

THE REIGN OF JUSTICE

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What is to be done for all things to work together for our good?

ONE of the texts from Proverbs says: "He who diligently seeks good finds favour." This is a profound truth. Now, what is good? It is divine love, the light, whereas mankind at present are in deepest darkness. They do not know it, but think they are in the light. So, they are ignorant of what good is, and seek it where it is not to be found, that is to say that everyone seeks prosperity, joy and happiness for himself in the very first place. This is the gratification of selfishness, and owing to this, mankind splits into sects, for each individual seeks his own interests, some personal advantage and his own salvation, before all else. This is the road to disappointment, to ruin and to misfortune, because it is in utter disagreement with the law of the Universe, which man cannot evade without doing himself great hurt.

As we know, people are under the suggestion of the Adversary, who has instilled selfishness into them. So, they try to take things into their personal possession, thinking their interests lie that way and that it will conduce to their happiness. As a matter of fact, it is impossible to obtain anything truly happy or truly a blessing through selfishness, such an idea is nothing but a take-in. Man would like a fortune for himself, a house of his own, or a kingdom for his possession. In this way, he breaks all ties with his fellow men, and develops a spirit of sect, which inevitably leads him into misfortune. The fact is that human beings are bound by the Universal Law, the divine law, to exist for one another's good. If they do not, the loss is theirs.

That baneful state of affairs is not recognised as such by mankind, on the contrary. The truth of the matter is a profound mystery to them, which has only been elucidated by *The Message to Humanity* (the Book of Remembrance). Let us clearly realize that in a nation, a political party or a religious denomination, the root of the matter is always the sect spirit. When he seeks his own salvation to the exclusion of his neighbour, man is a sect, even on his own. Thus, within a family there are partitions between husband and wife, and between father and children. It is the same everywhere and in all things. A veritable community does not, in reality, exist anywhere. In such conditions, happiness is not possible. There are thunder clouds constantly on the horizon, owing to this senseless line of conduct, which leads to disharmony and disunion.

The Lord intends to include the human race into a single family who gathers everyone into a spirit of

love, of unity and of community, the source of life and blessing. As we know, Adam and Eve, our first parents, failed in their duty. They did not fulfil their mission, which was to bring children of God into the world. Since they listened to the Adversary, they gave birth to children under the influence of selfishness. Under this baneful influence, mankind have formed small clannish families, who are not viable. Our dear Saviour and his Church come forward as the new Adam and Eve, introducing the new family, the divine family, on Earth, in whom all people will be brethren and become viable, owing to their new way of life.

So, the question is to change one's mentality completely to be able to create the atmosphere of that new family. The new mentality is founded on altruism, love for one's fellow men, which is the opposite of the partisan and selfish spirit. It is our perverted character that makes us suffer and prevents us from being happy and possessing real and lasting joy.

All the institutions that the Adversary has introduced into the midst of the human race, are doomed to ruin and destruction, owing to the selfish sentiment on which they are built up. Communism could be a sort of community, but being allied with selfishness, it is like milk mixed with vinegar, two things of a contrary nature, which cannot mix.

The thing which is of prime necessity is for mankind to change their character, to drive selfishness out of their hearts, and to apply themselves to living up to the Universal Law, the law of love for one's fellow men. That is the essential thing, without which, communism is madness and can lead only to disappointment and pain. To bring people into association, each of whom has a different personal aim, is quite mad and illogical. With such a programme, all things cannot work together for the good of anyone, but only for harm and the curse, for pain and for death, as we can perceive to be the rule amidst the human race.

Death is the sum total of every thought, word and deed of mankind under the guidance of the Adversary's spirit, which is the enemy of all good. Such a line of conduct is disastrous: it is like one who casts dust up into the air only to receive it on his head. Such is the result of the pursuit of evil, "for the wages of sin is death", as the Scriptures tell us, and it is perfectly true.

God's ways, on the contrary, lead to wonderful results. They are a display of light, which is eternal life,

the divine grace which our dear Saviour offers us, having paid for it with his life given up on the Cross. The line of conduct traced out for us in divine ways is the denial of self in favour of our neighbour. Only when we manage to do this does real life begin for us, the life that can last forever. The fact is that our constitution was never made for selfishness, and that is why to not perform works of life in the denial of self and in selflessness, destroys it.

Our personality was not made for living for self, alone, as a sect. Everything we do, then, that is not balanced by love for others, leads to our destruction. It brings us pain, disappointment, darkness and then death. On the other hand, to live for the good of our fellow men, to be a comfort and a blessing to them, is a sure guarantee of our having life and happiness, for in doing so, we win the Lord's approval.

Truth is love. There is not a learned man in the whole world able to demonstrate the contrary, for our body itself is a living witness to the fact. It is proof positive that everything in us has been made so that each member and each organ, exist for the good of the others and for that of the whole. When one or the other becomes hurtful, the work of destruction and of death begins and is completed in a lapse of time that is longer in some cases than in others. Therefore, for man's body to be durable, the action of life must go on, which means that each member and organ must go on existing for the good and the blessing of the others; otherwise, life is impossible. When we are steeped in that atmosphere and follow that line of conduct, it comes within our experience that all things work together for the good of those who love God, which means, those who are desirous of following out God's ways.

God already gave out this law through Moses: "Love your neighbour as yourself." If then we love our neighbour less than ourselves, we do not obtain the equivalent needful for our blessing and for the operation in us of the spirit of law-abiding. Owing to this, condemnation sets in immediately. The process is exactly the same in our body. No organ has to predominate to its own advantage, just as there must be no sentiment in our hearts that favours self. What we eat must be the exact counterpart of our expenditure. If we eat too much, disturbances make themselves felt in us at once. The lymphatic glands are overloaded and are obliged to spill their surplus into the body, and this leads to an accumulation of all sorts of matter foreign to our constitution: sooner or later, it leads to sickness and, in the end, to death.

So, an excess of good things in every domain is an ill.

A mountain: a symbol of the Kingdom

FLORENCE and her father stopped for a breather. Up there, at about 4,000 metres above sea level, rose the peaks of the Eiger, the Mönch and the Jungfrau mountains (which are part of the Alps in Switzerland), which were just catching the first rosy tints of dawn. In the coolness of early morning, those first rays bearing the promise of a warm day, filled their hearts with gladness. As the Sun rose above the horizon, the shades of night crept lower and lower. It was day in the Alpine pastures while the valley below was still sleeping in the mist.

Our two travellers had started out at a very early hour, their packs on their backs, following the paths lined with hazel trees. They had been climbing for some time, and the path winding amidst the pine woods had led up, at last, to the foot of the Alps, where

the chamois (goat-antelopes of the mountains) browse in peace.

The miracle of the dawn was the reward for their efforts, and the Sun, now well on its way in its triumphant progress across the sky, was shedding its warmth all around. To their left, the blue shades still enfolded a vast scree in mystery, out of which came the thunder of many cascades. Suddenly, a strident cry broke upon their ears, and Florence shuddered as she tried to pierce the depths from which this unfamiliar bird had sent forth its call.

As the light took over its kingdom, all things quickly came to life. A carpet of many bright colours spread around them, inviting their steps, and they were greeted with the scent of many flowers.

Florence and her father set forth once more on their walk, which was taking them ever higher into the vast amphitheatre of the Alps, leaving behind them the last trees of the forests, and the last flocks in their pastures.

A certain poet said with truth:

*At peace, Switzerland milks
Her cows with gentle hand.
Her freedom, bright white,
Below the blue sky doth stand.*

It was all that and more. Over against the glaciers made of granite, clouds of butterflies rose in front of them like a blue mist. Soaring into the sky, the alpine pipit birds trilled forth their song, while timid marmots (large ground squirrels) searched the sky in fear of their traditional enemy, the eagle. A herd of chamois, leaping across a ravine from a jutting rock, offered the unforgettable spectacle of their wonderful agility.

Till now, terror has extended its reign, and man is the visible focal point of this universal fear. Yet Florence would so much have liked to stroke the chamois' little ones, to reassure the trembling marmot and to say to the bird: "Have no fear." But the whole of this small

world — from the leafy banks of the mountain torrent, to the wild scree — seemed to be repeating with the Book of Genesis: "The ground is cursed because of you," and: "The fear and dread of you will be in every living creature on Earth, in every bird of the sky, in everything that creeps on the ground, and in all fish of the sea. They are placed in your hands."

Florence, who had learnt those verses at Sunday School, was astonished that nothing had been done about it. At home, the subject was never mentioned, for there had already been enough argument over the matter. As far as her father was concerned, all that was beautiful and true in the world, did not reside in churches or cathedrals in which mankind kept their gods.

It was here in the wild scenery of solitude, where the white Jungfrau reached for the stars. It was here, in the flowering alpine pastures, that he would find his ideal, as he

Self-love must always be balanced by love for others. Thus, the whole human society is built up on error. A good thing cannot remain good when it is not balanced by an equivalent in favour of others.

That is a law that is established in our body and everywhere in the Universe as well. It is to be met with in every domain. Taking this principle as a basis, it is possible to reconstitute the manner of the creation of all things by the will of the Almighty. By the light of *The Message to Humanity*, we are able to perceive that every divine creation on Earth has been placed there for a good purpose. The elements — wind, water, etc. — were all organised so that water should not flood through, being in too great an abundance in certain spots, and so that the wind should not give rise to twisters, hurricanes and cyclones, owing to being too violent. In nature, all things were perfectly balanced and able to make their presence felt only in doing good and procuring blessing.

Water is an element of prosperity. It is refreshing, and it supplies the necessary moisture for making things grow and for quenching man's thirst. However, all things must be balanced, the equivalents have to constantly be respected, so that circulation is set up, the perpetual motion which gives life, each identifying himself with his neighbour, in his work and in his blessing. Stagnation and accumulation are deadly in all domains. The Almighty has to identify Himself with Christ (Head and Body). Christ has to identify himself with the Host of the Lord, and the Host of the Lord has to identify itself with all mankind, and this circulation must carry everything back to the Almighty. That is what constitutes perpetual motion, continuous life.

The heading of our exposé asks: "What is to be done for all things to work together for our good?" The Bible gives us the answer: "All things work together for the good of those who love God." "To love God" means "to do his will", that is, "to keep his law". If we abide in the atmosphere of that law, all things can only work together for our good, and no harm can befall us, such a thing is impossible. All that can befall us is the lessons permitted by divine wisdom for our blessing.

The Almighty gave his Son to save mankind. Those who intend to love God and to serve Him, have to realize the great value of the Work done by the Almighty on behalf of his earthly creatures. They must have the desire to associate with heart and soul in that Work of deliverance. Everything they do, everything they say and everything they produce, must be to the glory of God, in existing for a good purpose. This is the Law of Equivalents, which brings blessing with it.

Our dear Saviour took pity on the human race because he wished to have a good purpose for his existence in associating with his Father in his Work. Which meant divesting himself of everything, dropping his spiritual nature, to be born as a man on Earth, and then to give up his perfect human life as the Ransom for the lost human race, to extricate it from its trouble. Those who are running the race of the High Calling and wish to be a part of the New Eve — "the second mother of mankind", made up of the 144,000 members of the Body of Christ — have to be minded exactly as our dear Saviour, to associate with him fully in that order of ideas. Then, all things can work together for their good in a magnificent way. They sacrifice their human life, but find life again when they rise again to divine nature. The Host of the Lord keeps the law by existing for the good of others, always for their good, and its harvest is eternal life with joy and happiness. It is faced with a ministry: to be the Revealing of the Sons of God to mankind, demonstrating the practice and the success of the divine programme when it is kept

to, how to set about making all things work together for their good as well.

The programme given to all who wish to associate in God's glorious Work, is magnificent: it is to provide all mankind with blessing by introducing the new things with laying selfishness aside and with practising altruism, love for others. This is a Work of affection and nobility. One who wants to accomplish it must have no other aim in view. His whole attention, all his zeal and all the efforts of his soul, have to centre on that one thing. Everything else is left to the Lord, to Him Who takes wonderful care of all his creatures, and Who loves them tenderly and guides them with a sure and powerful hand, to good, to blessing and to success.

Therefore, if we wish all things to work together for our good, perfectly and absolutely, we must like God's ways, his principles and his law, more than anything else. Let us seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all else will be added to us.

"He calmed the storm"

Psalm 107: 29

In the Swiss French-language newspaper *Tribune de Genève* — in the 18th and 19th of June 2022 edition, in the column "Sciences" — there was an article written by Pascal Gavillet on hurricanes, which don't hold anything good in store for the future. We quote the article in its entirety:

A "Category 6" hurricane scenario becomes clearer

Until now, these typhoons had only 5 categories. That could change, and scientists are preparing for it.

The cyclone season [in the Northern Hemisphere] started on the 1st of June. It will last until the 30th of November. Now, for the 7th year in a row, it will be worse than the previous ones, due to the effect of climate change [global warming]. Over the past 7 years, there has been a notable intensification of hurricanes. In that respect, the year 2020 was a record year. But it could soon be beaten. For several months now, scientists and meteorologists have been trying to anticipate the worst-case scenarios, with simulations.

But first, let us take a brief look at the origin of cyclones and hurricanes, the latter being the tropical version of the former. Their name differs according to the points of the globe where they occur. According to terminology defined by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), "typhoon" is the name used in East Asia, "hurricane" is the name used in the North Atlantic, and "cyclone" is the name used in all other ocean basins. Their formation is more or less similar to that of a heat engine. They are storm clouds that are in a rotation and are accompanied by very strong winds. They release heat as a result of the condensation of water vapour at altitude. That is why they are identified as "warm-core" storms. The resulting dangers are the torrential rain that they produce and the strong winds that accompany the rainfall. Every year, hurricanes and cyclones cause thousands of deaths.

Irreversible damage

Depending on the strength of the wind, a scale of 1 to 5 is used to categorize hurricanes. On this scale — known as the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale (SSHWS), named after an engineer and a meteorologist who developed it in 1971 — Category 5 implies a wind speed in excess of 251 km/h and a storm surge that exceeds 5.50 metres. It causes terrible and irreversible damage. It can rip off the roof of a house and reduce it to rubble. It can cause a huge flood and destroy most of the coastal infrastructure. A lack of drinking water and of electricity then wreak havoc on the affected populations. One of the biggest hurricanes in history, "Katrina" in 2005,

was also one of the deadliest, when it particularly hit the city of New Orleans [in the U.S. state of Louisiana]. It was also one of the most costly, causing an estimated 108 billion U.S. dollars in damage.

A wall of wind

But all of that is in the past. Because the future will be worse. Scientists are already preparing for the possibility of a Category 6 hurricane that could hit the U.S. Category 6 is not a category [it is off the scale]! You have to imagine wind blowing at over 300 km/h. Waves of 6 metres and higher. According to Florida International University [in the U.S.], these forecasts are entirely realistic. In fact, they have already occurred. For example, Hurricane Dorian in 2019, Hurricane Irma in 2017, and Typhoon Haiyan [also known as Super Typhoon Yolanda] in 2013, all generated wind that blew at more than 290 km/h. They therefore, by definition, belong to Category 5, because Category 6 is unofficial. However, it is now imaginable to introduce a new category when these limits are crossed.

To try to imagine the damage from such a monster, the National Science Foundation [in the U.S.] has allocated a budget of 12.8 million U.S. dollars to scientists to build an experimental shed. This will contain 12 giant fans that will create a wall of wind that can blow at 252 km/h. In front of this simulator, in order to test their resistance to wind, wooden houses will be built and trees will be planted. In practice, this shed will not be ready until 2026. That seems like a long time. Because the rapid increase of extreme weather events cannot be reversed, especially those caused by hurricanes passing through warmer waters than before, due to the constant rise in temperatures due to greenhouse-gas emissions caused by human activities. The object of this experiment is therefore to find more resistant materials for future homes and roads, and to improve electricity and drinking-water distribution networks.

The above article gives us the impression that nature is angry and that it is expressing its rebellion against all the harm that we are doing to it: the pollution of the environment, the destruction of the forests, and the rest of the damage caused by our industry and all human activity. Let us understand this message, otherwise there is a risk of increasing intensity, as the article shows.

The sight of a hurricane is terrifying. One cannot do anything against the unleashed elements. Humankind, despite all their technology and their knowledge, are powerless and have to endure the storm until it stops. This realization should lead us to ask questions. Scientists are trying to simulate these violent storms in order to find materials and construction techniques with which houses and other structures can withstand hurricanes. But this is a matter of dealing with the effects and not the causes. What we are asking and what we should research, are the causes of these violent storms.

There is a certain fatalism in human reasoning, which leads to the belief that things are as they are, that nothing can be done about them, and that we should try to protect ourselves as much as possible from misfortune. Whereas in reality, we should stop, think and ask ourselves whether or not we are partly responsible for everything that comes on us. Now, if we really believe in God, it would be good to humble ourselves before Him and to ask Him for grace. Then, we could understand the message that was given to Adam straight after the Fall, and that let him understand that the Earth would be cursed because of him.

It would then also be possible to understand the Lord's invitation, which is addressed to all well-disposed hearts and asks them to collaborate on the Restoration of All Things. To restore what has been ruined. That is what we are called to do. This restoration must begin with humankind themselves, who must learn to love each other and to no longer satisfy their selfishness.

imagined it for himself. This book, always open on the page of revelations, would incite him to seek for the whys and wherefores of certain things, for after all:

*Why the spring, you can see,
And why roses, why dawns?
But why should icicles be?
Why the cypress that mourns?
Why that cold shade
When days turn to nights?
Why were wild beasts made,
And teeming parasites?*

Though Florence could see God rising in the dawn, hear Him singing in bird songs, and could see Him watching in the stars, never did she utter his Name, for the example of people who had his Name in vain on their lips, had induced her parents to keep clear of this subject.

Weekdays, assiduously attending school in the capital, Florence would count the days till

the next excursion, and would recite within herself:

*'Tis up there you forget
The world and all its smarts;
'Tis up there that is set
The land of noble hearts.*

On the other hand, when the barometer was low and promised more rain than sunshine in the high country, they would leave the Eiger alone with its clouds, its lightning and its storms, and on such days, Florence would go out with her grandmother. The old lady loved her granddaughter and, in her company, would relive the days of her youth, seeing a bit of herself in the child's lively interest in all around her. Grandmother had reached the autumn of her life, in the course of which, she had had many trials, had known much sorrow and had also discovered, as is mentioned in the Book of Ecclesiastes, that all was vanity.

As suffering had silently done its work in her heart, she would think of the ills, pains and fearful doom of mankind tossed around by the storms of life, till they reached their final port. She had obtained some light in her heart, and this impelled her to delicately instil into the child's heart, the ideal of the most precious values.

Therefore, on those Sundays when the sky was grey and the weather dull, the 10-year-old girl would go with her grandmother to the nursing home to visit the invalid uncle. He had been there a long time. He had gone off to America to study, and he had worked so hard that his brain had finally given way. There had been no news of him for 3 years, and at the end of that time, they had gone to look for him. Since his return, he had not left the nursing home.

Florence, who had a feeling heart for the misfortunes of others, was not sorry to have gone that day with grandmother, but what a

frightful contrast this harsh reality was! After the glory and the vastness of nature, of the broad country and of the majestic mountains, the world of men exposed itself in its true aspect, and it was far from glorious.

Florence had frequently returned with her grandmother, and to those residents in their twilight years, their coming would be like a gleam of light and grace. The big-hearted old grandmother, in the secret places of her faith, would entrust the little girl to God, for she had a distinct feeling that her death was drawing near. And then one day, she did indeed go to her final rest, but the marks left by her noble affection were fixed in her granddaughter's heart forever.

She and her father had kept up their Alpine excursions, but mother and elder sister preferred the unbroken tranquillity of home life. Peaceful years went by in this united family atmosphere, and Florence was 17 when, one

It is no longer sufficient to only consider the goal that one is pursuing, one must also take into consideration the means with which it can be achieved, and they must agree with the Universal Law of altruism, which requires existing for the good of fellow people. Everything that we do, say and think, must conform to that unchangeable rule.

If we submit ourselves to that discipline, everything will change for us and around us. We will automatically come into contact with the Truth brought by our dear Saviour, and this Truth will free us from ourselves and from the influence of God's Adversary: Satan, who torments all humankind.

Our dear Saviour calmed the storm on the lake, on which he sailed with his disciples (Luke 8: 22–25). He will also calm the storm that sometimes rages in our heart, and he will equally assist us in the great task that consists of restoring everything on Earth, so that it regains its original perfection.

There is a long way to the complete deliverance from our deformed character and from the Adversary's suggestion. However, we are certain of the victory of good over evil, certain that good will one day rule as the sovereign master on Earth, as is already the case in the rest of the Universe. Let us add our effort to that of all the faithful hearts who preceded us, who collaborated on God's Work, and who thus became role models of faith and courage. God's Kingdom will be introduced on Earth. There is still time to collaborate on it. Let us not miss this opportunity and honour, which will make us God's children for eternity.

Extraordinary achievement!

We reproduce part of an article published in newspaper *Quick*, under the heading:

Doves save shipwrecked people

"After forty days, Noah opened a window he had made in the ark, and he sent out a raven. It flew back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth. Then Noah sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the land. ... Noah waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the ark. The dove returned to him in the evening, and behold, in its mouth was a freshly plucked olive leaf. So Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth."

That is how the end of the Flood is depicted in the Book of Genesis, chapter 8.

The Bible relates a very astonishing exploit of the dove, despite its harmless appearance. It depicts two phenomena that we still admire today in this bird: the ability of the homing pigeon to come back to its pigeon house, and that of seeing things that are imperceptible to us human beings.

Here is a practical example of that: on the Pacific Ocean, a lifeboat of a cargo ship that had sunk in a hurricane, had been floating adrift for 3 days. At last, in the distance, the humming of a rescue helicopter was heard. But its two observers saw nothing but crowns of foam on the raging ocean, so they already wanted to turn back.

However, in a cage near the pilot, a homing pigeon suddenly pressed a button with its beak. The alarm rang. The pilot of the helicopter began to fly in the direction shown by the pigeon, and a few minutes later, he was near the shipwrecked people.

Since autumn 1982, in Hawaii — at the base of the community of Kaneohe, on the island of Oahu — the American Coast Guard trains pigeons to signal by pressing a button when they see red, yellow or orange specks (which are lifejackets or lifeboats) floating on the sea, which escape human sight. The success obtained by these "rescue dogs" of the ocean, is surprising. When radar perceives nothing, and when human observers, at

a height of 600 metres and within a radius of 500 metres, see only 4 out of 10 shipwrecked people, pigeons see 9.

A bird's eye is, in many respects, greatly superior to a human's. First of all, it is so sharp that a pigeon can read a newspaper at a distance of 30 metres.

Secondly, a pigeon can recognize objects that are far brighter, for unlike a human who has 3 different types of cells in their retina to distinguish colours, it possesses 4.

Thirdly, it can distinguish ultraviolet light, which is imperceptible to us, and even the direction of vibration of polarized light. This is important for removing reflections from the surface of water.

Fourthly, its eyes are located on each side of its head, so it has a field of vision of 160 degrees. However, a rescue helicopter has 4 of these winged observers, each of which has the responsibility of a sector of 90 degrees.

Fifthly, the bird has an enviable perseverance. When we already begin to see an uninterrupted succession of forms and colours in a scintillation of lights, we can still rely on it.

But all of this is far from being sufficient to explain the wonderful performance of a pigeon's eye...

The experiences related above, concerning both the occupants of the helicopter and the American Coast Guard, once again show us the precious help that certain animals can bring to man in circumstances when he reaches the end of his possibilities of perception. How many people have been saved thanks to a dog's sense of smell, which found them when they had lost their way, or under ruins from earthquakes! Others, alerted by their faithful companion, have been able to run away from a danger that they were unaware of. As for guide dogs (seeing-eye dogs), how many services they render to the blind, and how much care they have for their masters!

Here, we can only marvel at the pigeons' wonderful and keen sense of sight, which is far superior to ours, as well as their sense of orientation, which allows them to return to their pigeon loft, even from very far away. And now they can press a button to activate an alert mechanism to signal realities that escape us.

As for the dove, it indeed has a privileged place in the Bible. It was sent out by Noah, as reported above, to make sure of the situation as soon as the water began to recede. And for three times, from seven days to seven days. It was the second time, towards evening, that it came back with the leaf of an olive tree in its beak. This tree has become the symbol of peace, of glory and of productivity.

It was also under the appearance of a dove that the Holy Spirit settled on Jesus just after his Baptism by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. And it is again a dove that the Master pointed out as a pattern to his apostles when he sent them evangelizing, saying: "Behold, I send you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore, be as wise as serpents, and as harmless as doves." Matthew 10: 16.

Peace or war?

The Swiss French-language newspaper *Tribune de Genève*, in the issue over the 30th and 31st of July and the 1st of August 2022, published in its column "Monde" ("World") an article titled "Armament race", which describes the current situation of global nuclear weapons. We quote it in its entirety:

The nuclear threat is more real than ever

Nothing is OK between the nuclear powers and the other countries. The Tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons [which is commonly known as Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and which will run from the 1st to the 26th of August 2022], in New York, looks tense.

The risk of nuclear war has rarely been so high. Rus-

sia's nuclear threats in Ukraine; China's booming arsenal; the worrying modernization of the weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) among all the member powers... The atmosphere is explosive, to say the least, on the eve of the Tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. On Monday in New York, there will be four weeks of diplomatic arm wrestling among the 191 member States. Tension is guaranteed.

"The divisions between the five nuclear-weapon States (China, USA, France, Russia and Great Britain) and the other States, which accuse them of not having respected their commitments, are enormous," explains Mr Marc Finaud, as associate researcher at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy. "The original agreement, when the NPT was adopted in 1968, was that all countries would give up nuclear weapons (and agree to be monitored) except for the five powers already possessing nuclear weapons, under the condition that they refrain from any proliferation and that they negotiate, in good faith, in the reduction of their arsenals. The goal was the elimination of this weapon of mass destruction."

Permanent state of alert

In reality, the arsenals continued to grow during the 15 years after the adoption of the treaty, until they contained nearly 70,000 nuclear warheads in the mid-1980s. Admittedly since then, agreements between Washington and Moscow have made it possible to reduce their number to nearly 13,000, of which most are in Russia (5,977) and in the United States (5,428), but a few hundred are also held by China (350), France (290) and the United Kingdom (225), according to estimates by the Federation of American Scientists (FAS) published this year by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). That said, the risk remains significant, considering that approximately 3,700 of these weapons are deployed and operational, of which a good half are kept on constant alert and ready to be used within a few minutes.

In addition, three States which are not signatories to the NPT, have meanwhile become nuclear powers: Israel (perhaps 90 warheads), India (160) and Pakistan (165). To them is added North Korea (20), which left the treaty to develop its nuclear programme. Regarding Iran, it is getting dangerously close to the threshold. "The five treaty powers justify maintaining their nuclear programme due to the risk of further proliferation. That is rather hypocritical speech," according to Mr Marc Finaud. "On the one hand, they forget to mention the role they may have played in proliferation. On the other hand, their refusal to give up their nuclear weapons pushes other States to acquire them."

Easy to use

"The arms race has never stopped," adds that former French diplomat. "Today, the reduction in the quantity of the arsenals, is compensated by a modernization of their quality. Many nuclear weapons are much more powerful than the one dropped on Hiroshima. Others have more modest warheads, but have been made more 'easily usable' on the battlefield, because they are mounted on limited-range rockets. The principle of deterrence involves making the threat as realistic as possible."

And that's not all. China isn't hesitating to increase its arsenal, which could go up from the current 350 nuclear warheads, to 1,000 by the year 2030, according to SIPRI estimates. The United Kingdom, for its part, has announced its intention to increase its warhead number from 225 to 260. In full violation of the NPT, of course.

Illegal weapons

We understand the frustration of the countries that have given up on nuclear weapons. This led to the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear

day, she was invited to go to a concert. The whole family attended, for father was singing in the men's choir. It was there that she met Laurie. He was her elder by 10 years, but as their aspirations were alike, they seemed predestined to join their lives. He was fond of music, and so was Florence, almost as much as her beloved mountains, and he himself loved nature almost as much as music. A year later, they celebrated their engagement, and hardly had they done so than death took mother away in her prime. They waited 2 years more to get married, and after the ceremony, they set up house together, making many plans for their continued happiness. But it was then that war broke out, and the storm waves broke on the shore of their lives. Laurie lost his job, and they went through some dark days, in the course of which, they sometimes didn't even have bread. However, they went hand in hand through the trial, and at last, one day, the clouds parted and Laurie was

offered employment in a small enterprise in the heart of the country.

It was in a valley with rural occupations, tranquil and surrounded with forests. Look around her and climb the hills as she might, Florence was able to find no real mountains. Once she had explored in every direction, she thought she would die of homesickness. She discovered how strong were the ties that bound her to the snow-clad peaks, and how hard it was to say to them:

*You guardian peaks, goodbye!
Who watch while I'm asleep;
Clear springs, and pastures high,
Where, flocks, the shepherds keep.*

She often has the little chalet in her mind's eye, a charming little mountain chalet from which, in her bed close to the window, she used to watch the stars come out before going to sleep, while moonlight flooded the snow of the Wetterhorn mountain peak.

The baby Florence was expecting, who was to relieve her homesickness with a pleasurable occupation, had not lived. This was a great shock to her. She was frustrated in the mother urge that nature had put in her, loving life as she did in the promise of beauty and the best the world contained that it held out. She had intense love for the white Alps rearing their crests to the very heavens, and for the great beauty of nature in its wild state; she had an almost passionate love of music, and particularly of children. She sincerely thought she loved her husband very much indeed, as she sometimes was aware of a feeling of jealousy.

Florence had to wait 4 long years before being joyfully able to look forward to the birth of another child, 4 years, in the course of which, the feeling of jealousy had intensified. Claud was born at last, and this event diverted her thoughts for a while from the ideas that tormented her.

"When one looks at you, one perceives a happy mother," a friend once observed.

Of course, Florence was happy. But all of a sudden, her happiness seemed to her to be snatched from her grasp, or to be burnt up in a hell whose coals were stirred by a mysterious power. The young and affectionate mother went through some days of gloom in which her heart was gripped in a vice of deep distress. Her condition was far from being improved by hearing on the radio a professor quite categorically state that jealousy was an undeniable proof of the deepest love.

Florence didn't have the cheek to think that such a wise person could make a mistake, particularly as what he said confirmed her own impressions. Yet this love, which was hers, was a source of bitter torment for all of them. However, no more than the professor did they know that:

Weapons (TPNW) [also known as the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty], which came into force last year, despite opposition from the great powers and their allies. "Its main purpose is that it fills a legal void," decipher Mr Marc Finaud. "Other weapons of mass destruction — biological and chemical — have been banned by treaties and are eliminated. What was missing was text making nuclear weapons illegal, because they cause the mass deaths of civilians."

Of course, the implementation of that prohibition seems difficult. But this is not just wishful thinking. International humanitarian law requires of belligerents [people or countries at war] that their attacks respect the principles of proportionality and discrimination (editor's note: between combatants and civilians). In the past, this has not only led to the elimination of biological and chemical weapons, but also the ban on antipersonnel mines and cluster bombs.

Mr Andrès Allemand Smaller, the author of the above article, made us aware of the Tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which occurred shortly after the publication of his article, and which he describes as a four-week tug-of-war among the 191 States (nations) that are concerned about the problem of nuclear weapons. That is the proof that they are all aware of the potential danger associated with such weapons. Everyone is aware of it, but no one is ready or determined to take the first step towards peace. The motto "If you want peace, prepare for war" (In Latin: *Si vis pacem, para bellum*) seems to have been assimilated and put into practice by nations.

As Mr Andrès Allemand Smaller shows, nations have

signed a treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, which should lead to the final elimination of these weapons. In reality, we have seen that these weapons continued to be developed. In conflicts, such as the one between Russia and Ukraine, there is the real danger that nuclear weapons will be used.

Wars, which have been fought throughout history, show us the madness of such a course of action. One might wrongly say that one has "won" a war, but in reality, no one wins a war. When one thinks about the enormous losses suffered by all sides in these conflicts, one is taught a lesson. It is, in fact, the Adversary who leads the way. By launching into an armed conflict, one easily believes that one will gain a lot, but one is deceived all along the line. Great military nations are often ruined by the weapons that they use to attack their enemies.

Countries invest large amounts of money in their armaments in order to be able to defend themselves in a possible conflict. But they often change from defence to attack. Their own arsenals become a genuine temptation to not only defend themselves, but to declare war on their antagonists. Furthermore, the hypocrisy of the States regarding the non-proliferation treaty of nuclear weapons, constitutes a precedent that incites countries that don't have nuclear weapons, to get them.

The Prince of Peace, our dear Saviour, recommended people to love each other, but no one wanted to listen. It is too simple, and no one easily believes the Truth. No one believes in the power of good, and yet it is much stronger than evil. Our dear Saviour proved it to us. By him giving his life on the Cross, he achieved a triple victory: over the world, over the Adversary and over

death. He invites us to follow in his footsteps in the way that he opened for us and made so bright through his example of humility and gentleness. Nothing resisted him, and he himself didn't resist his adversaries. He loved them and overcame everything out of love. What a wonderful example he left behind for us!

Of course, it requires faith to follow that example. The faith that the Almighty is our Defender. He engages to protect us, but in no case will He punish an evildoer because of us. His motto is not to punish, but to return good for evil, being convinced that good will last forever and that evil will one day disappear definitively. We already see that in the example of our dear Saviour. Even today, one talks about his ministry on Earth, about the witness he left behind for us. But the evil that was done to him did not leave behind many traces. It was engulfed on the Cross, where our dear Saviour forgave everything. He paid for the guilty. He took the immense burden of our sins on himself, and if we wish for it, he places his righteousness on us. He, who had no sin, was made sin for us, so that, in him, we might become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5: 21). This is done out of a love that is so great, that we can hardly imagine it.

They are truths that we should inform our leaders of, and we should especially not let them believe that they are Christians when they often conduct themselves far worse than heathens by waging war. Let us therefore be courageous people who give a good testimony of the Truth. Our harvest will correspond to the effort we have made. We will not be disappointed, but on the contrary, be enthusiastic, because good is an everlasting source of joy and happiness.

*Selfish love doth sadden,
Pain it doth impart.
Surely it doth harden
And defraud one's heart.*

Several years went by in those conditions, in the course of which, a second child was born. And then a neighbour gave her *The Monitor of the Reign of Justice*. Now, as it happened, the first article described the frame of mind of one who is happy, who has learnt to love without jealousy, and went on to say that jealousy was the most detestable defect in the hearts of men. So, after all, it was not a quality... Not even a small one? But a defect, a very serious defect, the worst one there could be...!

"And that's exactly what I'm like," Florence confessed with sincerity. "But there's going to be a change, and I mean it."

She learnt that while it was not within the power of anyone to break the bonds of that slavery, for people of goodwill, assistance was to be found in Jesus Christ, and it would never fail. Therefore, having promised, Florence began immediately. It was a stiff fight, a narrow way, but she liked facing up to difficulty and did not give up in the face of resistance. As in the past, when pitting her strength against the Alps, a ray of light was the reward of her effort. This was wonderful, and this first contact with "the sun of righteousness" was such a comfort, that nothing so kind or so agreeable had ever caressed her heart before.

The kind neighbour to whom Florence confided her first impressions, informed her of a meeting to be held in a few days. It was a congress, which would gather around this plan of action, the living energies that will introduce the Kingdom of Christ on Earth. There would be people from all quarters, for: "Wherever the carcass is, the eagles will gather." (Matthew 24: 28)

So, they agreed to go to it together, and Florence got ready for this event, which made her feel there were great things likely to happen soon. On the Saturday agreed upon, she awaited her friend, but in vain. No one! There was still Sunday as a possibility, although for that day, Florence had got everything ready for a mountain excursion.

It took courage to tell her husband about this unusual change of plan.

"What do you mean, to the congress? Don't you want to come with us? So, you don't love me anymore?" Laurie asked with anxiety.

However, being an intelligent man, he realised that, as it happened, his wife intended to learn to love him better, with an affection which would no longer cause him pain, and that to be able to do this, she first had to seek the Kingdom of God.

So, in the end, he consented: "By all means, attend the congress."

The next day, Florence set out for the Kingdom newborn, for she had also seen its star.

The only indication she had when she set out was the name of the town in which the congress was held. But this scant information had not stopped her.

When she got out of the train at her destination, she made inquiries along these lines: "Would you please tell me where the meeting is being held in which the Kingdom of God is being born?"

The taxi driver gave her a derisive grin. The town was full of meetings. "No, really madam, such things are not in my line."

Going up to a policeman, Florence asked him the same question.

This man must have been inclined to be kind, for he considered a moment: "Now, come to think about it, there's something happening. Perhaps it's what you're looking for. It's at the... I'll show you."

And the kind policeman went along himself to open the door for her, and so let her into the intimacy of the Family of Faith.

She was not acquainted with a soul, except for her neighbour who thought she was too worldly and came to believe that it was too soon to introduce her to the people whom the Lord's Servant was leading to the Promised Land.

Of course, Florence knew no one, but all those smiling faces looked familiar to her in the warm atmosphere which was already making her heart swell with emotion. The impressions of blessing, which lifted her thoughts to the peak of happiness, reminded her, though on a much larger scale, of those of the past when, with her father, she used to climb towards the meeting with the Sun as it shone its first rays on the snow caps.

To Florence, it was no wonder that a mountain was used as a symbol of the true Kingdom of God, for it was in that Kingdom that today she discovered the light which, in time, will enlighten all the dwellers in the gloomy valley of death.

To her mind's eye, there came the detailed and noble outlines of that mountain on which the Elect (the Chosen Ones) will gather, and what she used to sing as a child concerning the white Alps of the high country, was the same today on Mount Zion, for:

*'Tis up there you forget
The world and all its smarts;
'Tis up there that is set
The land of noble hearts.*

Florence gathered splendid momentum in the race for her ideal, having put on the armour of goodness and purity. These effective weapons gradually broke down the fortress of her selfishness, behind which jealousy was undermining her. Under the well-directed fire of impressions of the Truth, jealousy had to abandon the positions it had gained in her heart, and to leave them open to the reign of God's Holy Spirit.

Being quickly won over by this happy in-

fluence, Laurie was not long in giving up the world to associate in his wife's efforts, and to climb with her up the paths of the Lord's holy mountain, on which, according to the words of the prophet, no one shall hurt or destroy, for the Earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

News in brief of the Reign of Justice

On the 2nd, 3rd and 4th of September, the dear Family of Faith had the joy of meeting at the congress in Lyon, France. We were once again impressed by the spirituality of the Faithful and Wise Servant of God, expressed in the presentations of this congress, from which we happily highlight a few key points.

Saturday's *Heavenly Dew* Bible text was taken from the Book of Exodus 20: 7: "You shall not take the Name of the LORD, your God, in vain." We quote some of the main thoughts:

"The Lord's marvellous benevolence, his ineffable plan and his call of grace and tenderness, must deeply impress us, not with fear, but with gratitude, trust and attachment. They should irresistibly attract us to achieve what the Lord proposes, that is to say, to attain the mentality of a son, not a slave..."

We are used to saying within the Family of Faith, especially in our sanctification meetings: 'I want to take the steps,' but this mostly stays in the state of theory, and the efforts in this direction remain on the way. We don't take the steps. That, is also taking the Lord's Name in vain...

We have to guard our own hearts in order to prevent the intrusion of the evil spirit... To do that, we must open our hearts wide to the Almighty, and say to Him: 'Have mercy on me, I am a poor sinner. Help me and lead me!' That is how we honour Him, by choosing Him as the only One Who can heal us. When we go to Him, we honour Him; when we go to the one who is the liar from the beginning, we dishonour Him. We must not let the Lord have the second or third place in our heart. He must have the very first place..."

Sunday's *Heavenly Dew* Bible text was: "You shall name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1: 21). The dear Messenger told us: "What we need to develop, above all, is very great zeal for, and deep gratitude, immense respect and unlimited attachment to, the Lord God and our dear Saviour. Let us cultivate these sentiments with complete ardour and all the strength of our being. Let it be our dearest desire, for they are the vital links that connect us to the Almighty and his adorable Son, and that ensure our victory..."

The influence that emanated from our dear Saviour when he was on Earth, penetrated the hearts of those who were sensitive, like a marvellous soothing, an ineffable sensation of tenderness and consolation, and an

infinitely beneficial divine charm. For that, he had to learn obedience through the things he suffered. That is what allowed him to feel so deeply with unhappy humankind, who felt that their own hearts were ulcerated with intolerable physical and mental suffering, conflict and disappointment, and terrible anxieties. So, he could speak to them in a delightful heart-to-heart language, imbued with all the warmth of his compassion and affection.

We must become a demonstration of irresistible power. But to do so, we must rise to the level of the ministry that we have to carry out: to be the Revealing of the Sons of God, to suffering humanity in dire straits."

Our congress ended with a presentation of the dear Messenger on the text of Isaiah 61: 1: "The Spirit of the LORD God is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor." Here are a few passages:

"If Isaiah had not been aware of his impurity and wretchedness, the Lord could not have employed him in such a tremendous way. It was the situation of his heart that made it possible. And then, what a message the Lord gave him to bring! And what strength of conviction, persuasion and courage he displayed to bring to the people of Israel, his testimony on behalf the Almighty!

What is the 'good news' in brief? It is simply that the Lord God wants to make us happy. That is his message...

The important thing for us is to make ourselves worthy of having God's Spirit on us to bring the good news successfully; the Lord will take care of everything else for us... Lessons are indispensable: the more astringent they are, the more salutary their effect. In the end, the more we are grilled, the better, because the sooner we are purged of our selfishness...

If we bring the message with our lips only, it does not have the power to generate. It must first have penetrated our heart because we live it. Then, it comes out full of the atmosphere which is made up of the product of the lived programme...

Finally, God's foreknowledge is manifested in all its prodigious greatness as an apotheosis of glory and majesty by the Heavenly Jerusalem, resplendent in light and purity, and by the New Earth, which becomes God's marvellous footstool for all eternity."

We don't have enough space to mention many other impressions that touched the assembly. We thank the dear Family of Faith in Lyon and surrounds, who devoted itself to welcome us, and we wish everyone renewed courage so that all of these instructions are followed by efforts in sanctification.