

# THE REIGN OF JUSTICE

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## What does the future have in store for us?

THE wonders of Creation are a glorious demonstration of the science and wisdom of the Lord. When a landscape is bathed in sunshine, and when a beautiful place is picked out for our admiration, as if a curtain had been raised on flowered pastures or snow-capped mountain peaks, all the grandeur and beauty are brought into relief. When you contemplate those splendours, your heart feels irresistibly drawn to the Maker of all that wealth of magnificence. A feeling soul is deeply stirred and soars up in a hymn of praise to the Lord.

The fool, on the contrary, says there is no God, which is as much as to say that things have come into existence spontaneously, that no workman is needed, that wisdom is superfluous, and that the whole Universe is maintained in equilibrium owing to the mere fact that material things attract or repulse each other. That is what the atheist would have us believe, for they talk foolishly about things they know nothing about.

Then, religious people, for their part, constantly have the Name of God on their lips; however, at the door of that God, they lay all sorts of wicked feelings and of unjust actions. They talk about the wrath of God, declaring that He dooms the wicked to Purgatory or to Hell or even to total destruction. In support of their notions concerning the character of God, they quote all manner of Bible texts which they interpret in the light of the perversion of their hearts, which have been warped by the Adversary's suggestion.

Those who are thus blinded by their vehement zeal, quite forget that, speaking of himself, the gentle Saviour said: "The Son of Man came to save [not to destroy] that which was lost." This moreover was the essence of his teachings: "Bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you," return good for evil. The Parable of the Prodigal Son shows that the father does not reproach his child who comes to him repentant. On the contrary, he bids the elder son rejoice over the return of his young brother. Would the Lord perhaps teach one thing at one time, and something else at another? Such a thing would be unthinkable to an enlightened and balanced mind.

The Bible informs us that, in his pre-existence, the Lord Jesus was the Logos, which means, the Word. He was charged with commanding the elements to come together, and even with commanding the Spirit of God to crystallise and take on visible shape, concrete shape,

and to do this spontaneously. It was by that power alone that the Earth and whole Universe were gloriously created. Those works, so prodigious and far surpassing man's imagination, were performed by nothing but the will of the Logos, the Word, who later became the Saviour of the world. He came down to Earth to open the book of liberation, the book God held in his hand, a symbolical demonstration of divine wisdom held in store. So, the Son of God opened up the path of truth and life, so that the fallen human race might receive grace, assistance and mercy, to extricate it from its terrible wretchedness and poverty.

That Work is much more wondrous than the creation of the whole Universe. It consists, indeed, in first attracting fallen and defiled human beings to lead them in a way that will make them holy and blameless, without fault, blemish or any such thing. That truly is Work that surpasses all human conjecture. Only God's infinitely varied wisdom and his omniscience are able to make a being who is defiled into one who is pure, apt to all good works, and resplendent in glory.

Such is the sublime and inexpressible Work that our dear Saviour does on behalf of those to whom he says: "Fear not, Little Flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom." The Little Flock has been chosen during the time of the High Calling, which started with our dear Saviour coming to Earth, and which is now closing. The High Calling invites a class of people, out of the human race, to associate with our dear Saviour in being sacrificial victims with him. They are the 144,000 people mentioned in Revelation. Those consecrated Disciples renounce their human lives on Earth, justified by the blood of Christ. They give themselves as part of the Ransom with their Master and so receive the heavenly promises.

To those who have become his Disciples in that way, our dear Saviour said: "They will do even greater things," than he did. Those "greater things" are to be demonstrated in great power at the end of the High Calling, in the setting up of the Reign of Justice, which will make its appearance all over the world. We have now reached the time when this must take place.

Prodigious were the works our dear Saviour performed. He bore witness to the Truth, that is to say, to the love which presides over all God's handiwork at all times. Divine love made itself felt on behalf of mankind

in the granting of mercy to the sinner. When he came to Earth, our dear Saviour spent himself without stint for mankind. He gave them all they were capable of receiving: to those who possessed faith, he gave treasures of blessing. All the boons he granted, necessitated the giving of himself. He spent himself completely on behalf of mankind who was groaning and dying. In that way, he set the example of what they, in their turn, must do in the mission they had to fulfil with their Lord and Master. For that reason, the many demonstrations of grace and power given by the Son of God in the presence of his Disciples, profited them only in the measure in which they themselves, by faith, lived out the divine programme, that is to say, the denial of self in favour of such fallen creatures as human beings.

That shows us perfectly clearly that Salvation does not consist in taking part in religion, in performing rites, in saying prayers and even in worshipping to some extent. Salvation is a power given forth by Christ on behalf of lost humanity. Christ pays the debts of mankind; however, at the same time, he disciplines the Consecrated, so that they, in turn, may be able to do the same office for their fellow men. Besides which, he educates the Host of the Lord, so that they may live for the good of their fellows, to rejoice and comfort them, which is the strict way to keep the law.

Our dear Saviour is called "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world". That was what he came to Earth to do by giving his life. The Disciples he called after paying for them, were then trained by him to be atoning victims in turn, to publish the Good News, and to begin, at once, the work of the restoration of mankind.

### The introduction of the Kingdom of God on Earth

Our dear Saviour's Work went on all through the High Calling. At the close of that period, the Little Flock is called on to fulfil the part of the "new mother" of mankind, and to introduce the Reign of Justice on Earth together with its prodigious blessings. That then is the manifestation, on a large scale, of what our dear Saviour did in the course of his earthly mission. That is why, in Revelation, the last Disciples are depicted as the feet of Christ, glowing like white-hot brass. Paul the Apostle also mentions them and calls them the Revealing of the Sons of God, and as the Lord's Second Coming manifested in his Saints.

They are truly prodigious things, for they concern the whole human race. They are a visible demonstration of the power and the glory of the Almighty. Our dear Saviour had twelve Disciples with him, and they

### The voice of the Good Shepherd

IN the blue sky of the French region of Provence, the Sun is shining brightly. The landscape is superb, and nature, in a generous mood, lays out a profusion of luxuriant plant life. Margaret, leaning on her rake, is deep in thought. Her musings do not appear to be giving her much joy, judging by her expression. She is seeing her life passing before her like a film, and it contains more than a few painful episodes.

Margaret, born at Easter, sees her early childhood, was the last of seven children, and was the most sickly and fragile, but was also the one most cuddled and petted. Her mother's arms were her favourite refuge. Her brothers and sisters were not jealous of her, and so there, she felt as safe as safe could be. It gave her intense happiness to enjoy that family affection, without which she felt she could not possibly live.

Margaret loved her parents dearly. Her mother, so kind and so delightfully understanding; her father, so intelligent and so affectionate. They both possessed the gift of putting themselves in the place of their fellow men, of sympathising with those who had cause to grieve, and of going to their assistance, although they themselves, with their seven children, had much ado to make ends meet.

So, the little girl was growing up without a care in the world in that family atmosphere, enfolded in the love of her parents and of her brothers and sisters. Her young heart asked for nothing better. For their kindness and solicitude, she was grateful to all of them, and enjoyed her happiness to the full.

But abruptly, one day, adversity came to strike the small household in a particularly cruel way. First, the eldest brother, who was already giving much-needed financial aid in balancing the family budget, loses his life

in an accident, being the victim of his own devotion. Shortly afterwards, the second boy dies in an epidemic. Then, a year later, the eldest girl, a real sunbeam in the family, falls dangerously ill and, in turn, disappears into the grave.

The small household thus became acquainted with the anguish and the mental suffering of the poor human race at its worst. Even time had no power to bring healing to poor mother's heart. She was unable to get over the sorrow that was pulling her down. She did not survive all that adversity.

Margaret was only a small girl when all these misfortunes overtook them. But being particularly impressionable, those painful events had made their mark in her heart. She had felt how powerless she was to do anything about it. The loss of her dear mother was irreparable as far as she was concerned. The loss of her kind and delicate affection had cast a veil of pain over her

early years, which nothing was able to remove.

Years went by without Margaret being able to recover the gaiety and the brightness of her early years. She felt that she would never again be able to laugh as heartily as she used to. Adversity had ploughed too deeply into her heart.

Gertrude, her sister a few years her elder, also had a tender heart. She had a leaning towards noble and upright things. One day, she came into contact with an evangelist who offered her *The Message to Humanity* (the Book of Remembrance). The book interested her; she wanted to buy it. Glancing through it, she came to the illustration depicting the pains of the human race, fallen on evil days and suffering. As she read it, she realised what a power of light and what infinite consolation were contained in that wonderful work. The very clear explanations concerning the divine programme and the explicit assurance

were highly privileged; however, they were only able to appreciate that they were privileged when they received the power of God's Holy Spirit. It is a fact that the many experiences they had in the company of their Master, had no direct effect on them, only those they lived through afterwards under the influence of God's Spirit.

So, our dear Saviour came to Earth to bear witness to the Truth. He showed up the false pretensions of the religious leaders, saying openly that they were hypocrites who resisted the Truth and decorated the graves of the Prophets whom their fathers had slain. Our dear Saviour delivered a majestic testimony, not only in words, but also with deeds. He demonstrated, to his Disciples, that all things were submissive to him, or rather, that nothing could resist him, neither Devil nor man: all had to recognise his authority. His authority was borne out by glorious and powerful demonstrations: even the wind and the sea obeyed him. In short, evil was unable to stand before him, and the unfortunate who were tormented by disease and burning with fever, were delivered.

That truly was liberty to the captives. His power was even more far-reaching, for the prisoners of death were set perfectly free: corruption could not resist, and everything became wholesome owing to the powerful action of God's Holy Spirit. Only think of Lazarus laid out in his grave, his body already decaying. By the action of God's Holy Spirit, he was rendered wholesome in a single moment, circulation being restored. The fact is that God's Holy Spirit vivifies and sanctifies all things in such a way that nothing is able to resist, not even death, decay or putrefaction: all these things are taken away by its power.

Everyone who wishes to run the race of a member of the Body of Christ, keeps the programme in view, just as our dear Saviour also kept it in view. This programme consists in conforming with the message given to the Little Flock, who is a part of the Messiah, the members of his Body. That message declares: "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach Good News to the poor. He has sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and freedom to the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour." "To comfort all who mourn," that is the message delivered by our dear Saviour. He began to do so in a glorious way, leaving some part of the Work to be done to his dear Disciples, his Little Flock.

It was in fact while speaking of that mission, that, to his Disciples, our dear Saviour said: "They will do even greater things," which means that the Disciples will do all that is left to be done to establish the Kingdom of God all over the world. They will be the visible tools of that glorious Kingdom, those invested with divine authority, bearers of immense and sublime blessing. But the real Author of Salvation remains our dear Saviour. It is he who gives them to will and to do of his good pleasure.

To accomplish a mission so far-reaching, the Disciples have to follow the course ordered by our dear Saviour. It is for that reason that it has been written in advance: "Behold, I will send my Messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me!" That Messenger has come. He has called the attention of the Family of Faith to the divine programme, a programme that nothing could replace, not even the best of religions. To read the Bible all day long, to pray, to sing hymns and to meanwhile preserve one's own mentality, would only be another hypocrisy, another religion added to the list, none of which have any reason to exist, since they only serve to deceive mankind.

of the Resurrection on Earth of all who have gone into the grave, filled her heart with hope and joy. Having suffered much and wept still more, she readily understood the Lord's call and responded to it wholeheartedly. Her first thought was for her dear sister Margaret, and she hastened to let her know about the sublime message of divine consolation.

Margaret did not find it difficult to take in the magnificent programme of the Truth. She associated with all her heart in the cause of the Kingdom of God. The two sisters were filled with enthusiasm as they realised that, under the influence of those divine teachings, their grief gradually subsided. Assurance and faith in the glorious promises of the Truth, were sinking into them and doing there their wonderful Work of Deliverance. What joy it was to both of them to think that their lives were not useless, that they could serve towards the Resurrection of those they loved and towards the happiness of humanity!

So, with what joyful zeal they spent themselves, without counting, to make known, to all around them, the glorious hopes of the Kingdom of God, which brings peace, happiness and eternal life, and which drives away forever the frightful spectre of death!

Yet a little time went by. Gertrude remained remarkably faithful to the principles of the Kingdom of God. Her joy and her assurance were increasing every day. As for Margaret, she cooled off somewhat. Some imperfections in her brethren in the faith, seen by her in the light of her personal wisdom, wreaked havoc in her sentiments. Her judgement, still merciless over the weaknesses of her fellows, caused her to turn her back on the Family of Faith, the Divine Family. The thoughts of criticism she permitted herself to foster, gave rise to bitterness in her heart, and this bitterness found a louder voice in her than gratitude. Going from bad to worse, she finally lost contact with divine communion.

Little by little, her mind became closed to the wonderful impressions of the Kingdom of God. The night of darkness closed over her once more, and she returned into the world, knowing all the time, in her heart of hearts, that she was turning her back on the only real happiness there was. But her pride and inflexibility held her in their grip.

From that day forward, Margaret knew no happiness. She lacked for something vital. She refused to examine her conscience, for fear of discovering what her self-love wanted to remain in ignorance of.

Gertrude and all the faithful friends of the Divine Family, had not forgotten Margaret. They prayed for her with great fervour, and above all, the Lord was watching over his lost little sheep. Margaret loved meditation, children and old people, flowers, animals and the whole of nature with the wonders it offers to all impressionable minds that look around them.

It furthermore damages the development of sensitivity and of spirituality.

### True language only lives on silence

*Did you know that the "minute's silence", a period of silent contemplation, was, in the Portuguese Parliament in 1912, originally "half an hour of silence"? Yes, 30 minutes to honour the memory of a Brazilian dignitary!*

*Today, try to imagine just 10 minutes of complete silence. That would almost be like torture, one of the worst things. Why? Just being there, alone with oneself, motionless and without a screen, a mobile phone, words or noise. A torture!*

*To say that we do not have a good relationship with silence, is an understatement. That relationship is dying, crushed by the weight of noise that presses us from all sides, as the French writer Jean-Michel Delacomptée says in his book Praise to the Lovers of Silence. It is not only a matter of the high-speed trains that go through some villages, or the aeroplanes that fly above us, but the flood of constant noise pollution that hits us even in those places where we should be protected from it.*

*Who has had to endure the drone of a quad bike during a walk in the country or in the hills, the "bark" of a jet ski at the beach, or the backfire of motorcycles without mufflers in their exhaust? Everywhere, noise is imposing its relentless law on us.*

### An important part of our existence

*Even if one is alone, one expresses oneself with constant chatter. One sees others about whom one says: "They are talking to themselves." But no, they are connected to their smartphone. Is it not surprising for young people to have such great difficulty to remain silent, to literally "shut their mouths"? Old people are just like young people: who has not had the desire to silence the chatter of old people in a museum? As if the contemplation of a masterpiece does not naturally require silence.*

*One knows about the bad consequences of "picture overload" on the mind of a child. What should one then say about an increase in noise and chatter? Those things are interrelated. Children who spend their time in front of a screen, associate silence with emptiness, boredom and wasted time.*

*Teachers know that very well! How can one teach children that silence is an important part of our existence, by which we can get to know ourselves, our fellow people and our surroundings? Without silence, an individual runs the risk of living a superficial life, without depth or an inner life. Silence is a condition and a symbol for receptiveness, for being prepared to listen to oneself and to others.*

*There are schools in which the "practice of silence" is common, in which children are taught to forget about themselves for a while in order to find oneself. That costs a lot on the personal level, because one must make oneself available and must free oneself from things that seem important. But there is no better way to thoughtfulness, to self-reflection and to an understanding of the beauty in the world.*

*In his book A History of Silence, the French historian Alain Corbin rightly says that silence is neither the absence of noise nor the emptiness of feelings (remember the book The Silence of the Sea by Vercors [Jean Bruller]). The French writer Albert Camus said, in his book Return to Tipasa, that "I recognized, one by one, the imperceptible sounds of which the silence was made up", such as in nature and in those places where one is unhesitatingly convinced that any form of a true language lives on silence, starting with poetry that leads to the highest level.*

That is a subject that is certainly worth thinking about. The benefits of silence are often misunderstood and sometimes even intentionally undervalued, because it is true that many people like to hear themselves talk.

### The Work to be done

The wonderful programme allotted to the candidates of the Little Flock, faces them with having to do the "greater things" than those done by the Lord himself, as he declared. This programme is accompanied with some clearly defined conditions, which are as follows:

1. To renounce the former habits and traits of character.
2. To willingly receive all the lessons the Lord allows in the shape of trials.
3. To keep the faith and the conviction that no one is able to inflict, on a true Disciple of Christ, a trial or anything detrimental without it having been carefully checked by the Almighty, Who is always attributed with omniscience and omnipotence.
4. To subordinate all things to the Kingdom of God, which is established by the power of God's Holy Spirit.
5. The Covenant on Sacrifice agreed on by the Little Flock, and the Covenant on the Law made by the Host of the Lord, always have to be kept and respected before anything else.

If we live up to that glorious programme, we can be sure that the Disciples (members of the Little Flock), accompanied by the Host of the Lord, will do greater things than those done by our Lord during his earthly mission. If we are employed in such colossal Work, such glorious and such sublime Work, this is possible because our dear Saviour first redeemed us with his blood, and then invited us to collaborate with him, though it is he himself who does the Work.

We now have some Test Stations on which we are doing our best to live up to the conditions set for the last members of the Little Flock, and for the Host of the Lord. Those stations have been set up for the purpose of giving a demonstration of the Kingdom of God to everyone who wishes to rally to that glorious programme. When the Kingdom of God is definitely established all over the world, weeping will disappear, groaning will come to an end, and all things will have become new. Those who have departed into the grave will return generation by generation. There will be no more crying, no more tears and no more death. There will be joy and blessing everywhere.

They are the greater things that are to be done by those who place themselves at the Lord's service to become the Revealing of the Sons of God to groaning and dying humanity, who, without knowing it, are expecting this revelation. The time has come when those things must come about. The people who are haughty and those who are violent, are going to destroy one another in a terrible outburst of selfishness and hatred. At the same time, however, for those who are humble and meek, "the sun of righteousness will rise with healing [and life and happiness] in its rays", as the divine Word teaches. It is for that reason also that the Lord speaks to those who fear Him, and says: "Lift up your heads, because your Redemption is near."

## Knowing how to be silent and to speak

The following article — written by the French sociologist and political scientist Jacques Le Goff, and published in the French newspaper *Ouest-France* on the 25th of August 2017 — seems appropriate and worth considering, especially in a world in which human existence is filled with increasingly more noise. But that author lets us understand that the need for noise and for words, reduces one's "inner life" (emotional or interior life) and knowledge of oneself and of one's surroundings.

And with good reason, because they like talking about themselves! They themselves are their main interest, and they have the need to express themselves and to talk about themselves, be it about things that they are interested in and value, or be it about difficulties that they are going through. Their need to talk about themselves naturally reveals selfishness and makes them less sensitive, if not completely insensitive, to others.

Those who constantly talk are people who cannot listen, and that is a major flaw. Because listening allows understanding and helping. Listening to others enables one to understand their needs and problems, and to consequently bring them an appropriate and friendly word that gives comfort. But it is of course impossible to offer help to people who cannot listen and who furthermore only know how to talk about themselves... Under those conditions, it is equally impossible to learn new things from others who are more experienced than us or who have simply had other experiences.

The author of the above article describes to us a typical image of modern people who are no longer able to go without noise or agitation. Some people say: "We need atmosphere!" For them, it seems as though there is no atmosphere without noise, music, yelling, radio or television. The reason for that is partly because many people no longer know how to appreciate the atmosphere of peace and calm, and partly because there is currently great emptiness in their heart. That emptiness is mainly spiritual. In material satisfaction, humankind cannot find the food that its heart, its sensitive being, needs. In that area, humankind mainly lacks communion with God.

Humankind was originally created to be connected by a wonderful closeness of affection and gratitude to its Creator. Humankind was called into existence to be children of God who have great spirituality and the ability to feel God's sentiments and understand his will. God's will is the essence of good, of altruism, and forms the appropriate and indispensable spiritual food for the maintenance of human life and happiness. That is why our dear Saviour said: "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4: 4). When that is the case, people have the need to listen to their God, rather than to talk. They then begin to acquire true wisdom, which enables them to become an immense blessing for others. They talk little and consciously, and their words are always edifying, vivifying and consoling. The wise man Solomon tells us that "a word spoken at the right time is like gold apples on a silver tray". Proverbs 25: 11.

God certainly did not want total silence for humankind, because He has filled nature with all sorts of pleasant sounds: the melodies of birds, the creeks, the waves of the oceans, and even crickets and other insects that seem to sing us a lullaby at bedtime at sunset. All those sounds have a common purpose, namely, to produce a beneficial impression of peace and relaxation, a calm feeling, in which, through the presence of those various creations, the invisible yet glorious and exceedingly caring presence of the Almighty Creator is felt.

The most perfect example from which we can learn, is, and always remains, the beloved Son of God. Our dear Saviour did not speak a lot, but his words had considerable weight. They brought ineffable blessing and consolation because his few words contained the full power of the Truth, the Truth that frees sinners. That is why the Master — when visiting Martha and Mary, and when Martha had a lot of work to do and complained that Mary preferred to listen to him rather than to help her — responded: "Martha, Martha. You are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her." Luke 10: 40 and 41.

Let us also be among the happy ones who know how to be silent in order to listen to God's Word, which gives life to those who put it into practice. Let us also seize

every opportunity to employ our language to bless and encourage others. Then, words become a blessed part of the ministry that the Lord entrusts us with, as expressed in the following verse of a hymn:

*Few be our words, e'en pause, each one to measure,  
Led by the Holy Spirit of the Lord:  
Our speech will have the gift of giving pleasure,  
Sweet peace from Heaven then 'twill spread abroad.*

## "Pick", the tame magpie

Most of the news that we hear about in today's world, is full of sadness and ugliness. Apart from the Good News — which was announced to some shepherds in Bethlehem about 2,000 years ago, and which maintained, during that long time, the faith of generations of believers who aspired to God's Salvation — one hardly finds satisfaction, joy, gratitude and attachment, except with animals when they are treated well.

In fact, there are numerous cases in which the loyalty of a dog or a cat reaches extraordinary measures, be it to find their owner from whom they were suddenly separated due to unforeseen circumstances, or to protect their owner from a catastrophe, suffocation or other danger. Furthermore, their expressions of affection and joy when reunited with their owner, even if after only a short absence, are a comfort and a consolation that can ease their owner's worries and heartaches. They also like to play and run around, and can continue their games endlessly until one gets tired before them, if one takes up their invitation.

A typical case of contact and attachment to humans, is that of a small animal, even a hunter, that was abandoned but taken in by someone who fed and cared for it, who looked after it in every way, and who stroked and spoke to it. Even a bird can be very sensitive to the good that is done to it. It can go as far as preferring the company of its human benefactor, to whom it is grateful and attached, rather than the instinctive call of the wide-open spaces.

One of our friends, a regular reader of our literature, has just told us about an experience like that, that she and her postman neighbour shared, in the French town they live in. We quote her account as follows:

*Towards the end of last spring, the postman, whose office is almost opposite our house, found a baby magpie that had fallen out of its nest. He carefully picked it up and, over time, tenderly cared for it, so that it quickly grew and was soon able to fly. Our "Pick" (the name that was given to the young magpie) felt very happy in the loving family who, apart from the postman and his wife, consisted of five children. With attentive eyes and also very good hearing, the magpie took part in everything that was said or done by everyone, among whom it would fly back and forth, and from whom it seemed to understand the words spoken to it.*

*Completely free to move around, in the course of the day, it very often goes into the beautiful and recently renovated post office that is frequently visited by the people of this town. It is not frightened by the customers and even comes very close to them, to land on their head, to pick their hair and to pick up the banknotes that they give to the postman, or a shiny piece of jewellery that they wear on their clothing. It thereby shows that it is typical of its species, but it never takes anything that does not belong to it. And when it goes on an excursion through an open door to the outside, it is only a short flight to get some fresh air and to feel the sunshine. Its return is always very impressive, and one has to see the celebration that it prepares for its adoptive parents, who, for their part, it must be said, do not remain untouched by the gratitude and attachment shown to them... It is a true pleasure to experience those demonstrations. And it is certain that, if our postman ran another shop instead of the post office,*

*customers would come in large numbers just to watch this curious show. It is not like a circus or a theatre, but it is even better because it is natural and spontaneously comes from the heart. Because our Pick has a heart; it is not chauvinistic or sectarian. It doesn't care about nationalities or social positions. For it, everyone who comes into the post office is a friend whom it trusts. And therefore I, who have an English background, am also welcomed as warmly as if I, like the magpie, were French... It likes to be stroked on the head, and it also likes to sit on my head, which it did the second time I encountered it. Then, a moment later, it picked up a sheet of stamps that I had asked for and that the postman had put on the counter, and hopped over to me with them. And with the banknote that was put on the counter for my change, it did exactly the same thing.*

*Recently, I was further able to measure its intelligence and sensitivity. As I stood in front of the post office, I saw Pick flying back from a trip to the park, and it casually landed on my head. We then walked into the post office together, and I came to the thought of giving it a present: a small pink elastic hair band that a girl uses to hold her ponytail together. While still sitting on my head, the magpie took it in its big black beak, put it on my head and then carefully started to rub my cheek, as a sign of contentment and thanks.*

*A few days later, its adoptive mother said to me: "It greatly appreciates the present you gave it, and it takes it everywhere it goes. When it eats, it puts it down next to it."*

Who could dispute that animals are intelligent and sensitive to friendship?

## Modern technology, or health: it is our choice!

New information technology (IT) seems to be miraculous when one considers what it can do. There is no lack of amazing things that humankind can invent and create. But we must urge a certain caution in relation to our judgement of the devices that progress puts in our hands. Some devices can actually have serious consequences, as is pointed out in the following article written by Pierre Lance in the French publication *Alternatif Bien-être (Alternative Well-being)* in February 2019, which we partly quote:

**Like cigarettes were a few decades ago, so are ubiquitous waves [electromagnetic radiation, EMR] a health timebomb, but industrialists and financiers are sworn to secrecy. However, their potential disturbance is increasingly less doubtful.**

*Modern humankind is surrounded, crisscrossed and pierced by all sorts of waves [EMR]. But because the five human senses cannot perceive them or therefore warn against them, humankind carelessly navigates in an ocean of radiation, some of which can seriously disrupt the function of the human body, although those people who cause them claim that they have no noticeable effects...*

*Let us take stock of what we know about the harmfulness of these waves, regardless of whether some say they are harmless or claim there is no scientific evidence of their harmfulness.*

*The truth is that all our communications devices — such as smartphones, screens, computers, televisions, and cordless telephones — are generators of electromagnetic fields (EMF), and that ubiquitous wireless LAN [WiFi] waves are harmful to all living cells in humans, animals and plants.*

*Of course, the severity of the effects firstly depends on how often those devices are used and how long the contact with them is.*

*However, while some people use their mobile phones reasonably — i.e. for short or urgent calls — others, es-*

being drawn by donkeys. All this discipline is a splendid sight to watch.

The shepherd, a middle-aged man, is kind and peaceable. One feels he is sure of bringing his sheep to their destination. For its part, the flock knows it has to follow the shepherd. On one hand, there is responsibility, and on the other, there is trust.

Greatly interested in this scene, Margaret goes to the shepherd. She says to him: "I have been watching you for some time. You interest me very much. Have you come far, and where are you going?"

The shepherd answers: "We have come down from that mountain you can see over there, and we are going to X..."

Margaret says: "I'm filled with wonder to think of the miles you have come, and those you have still to go with your sheep, their lambs, and those born on the way. I can't help thinking of the many incidents of the road."

He says: "Nevertheless, it's a very good

life. I started quite young... First, I helped the shepherd, just like the youngsters are helping me now. Little by little, I learnt to know the animals, whose responsibility I took on myself. We place ourselves under God's protection, and He has always helped us in danger. I love my sheep and my young helpers. I couldn't live in town. I need to be outdoors in the wide-open spaces. I simply accept the conditions and the difficulties that come my way. I prefer that to the civilisation you might offer me with its comforts and luxuries. I'm a happy man."

Margaret asks: "Tell me why, a while back, you went to the rescue of the sheep caught up in the hedge, but allowed those that leave the flock to run free?"

The shepherd answers: "Experience has taught me that those that go away like that, are rebellious sheep. In general, I do not bring them to our destination. They repeat their escapades over and over again. I look on

them as lost. If they decide to return, they'll know where to find the flock all right. They are capricious, independent and disobedient. The opposite to the rest, they will not submit or be of the flock."

"Well," says Margaret, "I wish you good luck and a prosperous journey. If you should come back this way, knock on my door, there will always be something for you."

Margaret goes on with her musings far into the night, no longer over the past, but over the future. She feels moved to the bottom of her heart. The passing-by of the shepherd and his sheep, has caused a deep feeling of revulsion in her heart. She has a distinct feeling that a phase of her life has ended, and that she is faced with a decision that she must make.

She thinks: "I asked the Lord to never forsake me. How faithful He is! And how well He is able to make Himself understood by those who turn to Him! Never a reproach, and never a punishment, but with gentle-

ness that puts a stop to all resistance. I have truly learnt a masterly lesson from that flock. That shepherd's ideal is very restricted. I have known another ideal, a wonderful one that used to fill my heart and give me infinite joy.

It was my desire to become like my Master and to collaborate with him on the introduction of the Kingdom of God. Yet I ran away from his school because I would dwell on the awkwardness and imperfections of my brothers and sisters in that noble and splendid Family of Faith. I ran away from the flock and its discipline of noble renunciation and of walking in close-knit ranks.

Now I understand why the Prophet says you have to bind your eyes to not see anything to make you suspicious of your brethren, to block your ears to not hear anything against them, and to put your hands behind your back to receive nothing injurious to them. That is the only way to remain faithful. The question is to only take into account the en-

pecially many young people, are almost permanently in communication, whose uselessness or irrelevance is often obvious...

For my part, I would like to add that we should not reduce the extent of the problem to "electro-hypersensitive" people. This hypersensitivity of some people, who serve us as a sort of "lookout", should not suggest to us that less sensitive people are not affected. Because no one can escape the harmfulness of electromagnetic radiation, but some people are more resistant to it than others, as is the case for all forms of aggression. Let us not forget that there is a great variety of individual reactions.

Moreover, it is good to question some pathologies whose origin is unknown, because we do not take into account disturbances caused by our devices. Remember that human blood contains red blood cells, which owe their colour to haemoglobin, which is an iron-containing "metalloprotein". But the red blood cells are "polarized" by the waves [radiation] of a mobile telephone, and then become "suspended micromagnets" that naturally tend to clump together and can form a plug. That is how "anemic infarcts" and strokes can occur without a biological cause, which doctors have observed without being able to explain. That has been proven in two haematological laboratories (Paris and Geneva), whose directors prevented its publication and approval.

That imposed secrecy of the subject blocks any reproduction by accredited laboratories in France, Switzerland, Belgium and Italy, which would be required to do this...

Nowadays, it is impossible to do without these waves, which form the "awareness fabric" of the modern world, and whose widespread use concerns all humankind. Even if you yourself don't use a smartphone, you are immediately exposed to harmful waves by the mere use of public transport, which are emitted by all your fellow travellers who have one in their hand. In our countries, the number of electro-hypersensitive people [electro-hypersensitive subjects, EHS] is constantly increasing (from 3.6% of the population in the year 2012, to more than 5% today). More than one in twenty people suffer from these waves [radiation], and do not know how to protect themselves due to a lack of information...

In that context, on the 16th of September 2014, France TV Info said that the bosses in Silicon Valley (of Apple, Google, Twitter, etc.) limited the use of new technology among their own children, saying that it could affect their development. In 2010, Steve Jobs said: "We limit how much technology our kids use at home." And The New York Times confirmed that many

Silicon Valley leaders kept their children away from new technologies...

In 2014, the annual global sales of smartphones was over one billion units. In 2017, 73% of the French population over 12 years of age, had a smartphone. According to the French website "consoGlobe", in 2018, there were 7.7 billion active smartphones (units) on the planet, which means, more than the population of the Earth...

#### Have you heard about "digital dementia"?

This pathology is characterized by the deterioration of brain function as a result of the misuse of digital technology. South Korea was one of the first countries to implement wireless technology by using artificial microwave radio frequencies. Today, more than 85% of South Koreans over 16 years of age, have a smartphone. According to a report from South Korea's Ministry of Science, 18.4% of South Koreans aged between 10 and 19 years of age, use their smartphones more than 7 hours per day. In comparison, the average American uses their smartphone for 58 minutes per day. The South Korean psychiatrist Park Ki-jeong said: "10 to 15% of those with the mild cognitive disorders, develop dementia."

Common symptoms of digital dementia are memory impairment, reduced attention and analytical abilities, as well as affective disorders. It goes without saying that these adverse effects in addition to those mentioned above, emerge and are traceable back to the influence of waves [radiation]. We can protect ourselves from waves, but no one else can protect an individual from their own excesses, except sometimes parents to a certain degree. No matter how we look at the problem, we are dealing with one of the most dangerous phenomena produced by modern communication technology. Is therefore important for us to protect ourselves from it, and especially to protect the younger generations from it.

We are facing a problem whose importance should be taken very seriously. It concerns everyone because there are already 7.7 billion active smartphones in the world, more than one per person. Additionally, there are mobile-phone towers, computers, televisions, various types of screens and a range of attached devices.

The article describes the effects of waves (electromagnetic radiation) on all living organisms. Although we can isolate ourselves from some types of pollution — such as tobacco smoke, exhaust gas and various industrial waste products — it is practically impossible to escape these electromagnetic waves that we are all exposed to, because the entire airspace is literally crisscrossed by these waves. We can easily imagine that if a telephone that we use can receive them, then these waves

can also go through our body, which is not insensitive to them. What effects do they have on our cells? The article tells us. Iron-containing red blood cells can be polarized by mobile-telephone electromagnetic radiation. They become suspended micromagnets that tend to clump together, which can lead to a heart attack. But that is not the only danger associated with these devices, as we read in the article, which also mentions that the intensive use of mobile telephones can even be associated with digital dementia. That is sobering, and one can ask oneself whether the benefits of these devices justify their negative side effects.

We especially think about children who are exposed to and almost defenceless against that electromagnetic pollution (electrosmog, e-smog). In fact, there is a great and almost irresistible temptation to have a smartphone. When one thinks that in South Korea, for example, young people use their smartphone for more than 7 hours per day, which is almost a full workday, one can easily imagine that such excessiveness is harmful to health. Furthermore, the bosses of big digital companies, not without reason, limit their children's use of all these devices. It is because they know the harmful effects.

Our society has positioned itself into a dependency on modern technology. We can no longer imagine life without all the information and communication technologies at our disposal. But we should not ignore their adverse effects on our health or on nature. How wise it would be to renounce some devices if they are not absolutely necessary, or to limit their use before they make us sick! But we are often fascinated by their technological abilities, and even if we know their downsides, we ignore them as long as we don't feel them in our own body, until we have become their victim.

We once again see that everything that humankind has created and that is sometimes the result of great intelligence and much research, is nevertheless a source of disturbance. Of course, the greatest disturbance is the suggestion of God's Adversary, Satan, who seduces all humankind. It is he who gives his ingenuity to humankind in order to conceive, develop and construct everything that science and technology have produced. However, God's Creation does no harm. Everything in nature, including the human body, obeys the Universal Law and therefore exists for the good of all. We know that that will one day also be the case for humankind, who will be perfectly restored and no longer a victim of pollution. Humankind will be under the influence of God's Spirit, which, in God's Kingdom, will be poured out on all people, and which is made possible by the Sacrifice that our dear Saviour, Jesus Christ, and his faithful Church, so dearly paid.

ergy, the will and the effort of each sheep of the Good Shepherd's flock, and to draw each other on in the same direction, that of the New World that is introduced with holy conduct and godliness. The sheep I accused in my heart have remained faithful among the flock. I ran away like an obdurate sheep. So, I am the poorest of the lot.

I do not want to be like those rebellious sheep that let the flock go on and never find it again. How wretched they must be when they are alone, far from its atmosphere and its feeling of security!

I hope that in my case, the flock has not gone too far ahead, and that I shall be able to catch up to it! I shall have to put a deal of constraint on myself to recover my place among the Family of Faith, and to gain any amount of impetus to stay there and remain faithful. It will be humiliating, but immensely salutary. I feel the Good Shepherd coming to get me out of the thicket and the brambles, because I cried out to him. I can hear his gentle voice calling me back to the fold. I cannot resist. I feel I am going to find happiness again."

Margaret's eyes are full of tears. She continues her thoughts: "How could I have ever forgotten the Divine Family and my dear sister Gertrude! How could I have lost interest in those I love who have gone into the grave, and in the Resurrection that I used to take so much joy in working for! What a good thing it is that Gertrude remained faithfully in the fight. I left her, but I know she will receive me with open arms, being glad to see me return to the fold, to walk with the other sheep once again. I am going to think of her joy. That will give me the courage to undergo the inevitable humiliation of returning to our dear Saviour's school.

I told the shepherd to knock on my door if he comes past again, but I shall not be there, because I shall have returned to the fold. He has done me a great service, and I am very grateful to him. The Lord will reward him and will allow me to meet him again one day, so

that I may tell him that there is also a spiritual flock. It is relatively a small one, only 144,000 people in all. But it is a wonderful flock, led by the Good Shepherd, the Shepherd of Shepherds, who laid down his life for his sheep. He invites them to sacrifice, and they follow him in all freedom with joy and conviction, to ensure the happiness of mankind and the Resurrection of the departed. The Great Shepherd walks at their head, and they can hear his voice distinctly. I heard it this evening, kind and persuasive: 'My child, give me your heart.' I will follow him once more, faithfully this time. I feel happiness is returning to my heart, thanks to God and to our dear Saviour."

At the close of this meditation, Margaret falls asleep with her conscience at rest, being happy in the new phase opening to her. She has found the flock and the Shepherd again. Once again, the horizon is bright ahead, and once more, she feels she is in line for the good fight of faith, determined to go ahead with greater zeal and ardour than ever, with those who intend to love lost humanity, to devote themselves, to forget self, and to pay without holding anything back, in order to spread joy and hope, and wishing for nothing and knowing nothing except their duty, their noble and sacred duty.

#### News in brief of the Reign of Justice

We are always eager to ponder over the message brought by God's Faithful and Wise Servant, and to esteem and observe his advice. In 1927, he gave serious recommendations to the dear evangelists, and we reproduce a few paragraphs below:

"Evangelizing is one of the most important parts of the activity that God's people can exert. In the hearts of those who practise it in a sensible and wise manner, it forges the qualities of real overcomers, because they deliver their testimony each day by the power of God's Spirit. If an evangelist truly wishes to make headway in the Almighty's princi-

ples, to receive sufficient blessing and to be replenished spiritually, he has to seriously live consecration, because difficulties can only be overcome by living a life constantly under the control of God's Spirit.

We fervently recommend the Work of evangelizing to our dear brothers and sisters, so that they may apply all their zeal and especially the necessary faith to this Work, because we will not forget that we are working for this noble cause: the Deliverance of mankind. It is the most honourable and glorious goal, and it is through evangelizing that we lay the first landmarks for this sublime Work."

When the dear evangelists take those recommendations to heart, the Lord grants them to find well-disposed people who thirst and hunger after justice and truth. People write to us to express their appreciation for the message, and it gives us pleasure to quote a few passages of letters recently received:

*I was greatly impressed by the message given in No. 10 of your paper. Your Monitor is a marvellous discovery for me! I am eager to receive The Monitor of the Reign of Justice regularly.* J-L.N. (in Abidjan, Ivory Coast)

*A lady has given me some Monitors of the Reign of Justice. I have read these papers from the first to the very last line. I have never yet read such a paper. It is very well written, and it is the truth.* H.P. (in Kassel, Germany)

*Your paper makes such pleasant reading in its truth and its simple harmonious style, fluent in the understanding of what is authentic, and saying all that has to be said, so that we may all learn what we are on Earth for. Thank you to those who write its articles that lead us to understand what is genuine.* D.D. (in Vaugines, France)

*I wish to express my sincere gratitude for The Monitor of the Reign of Justice and the PAPER FOR ALL, which are delivered regularly. For me, they are indispensable spiritual food. I must add that the PAPER FOR ALL*

*with the title "The divine law, this treasure!" was a surprise. My heartfelt thanks. I feel that my vitality has increased, and it shows in my work on the farm. It is my own experience, and it has touched me and attached me to the divine law.* L.R. (in Malawi)

*As usual, during last year, we regularly received all the PAPERS FOR ALL and the Monitors of the Kingdom. I thank the Lord for all this Work, and I am aware that there is always the equivalent of joy in the Kingdom. May it fill all your hearts! It is a blessing from God's power, and divine grace to receive this spiritual food. All my deep gratitude to you all for this labour of blessing.* U.N. (in Canada)

*I am writing to thank you and tell you how interested I am in your publications. For over a year, I have benefitted from your papers. They have been very edifying for me, both morally and spiritually. I would like to renew my subscriptions for the New Year. Please, brethren, could you send me The Divine Revelation, Eternal Life, and The Lord's Second Coming?* A.O. (in Lima, Peru)

As God's Faithful and Wise Servant also reminded us: "It is an immense privilege to be on the breach and to go in quest of those who are capable of receiving the testimony. If the Lord sends us to a place where we are alone, it is not without reason.

We begin our Work with courage, beseeching the Lord to help us to find those who have to be contacted. 'Ask, and you will receive; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you.' But you have to go like a child, putting yourself aside, because the more difficult the situation is, the purer your heart has to be. The Almighty can then do his Work in us and guide us admirably. We shall become sensitive to God's Spirit, and this sensitiveness will enable us to discern what has to be done for our light to shine before men."

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