see that "sin", which means "selfishness", lives in a human being and distorts one's sentiments and actions, which are systematically guided in the wrong

direction. The right direction — which is that of altruism, of selfless love — is shown to us by the Law. God's calling to a person therefore consists of them leaving their condition of "sinner", which means their "imperfection", behind them, in order to fulfil the Law, which represents "perfection", which means "salvation". This transformation, which may be compared to a spiritual journey, requires faith in salvation, which is offered to us in Jesus Christ.

Salvation was paid for by the sufferings of Christ, by his life that he gave for sinners, and by his blood that he let pour out for their injustices. He is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world through his voluntary sacrifice (immolation), achieved through love. Faith in the value of Redemption through the blood of the Lamb of God, makes it possible to balance all our injustices, to pay all our debts, and to cleanse all our sins. That is what apostle Paul greatly praised in his Letter to the Romans, in which he emphasized "justification by faith".

Our dear Saviour himself confirms to us that we can do nothing "without him". That means, "without his sacrifice, without the payment that he made for us". In fact, it is not possible for anyone, not even for the best person, to attain goodness in all its perfection, because we are all sinners. Consequently, our works would not justify us in any way before God. Only the blood of Christ can do that. We are therefore saved by grace, which Luther understood very well when he took this holy text for his motto: "The just shall live by faith."

Nevertheless, we should strive with all our strength, by means of a progressive reformation of our mentality, to do good by living the Law. For this reason, it is written that we are created in Jesus Christ for good works, so that we do them (Ephesians 2: 10). From there on, the repeated discussion among churches on the subject of salvation by faith or by good works, is solved, because the two cannot be separated from each other. "With the heart (by faith), a person believes in righteousness, and with the mouth (by works), confession is made for salvation." Romans 10: 10.

Without faith, it is impossible to accomplish works, and if we cannot accomplish works, what is the use of our faith? Apostle Paul says: "If I have faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing" (1 Corinthians 13: 2). Faith is the beginning; works show themselves as the fruit of faith. The most perfect fruit of practising faith, is love. When it is acquired, salvation is also acquired. Apostle Paul confirms: "Now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of them is love" (1 Corinthians 13: 13). He says that prophecies will cease, but that love will last forever! (1 Corinthians 13: 8). And he further says that love is the fulfillment of the Law. Romans 13: 10.

David, who lived in the distant past, only knew the law brought by Moses. However, he enthusiastically applied his heart to observing the divine directions. He expresses himself in a moving way when he addresses his God: "Your laws remain true to this day, for all things serve you. If your law had not been my delight, I would have died in my affliction. I will never forget your directions, for by them, You have given me life" (Psalm 119: 91–93). Even more so, the Universal Law, revealed to us in the book *The Message to Humanity*, can give us life when we apply it. It is the "everlasting Gospel" that is announced to all the nations. It is the perfect Law that needs no addition or reform.

The author of the above article speaks about minorities that were long deprived of their rights and that had difficulties in being accepted by Christians into their churches. We believe that accepting everyone is the duty of mercy, and that grace in Christ is offered to all, but that the Truth of the Law must also be expressed as the one and only guideline that leads out of sin and unhappiness, in order to obtain salvation in Jesus Christ. It is in no way possible to reform the Law

given in the pamphlets, with the idea of buying the books mentioned. The meeting has already begun. He is invited to come in and to take a seat. The hymn-singing, the prayer, and the commentary on a Bible text, all these things, he frankly admits to himself, bother him. Still, he stays to the end and obtains only two books: *The Divine Revelation* and *Eternal Life*. It is enough for him, for the time being, to possess the first volume, with which, being logical, he intends to start.

On reading that first volume, he gets a glimpse of divine light. He feels that, to understand better, he needs to purify his heart. Since he has also been able to get hold of the second volume, *The Message to Humanity*, the explanation of the Universal Law fills his soul with sunshine. How can one help bowing down to the great Lawgiver! The Law and the Constitution by which the New Earth is to be governed, fill him with enthusiasm. This clearly is the libertarian society, the ideal

society he has been looking for, since it is founded on the very law of life, the law of nature, and the law of love. He then understands that, it follows, to introduce the New Earth, man needs a reconciliation. Gradually, his heart opens to the Work of the Ransom of Christ, paid by him to justify sinners.

With Brother Fernand, to whom he has become attached because this brother has been able to win his confidence, he has wonderful conversations. Can it be possible? Everything that used to puzzle him seems to be answered. He reads the books over again with the Bible for reference, and is amazed by the divine language and the harmony of God's plan. Really, the author of such works can be nobody else but the Messenger whom the Lord announced, who has to come to the assistance of mankind.

Armand would have liked to inspire Renee with his own enthusiasm, but she failed to respond, being worried by this new infatuation.

"My poor lad", she would say, "you'll soon be disillusioned." She had been reared in the Catholic faith, and wondered what was going on. Armand had insisted on being married at a registry office, but now he thought he could teach her the Holy Scriptures!

Of an evening, Armand would attempt to read her a few pages of what filled him with wonder, but it was of no use. Their neighbour, a kind woman, a childhood friend who was Protestant, would not hear a word either.

Still, Armand went on attending the local meetings, which was a severe strain on the bonds that held the young couple together.

It was a fierce battle, and tears would often flow.

One day, there was the announcement that the Lord's Messenger was coming to preside over a general congress in Paris. Armand attends it, and to come into contact with the Messenger and with the Lord's disciples, does what remains to be done to convince

him fully. Now, the matter is up to him: he cherishes the hope that he may collaborate in such splendid Work, the Work of the deliverance of mankind.

Armand would have liked to tell his happiness to everyone he knew. He brought *The Message to Humanity* to his mother who took it to her heart, and so did his sister. For New Year's Day, he posted off to all his relations a pamphlet: *The Triumph of Good Over Evil*. A while later, he received two exceedingly reproachful letters. So bitter were they that they made Renee curious to find out what was in those pamphlets that gave rise to such a fuss. She read them and felt bound to agree with everything the dear Messenger said. Little by little, encouraged by the cordial influence that pervaded the small group whose meetings she had also begun to attend, her fears and her opposition faded away. She shared the experiences of all, and gradually melted into the family.

so that it suits sinners; it is sinners, who we are, who have to adapt to the divine Law. God's Law is perfect and timeless; everything that conforms to it is durable, whereas humankind dies simply because it does not conform. Let us therefore not try to reform it, as some people suggest, but let us rather reform our hearts, to the glory of the God of all grace and to his beloved Son, our dear Saviour.

Famine continues striking...

We know that on our Earth, every 5 seconds, a child under the age of 10 dies of hunger. This can make think those who live in abundance and nevertheless have a sensitive heart in view of the misfortune of others. On the contrary, others — especially those who have a lot, live in luxury and have pleasure and leisure — have absolutely no care about that. The contrasts are so great, and even shocking, that one has the impression that the poorest people live in another world, a world that is often a great distance away. This saying applies: "Out of sight, out of mind." Despite modern technology, which enables information to spread over the entire globe, there is great general indifference.

The following article — from the European newspaper *20 Minutes* on the 21st of February 2017 — reports what the population in South Sudan is currently suffering:

South Sudan: Six years after independence, this African country erupted into war, which threw the population into famine.

"The main tragedy of the report that has been launched today...is that the problem is man-made," said Eugene Owusu, the United Nations (UN) humanitarian coordinator for South Sudan. "A formal famine declaration means people have already started dying of hunger. The situation is the worst hunger catastrophe since fighting erupted more than three years ago," said a statement by the World Food Programme (WFP), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). It is the first time since the famine in Somalia in 2011, which killed an estimated 260,000 people, that the classification of "famine" has been used on this continent. By April, 4.9 million South Sudanese, almost half of the country's population, will find themselves in a "food insecurity situation", said the UN.

Independent since 2011, the country erupted into a civil war in 2013, which has caused tens of thousands of deaths and has displaced 3 million people. There are the opposing troops of President Salva Kiir (an ethnic Dinka) and of former Vice-President Riek Machar (an ethnic Nuer). The latter comes from the oil-rich Unity State, one of the regions most affected by inadequate provisions. The UN has issued a warning about the risk of genocide.

In addition to the consequences of war, there is drought and the loss of livestock herds and of agricultural production. "Many families have exhausted every means they have to survive. The people are predominantly farmers, and war has disrupted agriculture. They've lost their livestock, even their farming tools. For months, there has been a total reliance on whatever plants they can find and fish they can catch," said the FAO's representative in South Sudan, Serge Tissot.

It is heart-wrenching for us to know that so many people, many of whom are children, are dying of hunger or surviving with great difficulty. So many mothers have to suffer this scene that hopelessly unfolds every day before their eyes: their starving child who does not even have the strength to cry and who cannot be helped. They have to see how it is, day by day, becoming weaker, losing weight and showing its bones. What a terrible situation, and what a curse on this poor Earth since our first parents detached themselves from their Creator, Almighty God! He gave them proper warning:

"The ground is cursed because of you" (Genesis 3: 17). Because of humankind who became disobedient and sinners, and whose mentality continued to deteriorate in ingratitude and selfishness.

This is an unprecedented situation. With the current resources of the planet, 12 billion people could be fed. But the bad distribution of wealth, the corrupt and complicit politicians, wars, the monopolization of natural resources by multinational companies, and speculation, ruin entire populations and plunge them into deepest misery.

Mr Jean Ziegler (the former UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food) — in an interview published in the French medium *Basta!* in December 2011 — spoke these words that are unfortunately still relevant:

"Financiers are continuing to speculate on the food markets. The prices of the three basic foods: corn (maize), grain and rice — which are 75% of the world's food consumption — have literally skyrocketed. Price increases strangle the 1.7 billion extremely poor people who live in slums on the planet and who have to survive on a minimal-living income of less than 1.25 US dollars per day. The stock-market speculators who have ruined the Western economies out of profit and greed, should face a Nuremberg Trial for "crimes against humanity". He adds: "A child who dies from hunger is a murdered child. It is not a victim of a law of nature."

It is terrible that such an appalling mentality could have developed in some people, which led them to become humanity's true torturers, who conduct their business with total impunity, and who are even respected as honorable persons. These individuals will undoubtedly have more difficulties than others in adapting to the new conditions of the Reign of Justice that will be established on Earth. Because in that "new world", where everything will be restored, evil will no longer be permitted in any form. On the contrary, one will learn to love one's fellow person as oneself and to wish them at least as much good as oneself, and to learn to give, and to benefit one's fellow person, even if this means missing out, in order to acquire an altruistic character, that of a son of God, who is worthy of life.

In the new world, where justice (righteousness) dwells (2 Peter 3: 13), every human being will be treated as one of the "redeemed of the LORD", as a brother or a sister to whom one owes all one's attention, consideration and love, which one has received oneself. The sublime Gospel — for which Christ came to make shine on Earth as the perfect essence of love and generosity — will enlighten all hearts who will be united as a single family on the restored Earth, which will become the Almighty's glorious footstool. There will therefore be no more hungry, no more thirsty, no more oppressed, no more neglected and no more unhappy people any more! The gift of the lives of our dear Saviour and his Church, will forever seal the blessing of humanity, by permanently clearing the consequences of the curse, and by fulfilling the promises: "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek [the gentle], for they shall inherit the Earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." Matthew 5: 4–6.

Dangerous air pollution

In an article from the 3rd of May 2018, the French environmental online newspaper *notre-planete.info* describes the quality of the air breathed in by humankind, its causes and its consequences on health:

9 out of 10 people breathe polluted air

Air-pollution levels remain dangerously high in many parts of the world. New data from the World Health Organization (WHO) shows that 9 out of 10 people breathe air containing high levels of pollutants. Updated estimates reveal an alarming death toll of 7 million

people every year caused by ambient (outdoor) and household air pollution.

Major sources of air pollution from particulate matter [minute separate particles] include the inefficient use of energy by households, industry, the agriculture and transport sectors, and coal-fired power plants. In some regions, sand and desert dust, waste burning, and deforestation are additional sources of air pollution. Air quality can also be influenced by natural elements such as geographic, meteorological and seasonal factors.

"Air pollution threatens us all, but the poorest and most marginalized people bear the brunt of the burden," says Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of the WHO. "It is unacceptable that over 3 billion people — most of them women and children — are still breathing deadly smoke every day from using polluting stoves and fuels in their homes. If we don't take urgent action on air pollution, we will never come close to achieving sustainable development."

The WHO estimates that around 90% of people worldwide breathe polluted air. Over the past 6 years, ambient air-pollution levels have remained high and approximately stable, with declining concentrations in some part of Europe and in the Americas.

Air pollution: 7 million deaths every year

The WHO estimates that around 7 million people die every year from exposure to fine particles in polluted air that penetrate deep into the lungs and cardiovascular system, causing diseases including stroke, heart disease, lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases and respiratory infections, including pneumonia.

Ambient air pollution alone caused some 4.2 million deaths in 2016, while household air pollution from cooking with polluting fuels and technologies, caused an estimated 3.8 million deaths in the same period.

More than 90% of air-pollution-related deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries, mainly in Asia and Africa, followed by low- and middle-income countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region, Europe and the Americas. In general, ambient air-pollution levels are lowest in high-income countries, particularly in Europe, the Americas and the Western Pacific. In the cities of high-income countries in Europe, air pollution has been shown to lower average life expectancy by anywhere between 2 and 24 months, depending on pollution levels.

Around 3 billion people — more than 40% of the world's population — still do not have access to clean cooking fuels and technologies in their homes, the main source of household air pollution. The WHO has been monitoring household air pollution for more than a decade, but, while the rate of access to clean fuels and technologies is increasing everywhere, improvements are not even keeping pace with population growth in many parts of the world, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa.

The WHO recognizes that air pollution is a critical risk factor for non-communicable diseases (NCDs), causing an estimated one-quarter (24%) of all adult deaths from heart disease, 25% from stroke, 43% from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and 29% from lung cancer.

More countries taking action

More than 4,300 cities in 108 countries are now included in the WHO's ambient air-quality database, making this the world's most comprehensive database on ambient air pollution. Since 2016, more than 1,000 additional cities have been added to the WHO's database, which shows that more countries are measuring and taking action to reduce air pollution than ever before.

Africa and some of the Western Pacific have a serious lack of air-pollution data. For Africa, the database now contains particulate matter [PM] measurements for more than twice as many cities as previous versions, however data was identified for only 8 of 47 countries in the region. Europe has the highest number of places reporting data.

As she was very fond of devoting herself to others, the Lord employed that side of her character to help her along. There was in that region a magnificent team of young evangelists who ceaselessly visited towns and villages. They came to the town of N., and Renee was asked to have the kindness to allow them to meet in her house every morning for the *Heavenly Dew* meeting. Thus, she was present herself, and afterwards would serve them all with breakfast, feeling what a privilege it was for her to serve these young and courageous bearers of the Good News of the Kingdom of God. Brother James was the leader of this team of sowers of the Truth and also of joy and happiness, in spite of the fight that had to be kept up.

One day, Sister Juliette, the evangelist who represented the elder of the region in the town of N., informed the assembly of a difficulty that had arisen. She had been invited to visit the son of a sister in Stuttgart, Germany. The

lad was a World War Two German prisoner of war, working with a farmer in a neighbouring village, but the farmer had refused to allow the visit. Sister Juliette proposed that Brother Abel, who himself had returned from captivity in Germany, should try to open the matter up again.

That was just what was needed. Brother Abel soon won the confidence of the farmer who said: "I've never had a farmhand like Richard who does his work conscientiously and who is always cheerful and thoughtful."

So, Brother Abel and our friend Richard were very happy to become acquainted. After a few visits, there was a new brother to swell the ranks of the little congregation, to everybody's joy. At first, someone had to bring him and take him back, but soon his employer allowed him to go on his own every Sunday. He quickly learnt to speak French and was at his ease in conversation with his brothers and sisters. And what joy he had one day to

bring along a basket of the first green peas the farmer's wife had given him to contribute towards the general meal he shared with the rest of the brethren!

A while later, the little group in the town of N. was tried with the rest of the Family of Faith by some trouble that arose for God's people. On that occasion, the Lord revealed his great nobility and kindness, delivering his children from danger and enfolding them in his love. Armand and Renee, who were still quite fresh to divine matters, appreciated the courage and the love displayed by the elder, as well as the true friendship of the Family of Faith. The constraint that Renee in particular still felt melted away. Their house even came into use as a meeting place on Sundays, which gave occasion for closer contact, and supplied her with the opportunity to serve even more.

Brother Richard, who had been sent back to a prisoner of war camp, also received splendid protection. He returned to the group in the

town of N., because Brother Maurice, who himself was a farmer, obtained permission to employ him.

All those experiences were winning over Renee's heart a little more every day. She would attend the big general meetings with Armand, or sometimes they would take it in turns. Once the Lord spoke directly to Renee's heart in these words: "Why are you fearful, you of little faith?" The dear Messenger's commentary stirred her deeply. After all, what is there to fear, she mused. Is it not the Lord Himself Who calls us to become collaborators in setting up his Kingdom on Earth?

So, right away, Armand and Renee make up their minds to give up their jobs so that they may spread the sublime hopes of the Kingdom of God: "No more anguish, no more fear, no more enemies, no more cares, no more sickness, no more death!"

In contact with all those vibrant and determined hearts, Brother Richard also catches

The database collects annual mean concentrations of fine particulate matter (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$) [the size measurements of 10 and 2.5 micrometres (microns, or millionths of a metre) respectively]. $PM_{2.5}$ includes pollutants — such as sulfate, nitrates and black carbon — which pose the greatest risks to human health. The WHO air-quality recommendations call for countries to reduce their air pollution to annual mean values of 20 $\mu\text{(micro)g/m}^3$ (for PM_{10}) and 10 $\mu\text{g/m}^3$ (for $PM_{2.5}$).

"Many of the world's megacities exceed the WHO's guideline levels for air quality by more than 5 times, representing a major risk to people's health," says Dr Maria Neira, Director of the Department of Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health, at the WHO.

While the latest data show ambient air-pollution levels are still dangerously high in most parts of the world, they also show some positive progress. Countries are taking measures to tackle and reduce air pollution from particulate matter. For example, in just two years, India's Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) scheme has provided some 37 million women living below the poverty line with free LPG connections to support them to switch to clean household-energy use.

Mexico City has committed to cleaner vehicle standards, including a move to soot-free buses and a ban on private diesel cars by 2025.

It is actually high time to take steps, meaningful steps, that are appropriate to the seriousness of the situation. Numerous matters of concern must be taken into consideration: population growth, the concentration of the population in large cities, the poverty that deprives millions of people access to less-polluting sources of energy, "growth at any price" that seems to be the general motto... There are so many factors that let us think that humanity has reached a point of no return. Solutions are possible, especially with the knowledge and means that we have today, but one would have to make considerable funds available. And this is where we come to the crux of the matter: money, which is mostly in the hands of a very small minority of super-rich people.

In many poor countries — where people live without any comfort, are exposed to various pollutions, and have no possibility of improving their situation — politicians and other privileged people live in luxury and without the slightest care for the fate of the people. All the means that further corruption, turn those people into the "kings of the world", and no matter how many new laws are made or how many different panels there are with gathered experts, scientists and economists, the situation of the people will not change, because those who have a say in this world, definitely do not want anything to change. The heads of states and governments, visit and receive each other with great ceremony. At those times, it seems as though they represent their countries with great dignity. But when one goes to where average people live modestly and even below the poverty line, that is enough to make it clear to oneself that the real situation does not correspond with all the eloquent political speeches.

the general enthusiasm, for his heart is easily moved. As with the others, the desire to serve the Lord is burning in his heart. It is a solemn moment, for he is on the point of being sent home.

Brother G., the elder of the group in the town of N., and being very glad of Armand's and Renee's decision to start evangelizing, sends Sister Madeleine, an evangelist, to support them and to encourage them along. For the few days before his departure, Brother Richard accompanies them. He shares their joy, and contributes his own, which is not only caused by his looking forward to seeing his family again and his homeland, but also to spreading the message which has united them.

Before parting, Armand and Richard promise to serve the Lord by placing themselves at the disposal of his last disciples who are offering up their lives to save mankind. Henceforth, they are recruits in the same army, the Host of the Lord, and for the same object. They know their ideal will be fulfilled, and are able to sing with confidence and with all their heart:

*Mighty weapons of destruction,
All are scrapped with eager hand,
Used by God's folk for production
Of bright tools to till the land.*

News in brief of the Reign of Justice

The Lord showered his grace on the dear Family of Faith gathered in the city of Lyon to hear this precious message delivered by

The truth is that the world is governed by selfishness, and as long as it dominates, there will be no real improvement. In humanity's current situation, there is only one solution: the collapse of the financial system, which means, the complete devaluation of money. Furthermore, that was announced in advance in the Holy Scripture, and it is about to happen. That event will cause other events, and each one of them will be a considerable shock to our society. That will produce an unprecedented Tribulation, as the Lord Jesus tells us in his great prophecy. But it will simultaneously also be the end of all injustice. The Tribulation will uncover and flatten everything.

Then, those who really want to act for the common good, will be able to do so freely, without being dependent on money, but only on their goodwill and on God's grace, which will certainly not fail. Our dear Saviour spoke about that class of people when he said: "Blessed are the meek [the gentle], for they shall inherit the Earth" (Matthew 5: 5). Led by the pioneers of the "new world", the valiant Host of the Lord, they will gradually turn the Earth into a wonderful Paradise. It will be completely reforested until it has regained its Edenic climate and its pure air, as a provider of health. All sources of air pollution will be removed. Selfishness — which is the worst pollution of all, and from which all the others come — will be put aside and replaced by altruism, which will produce brotherliness and sisterliness. Perfect well-being will be gradually regained and dispensed to all the inhabitants on Earth, who were redeemed by the Almighty in his infinite love at the immeasurable price of the life of his beloved Son, the Saviour of the world.

Willow's adventure

From the Swiss newspaper *20Minutes.ch* on the 27th of July 2018, and from the UK newspaper the *Daily Mail* on the 26th of July, we quote the following article:

After being lost for 13 years, a cat returned home to die

Cirencester, Gloucester, England: Willow, a cat that disappeared in 2005, was found by its owner, three days before it died.

Abigail Smith had long since given up hope of finding her beloved cat. For good reason: Willow disappeared from her home in 2005 without a trace. Despite the family looking for the cat, it had been missing for 13 years. Until last Wednesday, when Abigail spotted her long-lost companion in a picture circulating on Facebook. Someone reported that a cat was rescued after it fell into a pond near her house.

"When we saw her, she hadn't changed at all. Her feet and head still seemed far too small for her body." After the vet confirmed that it was Willow, Abigail returned home with her cat. "We couldn't believe it. It broke my heart when she went missing," she told the Daily Mail. The cat settled straight back into the family. "It was as if she had never left. My boys adored her immediately." The vet said that the cat was keeping well. "She had all her home comforts of fluffy blankets and

plenty of fuss and attention. We gave her all the food she could possibly dream of."

But the happiness was short lived. Three days later, the cat suffered a seizure. It died at the respectable age of 17. "I think she was content and knew she had come back home," explained Abigail. "I'm just grateful that I got to say a proper goodbye and that for the last few days of her life, she knew that she was loved."

A touching story that makes us think. What was the reason for Willow's disappearance, for the separation from its kind owner, and for the long absence from the place where it had spent four happy years? There are mysteries for which we currently have no answer and, in Willow's case, which might remain so. The cat took it to the grave. It could not have told us anyway. We can only think about the suffering of the unhappy owner when the cat disappeared. Of course, she had many questions. What become of it? Did someone find it? Was someone cruel to it?

If often happens that cats go missing. They then leave behind upset and inconsolable owners. The two remarkable things in this report are the facts that Willow was separated from its owner for such a long time and that it came back few days before its death, as if it felt its end coming and wanted to say goodbye to those it loved.

We certainly have a lot to learn from our animal friends. They are also the victims of the condemnation that came over humankind, and they feel and suffer from the influence that rests on us. The proof is that most animals fear humans, which is not natural. Humans beings were created to be the royalty of earthly Creation. They should be the protectors of the animals and have a good influence on them.

In the Garden of Eden, the animals went to the humans. They looked for their company and did not run away. That will occur again in the Restoration of All Things, according to the prophet's words: "The wolf will live with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat. The calf, the yearling and the lion will be together, and a little child will lead them. The cow will graze with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. An infant will play near a cobra's hole, and a young child will put its hand into a viper's nest. They will not harm or destroy anywhere on my holy mountain, for the Earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea." (Isaiah 11: 6–9). That vision is not a utopia. Today, it is a hope and a promise. Through faith, it can become a certainty for us. Whether one believes or not, it will one day become a reality by virtue of the high price paid by our dear Saviour. According to the words of a hymn:

*A great and splendid time is nearing,
For Jesus did your Ransom pay,
And his Salvation is appearing
There, in the dawn, at break of day.
Let your hope sing, and spurn dejection:
Glad are the days now drawing nigh,
God's mercy and his kind protection
Receive most freely from On High.*

the Faithful and Wise Servant. We are happy to pass on some of its striking points to our readers:

On the Saturday, the exhortations were based on this exhortation of the apostle Paul to the Thessalonians: "In everything, give thanks." We were reminded that "it is a thought of utmost importance. It shows us that we have to become capable of thanking God for everything, even for what might seem to bring difficulties, and even great suffering in some cases. It is therefore very profound teaching that we must get to understand and take seriously to heart.

And this is another wonderful truth: 'All things work together for the good of those who love God.' It is ineffable consolation for children of God. It means that through the power of divine grace and the influence of his Spirit, it is always possible to find the favourable equivalent of any situation in whatever circumstances. Divine grace is ever-present and harmonizes all things in a splendid manner when we trust in the Almighty and wish to do his will.

We must not allow ourselves to be in the least influenced if we are affected in our health. Divine grace is, and must remain, above all else. That is why we must, at all times, give thanks in all things.

The question is to be honest with the divine principles. Everything that is not useful to or favourable for the Kingdom of God, has to be rejected. And there is a great number of small things with which the Devil can still keep many of us in bondage. We are so distracted that we are quite often not even aware of it.

Solomon mentions it in these words: 'Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards.' They are the very trifles that can trip us up. Consequently, we have to be categorical and very watchful".

On the Sunday, the fundamental thought commented on was: "LORD, You hear the hope of the sufferers, You will strengthen their hearts, and You will listen carefully." Psalm 10: 17.

"Our dear Saviour even said: 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.' It is indeed true, for when we have really grasped that there is nothing, nothing at all to find in the world, and that the love we come across in the world is worthless, that it is neither unbiased nor steadfast, and that it is delusion, we find it much easier to turn to God. And He is there to hear us. I speak knowledgeably, because I have been through it.

Why do we suffer? Because we are not cured yet, and because we have not acquired completely divine characters, there is still a deal of selfishness in us.

When we are busy with the Almighty's Work, we no longer have time to feel sorry for ourselves. We have no personal worries, and we only have cares for those we love and for whom we fight and spend ourselves. If we are still crestfallen or discouraged, it shows that there is a breach of faithfulness, holes and cracks through which joy and assurance leak out. We have to make out those shortcomings and remedy them, so that our joy may become stable."

This wonderful general meeting ended

with the *Heavenly Dew* based on Matthew 12: 35: "A good man brings good things out of the good treasure of his heart; an evil man brings evil things out of the evil treasure of his heart."

This is how the Lord's Messenger advised us: "What is required to obtain a good treasure, is first of all deliberate and faithful obedience to the divine will, fulfilled out of attachment.

We have to succeed in loving the Almighty above all else. His discipline has to be a delight for us, because of our gratitude and attachment.

Altruism is the basis of our good treasure. It requires that we should live for the good of others before anything else. That was why our dear Saviour uttered these words that may seem strange: 'He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for my sake will find it.' It means that we can do ourselves good and work for our lives, only through others, by doing them good first. It is the law of life, whose carrying out is indispensable to our sensory nerves."

The assembly was moved by those very kind exhortations and by the dear Messenger's heartfelt wish to see the Divine Family unwavering in God's ways.

The dear Family of Faith in Lyon took care of everyone during this gathering. We take this opportunity to thank all those who sent us greetings and good wishes.

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