

THE REIGN OF JUSTICE

Philanthropic and humanitarian paper
for moral and social uplift. Published monthly

Administration and editing
27, Route de Vallière
1236 CARTIGNY/Geneva
Switzerland Tel. 022 756 12 08

Subscriptions
Switzerland, 1 year . Fr. 5.00
Other countries . . US\$ 7.00
Giro account: 12-656-7

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The only effective protection

ALL mankind feels in its heart that it cannot do without some protection. Of course, it seeks that protection in its own way, the way its mentality leads it to do so. Not knowing the only source of real protection, it seeks it where nothing of the kind is to be found. So, it is open to every danger to which a man can be exposed, whatever his degree may be, whether he is great or small, or poor or rich.

As a matter of fact, all people are exposed to the destructive power of evil, which causes their destruction without them being able to do anything about it. Those who think and who look into the future, are clearly aware of that dead end to which human life is always brought. But not being enlightened by the bright ray of the Truth, they can perceive no way out of what seems to be man's destiny, death, of course. So greatly are their minds in the dark, owing to devilish suggestion, that, even if they were offered divine protection, they would not accept it, for they do not believe it to be any good.

Of course, there are some people who seek shelter under the guidance of a religion which tells them about a God Who grants protection. But it is so vague, and so little do they feel it, that, in spite of all they are told, they only feel protected by murderous weapons and by the police and the army, taking their example from those who, while they preach a protecting God, surround themselves with bodyguards and with protective measures that have nothing at all to do with the almighty protection God promises his people.

The Lord would like to take care of all men, but of course, they would have to accept the kind protection He offers them, and be willing to put all their trust in Him with all their heart. He cannot do anything for one who is lacking in confidence. As concerns us, it is exactly the same. We can only rely on divine protection if we place full and complete trust in the Lord and are sure of his wisdom, of his power and of his love.

When those sentiments are uppermost in our minds, the Lord can extend his precious help to us in the most difficult circumstances and in the moments of greatest danger. At times, He allows matters to go on to their extreme limits, to a point where it would seem that there is no way out of the situation. But when the trial reaches its peak, He steps in and arranges everything wonderfully well, in a way that confounds one and reinforces one's confidence in Him, and also one's gratitude.

Our dear Saviour has given us a majestic demon-

stration of the power of divine protection. Throughout the time of his ministry on Earth, he had that glorious protection, and it was perfect until the time when he gave himself up, of his own free will, to those who were determined on his death. Until then, nothing had been able to get by the power of protection resting on him. Every possible trick was employed to get rid of him, but all in vain. He was quite insensitive to the impressions of evil.

Our dear Saviour is to be observed at grips with difficulties of every description, even at grips directly with the Adversary who tried to tempt him. Everything was overcome by him without any hesitation. The outcome of his faithfulness to the divine principles, was magnificent and sublime. Never once did he compromise with the devilish spirit. That was why he had full and perfect protection and no danger could get at him.

We must now do as he did if we want to have divine protection. We must put, into practice, the wise and useful teachings the Lord gives us, but must not do as those whom Solomon describes when he says: "The simple keep going and are punished." That is the result of imprudence and of lack of cover.

When a trial arises for us, this means there is a lesson to learn, from which we shall greatly profit. Then, the influence of divine grace can sink into our hearts, and our assurance develops wonderfully. What we really need is to put all our trust in God, and to take to heart the publications of the Truth which we receive from Him. They bring us divine consolation, hope and certainty. If we live up to what those publications teach us, we can be sure of succeeding. But if we neglect to live up to them, in vain shall we resort to every possible shift to get what we want, it will be quite useless.

The Lord takes great care of us. He educates his dear children through his Son who is the Good Shepherd of the Sheep the Lord places in his care. He lovingly watches over his cherished Disciples, warding off all the trials they would be incapable of overcoming, which would be no blessing for them. On the other hand, he permits every instruction, every lesson to reach us, and every experience needful, for making us quite sure of the wisdom of our God, and for bringing us to completely trust in Him.

When we have become sufficiently attached to God, we are quite free of apprehension and uncertainty, because true love banishes fear. About that, there is

no boasting, arrogance or presumption, but we have assurance founded on our being quite sure, from the bottom of our hearts, that God is directing all things for our greatest good. Such an assurance comes from God's Holy Spirit working in a heart that is wide open to its influence.

Some people, at times, appear very bold and quite sure of themselves, yet at the least trial, they are upset. That demonstrates that their assurance is nothing more than presumption, and not at all founded on the Truth. That is why, when trial comes, the weakness of the foundation they have adopted, is revealed. That shows us that it is indispensable to place oneself entirely in the Lord's hands and to look for no other help than his. He alone, indeed, is able to help one in the right way with his Spirit.

Divine ways are clear and exact, and free of all uncertainty. Hesitation and lack of assurance come over us simply when we have not done what divine ways proposed to us. Then, lessons come to us, and if we take them to heart, we can pull ourselves together and set off again in the direction of blessing.

What is needed is for us to be able to bear witness to our own minds, that we are indeed children of God, owing to the sentiments we have in our hearts. When we are discouraged, or when we lose assurance, this means there is something wrong with us and that God's Holy Spirit cannot help us properly. If it were not so, we would be constantly joyful and confident, in spite of the trials and difficulties of the way, which we would be able to bear quite easily, for the consolation of divine grace in us would be stronger than the painful feeling caused by the trial. So, we need to humble ourselves before the Lord, to acknowledge our true condition, and to ask, with faith, to be covered by the blood of our dear Saviour, which has the power to justify us and to restore us to divine balance. Then, we once again feel that our feet are on solid ground, because we once again find contact with God's Holy Spirit.

The Lord wants us, above all, to be honest, and to be honest, we must make a habit of showing ourselves just as we are, without touching things up, and doing our best to improve, so as not to have to always deplore the same weaknesses. If we want to help mankind to reform and to gain confidence in divine ways, we must be able to set them a good example, to live an upright and honest life in their sight, and to demonstrate to them how happy the results of doing so are. Then, they will soon be convinced and will step out in the right direction, knowing what they are doing.

We are at our dear Saviour's school for the purpose

"Oceans, seas, the restless deep"

EUROPE, in the early 20th century: Karine was brought up by the sea, which never ceased to exert its profound charm on her heart. She never tired of listening to the wash of the waves breaking on the shore and then retreating as if to prepare themselves for a fresh attack. She could sit for hours watching the restless breakers hurling themselves on to the beach. There were always new impressions to be obtained there, as if the sea was about to reveal to her the secret of eternity. Yet when the storms unleashed all their fury, and when the raging seas came sweeping in, threatening to carry everything away, Karine would become aware of the cruel fate that could overtake sailors, as indeed had been the case in her own family.

Fate had earlier also cruelly struck her own family when her grandmother visited a sick

friend and caught a cholera infection and died a few hours later. The deadly bacillus made short work of devouring her blood. The organs of her body then immediately began to swell out of all measure to burst a short while after.

Grandmother left behind seven sorrowing children who were quite inconsolable and even more so because their father was at sea. Very shortly after this, the news came that father had drowned in a shipwreck in the Black Sea.

The seven poor little children abruptly found themselves alone in the world, like frail little boats tossed around in a frightful storm. They were sent to an orphanage. Karine's mother was the third oldest child. She had to take care of her brothers and sisters younger than herself, the youngest being a little over one year old. Thus, from early youth, she became acquainted with the bitterness of life. Her bruised heart longed for

happier things, and she put all her trust in the Almighty. She felt that it was only from Him that she would be able to obtain consolation — real consolation — protection, and the peace her heart needed so much.

Later, the young girl was sent into service in the house of a president. It was there that she met the man she was later to marry, who was an officer in the navy at that time.

Karine was the second of her children. Her uncle was very fond of her and would have gladly had her home with him. But mother, who was a firm believer, refused to let her go. She said to the uncle: "I have dedicated that child to God. I wish to bring her up myself."

Karine was four when World War One broke out. Her father and her uncle were mobilized for naval duty. Her uncle's wife, powerfully affected by the events and suffering from a nervous breakdown, was sent to hospital. She had two children, and Karine's mother, being kind and devoted, took them

in. So then, with her own children, there were seven mouths to feed.

The little family became familiar with the miseries of war and all its deplorable consequences. They frequently had to go to the railway station and gather up the burnt coal thrown out by the steam locomotive engines, so that they might have at least one warm room in which to huddle. Very often too, the only food they could get was swedes, and then only a small amount. On such an insufficient diet, they were all physically weak.

A little before the end of the war, the countryside was swept by an epidemic of infectious flu. All the children had to go to hospital. Shortly after that, within a period of five days, four of the children died, two of whom were the uncle's children. As for Karine, she went down with scarlet fever as well, which brought on a severe haemorrhage, but luckily, she survived.

In spite of her extreme youth, Karine keenly

of improving our mental register and of getting used to living in the Kingdom of God. Naturally, to be able to do that, we must take to the discipline of the Kingdom, which means to try hard to do everything out of love, and to love our fellows, not merely with lip service, but from the bottom of our hearts. When we see things going on that displease us, we must respond as in the Kingdom of God. Then, we immediately seek to improve matters kindly and discreetly, to cover up if there is something wrong, to comfort if there is pain, and to help where there is a struggle. Our hearts must always be disposed in a way that will make it possible for us to help those around us. If we want to be able to do that, it is essential that we not be so preoccupied with ourselves, for if we are, we shall miss every opportunity for devoting ourselves and consequently for changing our dispositions. Furthermore, in that case, we shall not be able to create, for the benefit of those around us, the blessed impression of a child of God, who is fully assured, and who has unlimited trust in God and in his ways, for such a thing is only possible if God's Holy Spirit is resting on us, owing to us being faithful to the divine principles and to the pledges we have given to the Lord.

The essential lesson set before us then, is to behave in such a way as to always be covered by divine grace, so that we may have full confidence in the Almighty, and to take our dear Saviour for our Shepherd, our Protector, our Advisor and our High Priest, who is always able to restore us to a state of justification when we humble ourselves with all our heart and with the desire and the will to improve every day. In that case, the Lord will be able to employ us as "the light of the world" and "the salt of the earth", and we shall be able to usefully supply mankind with the splendid assurances and consolations of the Kingdom of God.

Individualism or solidarity

We quote the following article by André Brin in the French newspaper *Ouest-France* on the 4th of June 2019:

If we fight against "each for themselves" ["every man for himself"; "dog eat dog"]

Society: If "the survival of the strongest" prevails, then democracies are in danger. It is time to rediscover the path to ethics in all areas.

With the development of new ways to move people, goods and money, thanks to the Internet, everything on Earth circulates at the speed of light.

Cultures, political systems and economies are facing each other. All people are increasingly becoming "citizens of the world" with the only common characteristic of being alive today.

The past is no longer interesting, the future is a mystery, and only the present matters. It is therefore carpe diem [which is Latin for "seize the day"]. The only common lot is to accumulate as much wealth as possible for oneself. "To be alive" now only means "to have".

What happens after that, doesn't matter. "The survival of the strongest", also known as "the law of the jungle", is winning. Instead of being united and helping each other in great cooperation, humanity is breaking up into little pieces and is falling apart.

There are many examples: Brexit, racism, hostility towards foreigners, being withdrawn into oneself, religious fundamentalism, environmental dumping, social dumping... The globalisation of the markets leads to the impoverishment of the poorest people who have no other choice than to join the flood of economic refugees who leave their homelands, which become the garbage cans of the rich countries, and where there is no longer any hope for them.

"Is that how people live?" That is what explains the individualism spread among people who are in the same social group or in different regions, professions, countries or sectors of the economy. That is reign of "each for themselves". We privatise the profits, but the community shares the losses. We have not succeeded. We are a group of individuals in constant competition and without a common goal. It is high time to succeed, otherwise our democracies will only be nice memories. ... If we add ethics to our exports, then the flow of migrants might be significantly reduced. The surpluses in the trade balances of some countries, are the deficits of other countries.

If we fight against indecent wage inequality, then we might be able to avoid the social chaos of tomorrow. If we consume more local goods, then we might have less unemployment and lower healthcare costs.

If we rely less on Internet giants [Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon], then we might have less outsourcing of industries. If we better manage the planet's natural resources, then we might better secure the future of humanity.

If we fight against "fake news", and if we seek compromises, then we might be able to save our democracies.

To want to fight against "each for themselves" is commendable, but we know that not everyone thinks like that. In fact, the current state of our society makes people who still have some humanity think, but not those who only look for profit. So, while some people dream about equality, altruism, brotherliness and sisterliness, other people only think about profit and about their own advantages and benefits, regardless of the price. And even the term "democracy", which the author of the article uses, is a utopia. Actually, democracy is a system of government by all people. But not everyone wants that. People are under the illusion that they decide through elections or referendums, but in reality, decisions are made by people in finance, politics, etc.

And it is precisely "each for themselves" that leads to that situation. If someone has power, wealth or honour, then they will hardly give any of their advantages to anyone else. At most, they will agree to share a little, but they will always make sure to have the best for themselves.

André Brin also says: "The past is no longer interesting, the future is a mystery, and only the present matters. It is therefore *carpe diem*," which also means "be happy today, and make use of and enjoy the moment". And that really is the dominating and prevailing tendency: enjoy and make use of life, a selfish approach. And one usually continues by saying: "Life is short. Make the most of it." One does not say: "Life is short. One should make use of it to serve one's neighbour, to be useful to society, and to exist for the good of one's fellow people."

We also agree with André Brin's statement: "The only common lot is to accumulate as much wealth as possible for oneself. 'To be alive' now only means 'to have'." That reasoning is wrong in the sense that happiness does not come from what we have, but from what we appreciate. One can therefore own a lot of things and be unhappy without knowing the reason or the cause of one's unhappiness. On the other hand, one might have very few things, but if one is grateful for them, then one is happy. That is a profound truth that cannot be disputed or ignored. And because of the fact that, in our society, people live "to have" but not "to be alive", then "'the survival of the strongest', also known as 'the law of the jungle', is winning. Instead of being united and helping each other in great cooperation, humanity is breaking up into little pieces and is falling apart". That is also another profound truth from André Brin, with which we can only agree. In fact, when our goal is "to buy, to own or to have", then our fellow person becomes a competitor whom we suspect wants to buy

things that we want for ourselves. Consequently, we must fight or even eliminate them. On the contrary, when our aspiration is "to be alive", then our fellow person becomes a friend whom we want to love, to whom we want to do good, and with whom we want to have communion.

Finally, André Brin offers solutions: "Add ethics to our exports ... fight against indecent wage inequality ... consume more local goods ... rely less on Internet giants, then we might have less outsourcing of industries ... better manage the planet's natural resources..." All of that is good, but it is not enough.

The evil that is eating away our society, is selfishness, which is called "sin" in the Bible. To fight and overcome it, the remedy must be strong enough against the evil. For that reason, the Almighty Himself solved that problem that the world currently faces. He gave his beloved Son as the Sacrifice who, in that way, paid for us and enables us to regain our destiny: eternal life. During the entire Gospel Age — which means, since the coming of our dear Saviour to Earth, until today — a class of people followed our Lord Jesus on the path of sacrifice, and gave their life for their fellow people. We benefit from that Sacrifice that restores us as soon as we accept it through faith and enter the School of Christ. It lets us go from the condition of sinners to the condition of the redeemed. If we furthermore accept the discipline that is offered to us at that school, then we can be saved and inherit eternal life.

That is what will be proposed to humankind in God's Kingdom that will soon be introduced on Earth, as the equivalent of the ministry of the beloved Son of God. There, there will be no more injustice, tears or death.

Moon fads

An article in the French online newspaper *Futura Sciences* on the 16th of January 2019, grabbed our attention. We quote it as follows:

"Chang'e 4" [a Chinese robotic spacecraft mission]: China grows the first plants on the Moon

Equipped with various scientific instruments and cameras, Chang'e 4 also has a "mini biosphere" [a self-contained artificial structure that encloses an ecosystem], which contains several living things, on board. China has just announced that the on-board cotton seeds have sprouted. This is the first time that a biological experiment has been conducted on a world other than Earth.

A number of firsts has occurred on the mission of Chang'e 4: the first landing on the far side of the Moon, and now, the first Earth plants grown on a world other than Earth... The cotton seeds were the first ones that sprouted, announced the researchers of this ambitious mission.

Of course, growing plants in Space is nothing new — there have been multiple experiments since the first experiments by the Americans in 1946, especially on the International Space Station (ISS): we remember the first lettuce tasted by astronauts in 2015 — but on another world, in this case, our natural satellite, really is unprecedented and historic. "Humankind's first biological experiment on the Moon," tweeted the official communication from China's Communist Party.

A mini biosphere on the Moon

The experiment was conducted in a small aluminium box installed on board the lunar lander of Chang'e 4, which has been stationary in the Moon's Von Kármán crater since the 3rd of January 2019. Scientists involved in the experiment made sure that the on-board cotton, canola (rape) and rock-cress (related to cabbage and mustard) seeds did not sprout during the 20-day flight to the Moon, just like the potato seeds. They were in fact "awakened" by watering after the Moon landing. The cotton seeds were the first ones to sprout. These

felt the horrors of war, for war destroys and ravages everything without pity or pardon, leaving an aftermath of deepest sorrow. Fortunately, father was able to come home safe and sound.

One day in 1924, a kind woman came to the door and showed them *The Message to Humanity* (the Book of Remembrance). Mother was doing the washing. The few words spoken by the visitor keenly interested her, so she put aside her apron, asked the woman in and talked with her. Their conversation lasted a long time, for mother was filled with enthusiasm for the Good News of the Kingdom of God, which is coming, for the wonderful prospects of that splendid time when suffering and misfortune will disappear forever from the face of the Earth.

Responding to the evangelist's invitation to attend a meeting of the Angel of the Lord (the Philanthropic Association), she does so, taking Karine with her. There, they are shown great

affection by the Family of Faith, and they feel immersed in the delightful atmosphere of the Kingdom of God, which makes an infinitely soothing impression on their hearts. So great is their joy that they immediately associate with that wonderful fellowship, whereas father and the other children are unable to share their point of view.

What joy it is to Karine and her mother to one day have a visit at their meeting from the Lord's Messenger (F.L.A. Freytag), whom, through his writings, they have learnt to appreciate and to deeply revere! Karine feels deeply moved in the presence of the dear Messenger, feeling his kindness and the beneficial paternal warmth that emanates from him. So deeply is she touched by it that, in her heart, is born the desire to completely place herself at the Lord's service.

Karine's decision and then her leaving home to carry the Good News of the Kingdom of God, to poor sorrowing people, is a sore

trial for her father who is extremely fond of her. However, mother does her best to help him bear his great sorrow.

Deeply penetrated by the grandeur of her mission, Karine sets out to spread the wonderful divine message everywhere. Many people do not take her seriously, owing to her youth. She remembers that, one day, as she was offering a lady a publication of the Truth, a policeman gently tapped her on the shoulder and invited her to follow him. That was due to a complaint from a woman living on the ground floor of the block of flats where she was evangelizing, who had taken umbrage over *The Message to Humanity*.

At the police station, Karine enthusiastically delivers her testimony to the inspector. Having gone through her bag and returned her literature to her, he said: "You may continue, but you'd better choose another area, so that that unpleasant woman doesn't see

you." He himself was impressed by the beauty of the divine message.

Karine thus had several years of happiness as an evangelist of the Kingdom of God, in the Lord's Work. Great was her joy to be able to pour into weary and burdened hearts the wonderful consolation of the Kingdom of God. Then there came a great change in the political regime of her country (due to World War Two), and it became impossible for her to go on with her mission. She was arrested with two other members of the Family of Faith, and confined in a concentration camp. She clung with even more fervour to the Lord God, and on many occasions fraught with trouble, she was able to feel his wonderful assistance and the full support of his grace.

Karine's mother had taken great pains to keep her husband in ignorance of their daughter's imprisonment. However, on seeing the list of names published in the newspapers, one of father's workmates asked him

plants are not the only form of earthly life enclosed in the box: there are also fruit-fly larvae ready to hatch, and yeast. This is a small ecosystem carefully examined by researchers.

This mini biosphere is therefore very interesting because of the experimentation and cultivation of plants that could feed and dress future colonists on Moon bases (China is considering it, probably by means of 3D printers). "Learning about these plants' growth in a low-gravity environment would allow us to lay the foundation for our future establishment of a Space base," Xie Gengxin, the experiment's chief designer, told the South China Morning Post.

The Moon, which is relatively close to us, is a stepping stone to Mars, which, as you saw in the film *The Martian*, seems to be able to grow potatoes (as shown by a study). That should work in future large lunar greenhouses. There, one would find basic food alongside beer breweries, as has been foreseen.

An update of the above article was published on the 17th of January 2019:

For a few days, life developed on the Moon! In particular, the cotton seeds that sprouted on board the Chang'e 4's lunar lander. But there is one problem, the Moon's freezing temperatures will end the experiment.

Unfortunately, the cotton seeds that sprouted on the Moon, inside the Chang'e 4's mini biosphere, did not survive the cold. In fact, for the Chang'e 4's lunar lander and for the "Yutu-2" robotic lunar rover that accompanied it, the freezing night settles in the region of the far side of the Moon that they occupy. In the following days, the temperature could drop to minus 170°C until the return of the scorching Sun. The seeds, the yeast and the fruit flies in the aluminium box, are therefore all doomed. "The experiment has ended. ... The organisms will gradually decompose in the totally enclosed canister, and will not affect the lunar environment," explained the China National Space Agency (CNSA).

If humankind is capable of astounding technical and scientific achievements, its idea of life is also sometimes astounding. That at least seems to be the case for those whose desire for conquest appears to have no limits. That goes as far as defying the laws of nature and physics, by trying to transplant life into a completely hostile environment. But at the same time, life, in all its varied and beautiful forms, has to cope with disrespect and destruction in its birthplace: Earth. It is, of course, natural to ask oneself questions about that enormous paradox and also about the justification of such projects. To want to conquer Space while not even being capable of managing Earth or of respecting and maintaining life on it, seems to be completely unreasonable, not to say ridiculous. Especially when it involves a country that is one of the world's worst environmental polluters and that violates basic human rights every day.

The massive amounts of money that are spent on Space missions, could be invested in many other things that are useful and even vital for the continuation of life on our planet, and also in the improvement of the living and working conditions of people, especially in China, where so many poor people do exhausting work, sometimes in inhumane conditions and for very low wages. That is a country where children are still made to work and where there are, illegally but frequently, up to 80-hour work weeks. That is also a country where many workers have to sleep in dormitories in their factories and where workers are often forced to work overtime under threat of punishment.

Many scientists would one day like to discover extra-terrestrial life. We know that that is impossible. However, they would be prepared to continue spending billions of dollars on that, while people who are suffering in poverty, perhaps even on their own doorstep, do not interest them. The proof of that is that even now,

astronomical amounts of money are spent on searching for any type of life in Space, no matter how small it might be, while people, who were made in the image of God, are objects of disrespect and indifference, if not of exploitation...

Far from all the ambitions of the would-be conquerors of Space, let us instead learn to appreciate and respect the wonderful "cradle of life" that the Earth is, this brilliant home among all the other worlds in the Universe which contains the most special wonders and the infinitely varied achievements of the science of the great Creator: Almighty Jehovah.

Let us immerse ourselves in the marvellous Work of God, which, in the timeline of eternity, has only just begun, and let us associate in the grand plan of the Restoration of All Things. The latter is announced in the Holy Scripture (Acts 3: 21) and will make room for the New Heaven and the New Earth where righteousness (justice) will dwell, as explained by Apostle Peter (2 Peter 3: 13). It is said that there will then be no more injustice or harm done, that there will be no more death, mourning, crying or pain, that the former things will have passed and that all things will become new (Revelation 21: 4).

The Almighty wanted the Earth to be a "test station" where experiences are had that, for all eternity, will serve all beings who will thereafter be created on other planets and in other solar systems. What is currently happening on Earth is of crucial importance and has incalculable and everlasting significance. In fact, it is both the freedom that is given to the human race and how it uses that freedom to turn towards evil and to also have the victory of good over evil. The latter was accomplished by the Saviour and by all who associated with him, also in all freedom and out of love: the love that goes as far as sacrifice and that the Bible tells us is stronger than death. It will enable the return to life of all those who have died, as well as the education of all humankind redeemed by the blood of Christ, in order to make them children of God, who are worthy and able to live forever in the sublime earthly Paradise that will finally be restored. Time will no longer matter, because as altruists, they will have eternal youth. They will have eternity before them in order to not only discover the whole world, but also the mysteries and marvels of the entire Universe. But for those who have a heart to understand, it is currently a matter of doing the only daily work that is important and that is summarized in these few words: introduce God's Kingdom on Earth.

Right and wrong environmental conduct...

In many cities, it is with a certain pride that large numbers of electric scooters (e-scooters) have been introduced as a new "clean" means of transport, clean in the sense that they don't directly contribute to air pollution. It is true that large cities suffer from bad air and that the number of diseases and deaths associated with air pollution is constantly increasing. Electric scooters are also used as a way to reduce the traffic density in cities. It is normal to look for solutions to all those problems that increase with the population. But the flipside of the coin is far from justifying the environmental claims that are attributed to electric scooters.

We won't get caught up here in the way that electric scooters are driven, because on that subject, the lack of civility that the riders display would fill books... It is another proof of what we constantly mention in this publication, that humankind's education needs to be started afresh. It is only when one conforms to the Universal Law of altruism by always existing for the good of one's fellow people, that all problems can be solved.

But the current reality shows us "animal humans", with their selfish instincts, who are proud about those modern devices and who then show themselves to be a nuisance all along the line and even a danger to others. Another aspect of this selfish behaviour, which is outrageous, is revealed in the following report that was published in the French online newspaper *Lyon Capitale*, headquartered in the French city of Lyon, on the 11th of September 2019:

In Lyon, the Rhône River has been clearer in recent days, making visible the many electric scooters lying on the bottom. The river has become a "trash can" for electric scooters.

It is Monday morning, and as Alexandra Huard walks along a bank of the Rhône River, she looks into the water, which is clearer than usual. She discovers dozens of electric scooters lying on bottom just between the Morand Bridge (Pont Morand) and the Gateway College Pedestrian Bridge (Passerelle du Collège). She takes some photos and decides to post them on her Facebook page. Her post goes viral and is shared more than 1,000 times. We can now confirm that the Rhône River has become a "trash can" for electric scooters, with users or vandals not hesitating to throw these freely available two-wheelers into the river.

Dozens of scooters visible

We walked along the banks of the Rhône River and were able to make the same observation. In one place on the river bed, there were about 15 scooters piled up in a small area the size of a student's unit. Between the Morand Bridge and the Gateway College Pedestrian Bridge, there are dozens of scooters. How many are on the river bed throughout the entire city? It is impossible to know the full extent of this problem, of this new type of environmental pollution that is invisible when the river water is dirtier and higher, which is most of the time. In the electric scooters' frames, there are lithium batteries that can pollute the water when their containers are no longer waterproof. It sometimes happens that firemen [or the police] must "dive search" a river bed and pick up scooters, but disposing of them clearly isn't part of their job description. One of the divers explains: "It's not our job, but sometimes we do it as a favour, but we can't keep cleaning the river." Just in May, the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society (SSCS) fished out 22 electric scooters from the Saône River in Lyon. And people who "magnet fish" are sometimes seen on the banks of the Rhône River, where they pull up many metallic objects near them. For Pierre Hémon, the Director of Traffic in the city of Lyon, there is a bitter aftertaste: "This is primitive capitalism: they come, they pollute, and they go."

What about the companies?

Lyon Capitale contacted the electric-scooter companies Bird and Voi, but they haven't yet responded to our requests. The electric-scooter company Lime says that "several steps have been taken to stop this activity", such as preventing the end of a journey less than 50 metres from the banks of the Saône and the Rhône rivers. A Lime company representative said: "Lime carries out regular patrols to remove scooters that have been placed near river banks. If they are in the water, and as soon as we have been informed, Lime removes them with a grappling hook as well as professional divers."

The electric-scooter company Dott assures us that it takes the problem seriously. "We have a team with grappling hooks that fishes out the scooters that are close to the banks. With other companies and a diving club, we will soon be starting a programme to remove several at once," explains Manon Pagniez, Dott's Operations Manager in Lyon. That activity will be widely publicized in the media, as these companies do. The problem is quite visible at the moment, but it won't last.

The Rhône River is currently low and clear, making

whether it really was his daughter who was in a concentration camp. Being deeply affected by this state of things, and not seeing his way to sharing Karine's and her mother's convictions, he left his family for several years. Nevertheless, he later returned. And when Karine was set free and was able to return home, she was able to prove to her father that the Lord's protection had always been granted to her to the full, and that she had constantly been at the benefit of his tender care. Then Karine was forcibly sent to work in a factory. At the end of World War Two, everyone had to flee from the factory and walk through the mountains for nearly a fortnight. In that also, Karine was able to keenly feel that the Lord protected her, and she was guided by Him back into the bosom of her family.

As soon as the war was over, Karine thus took advantage of the possibility given to her of resuming her work for the advance-

ment of the Kingdom of God, and she again enthusiastically took up her mission as an evangelist. She was more-than-ever aware of what an honour it was for her to carry, to those around her, the wonderful message of encouragement, of consolation and of hope in the wonderful and blessed time to come when there will be no more wars, concentration camps or cemeteries, and no more pain, tears, anguish, sickness or death.

When Karine presented herself to the labour authorities to be set free from all obligation to work, and delivered her testimony, they wished her full success with the message she represented. The officials gazed at her with astonishment and were filled with enthusiasm. They could not understand how anyone could want to thus work without a salary, serving solely for the sake of the ideal, and nevertheless be assured of one's living. But Karine is able to prove that, in this precious and sacred mission, she has never lacked for

anything and that the Lord has provided for all her needs, far beyond anything she could have ever hoped for.

Two years later, Karine lost her dear mother through an accident. She felt even more encouraged to display ever-growing faithfulness in divine ways, for the purpose of hastening the presence of the Day of God, for mankind to at last be completely freed from misfortune and destruction, and to be introduced into the wonderful light of the Truth, now being announced with so much power by the Lord's Messenger.

For that reason, she continues carrying the message of the everlasting Gospel, with profound conviction and great enthusiasm, to groaning and suffering humanity, who is eagerly expecting the Revealing of the Sons of God, as the Lord's Messenger expresses it with so much sensitiveness in this beautiful hymn:

The sea

*Oceans, seas, the restless deep,
God Almighty's precepts keep.
Him they honour evermore
With his Universal Law.
Sunlight all their currents guides;
Sun and Moon raise up their tides.
To the heavenly law they bend,
Motion that shall never end.
Since mankind the law did break,
Which for happiness doth make,
Earth and seas alike desert
Kindness in which they concert.
And the storm winds, driven fast,
Sweep the oceans with their blast,
Slaying man who is perverse,
Outlaw in the Universe.
Nations, seas, that lawless dwell,
That against the King rebel,
Ye, whom Satan did enslave,
(Shepherd, false, who cannot save)*

