

# THE REIGN OF JUSTICE

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## There are comforting prospects ahead

**M**ANKIND today are greatly perturbed by the dark clouds looming on the horizon. However, behind those clouds, "the sun of righteousness" is rising to shed a resplendent light with healing, happiness and life in its rays. It is the setting up of the Kingdom of God on Earth, for the times are fulfilled, and the time has come when it is being introduced on Earth, and nothing in the world can stop it.

On man — in the persons of his first representatives: Adam and Eve — the Lord had conferred the Earth as a gift. They ought to have received that gift with respect and gratitude, doing their best to administrate it with intelligence and wisdom, for the good and the blessing of everything the Earth contains. However, they permitted themselves to be guided into selfishness by the Adversary. From such seed, they reaped disappointment, misfortune and death with its train of pain, of tears and of sorrow. Failing in gratitude, they broke the Universal Law of love, and owing to that, the Earth became, for them, a pretext for going to war, for quarrelling and for all manner of strife. The nations — brought into existence by man's selfishness and cupidity — quarrel and fight one another to the death for the sake of a piece of land. When man dies, however, the Earth slips through his fingers, for he is laid out in the cold grave. Then, he is covered over by the Earth which he has so greedily coveted, and it swallows him up. That is the terrible outcome of him being selfishly and ungratefully minded.

The whole social organization set up on Earth is the effect of the devilish power. Furthermore, the divine Word calls the world of today, the kingdom of "the god of this world". That false god has inculcated into mankind abominable sentiments and a false wisdom, by making impressions on them through their five physical senses. Through their "sixth sense", a spiritual one, the Adversary also works on them to their hurt, without them being aware of it. They cannot be aware of it, because they lack God's Holy Spirit, the spirit of divine wisdom. That spirit of truth and of love, brings all things to converge on the good and the blessing of all.

At present, man lives on Earth as a pariah and a felon. All, from the top to the bottom of the social scale, do their fellows hurt. The authorities set up on Earth are also in direct contradiction with the divine laws, which all are founded on the Universal Law of mutual

assistance and respect. God never does violence to anybody, or makes anybody suffer pain. People are not punished by God. They punish themselves with what they reap from the bad seed they sow. God's law finds expression in love. It is there for the good of all, even of those who do wrong. If a man sows evil things, it is quite obvious that his harvest will be bad. To reap good things, one must sow good seed, that is also obvious. And if one keeps on doing that, one will, by degrees, arrive at knowing the true God and at obtaining communion with Him.

The Almighty has very great compassion on mankind. He sent his Son to open up to them the way of Salvation. That is the beginning of the promise given to Abraham: "Through you and your descendants, all the families of the Earth shall be blessed." After his resurrection, our dear Saviour had still to choose, out of the human race, the Royal Priesthood (the Little Flock) of 144,000 real Priests. Those people associate in his Sacrifice and in his redeeming Work, so that mankind can recover their inheritance lost in Eden, that is to say, the Earth and its blessings. Man has been defiling and corrupting that heritage instead of being a kind and affectionate protector of all the Earth contains. The result of that is that the Earth has become a curse to him. It has opened its mouth to swallow up his remains. He is held a prisoner within it till the wonderful time now approaching when Christ will make his voice heard in the grave and fetch him out of it by Resurrection.

Before that display of power, majestic beyond compare, can take place, there is Work to be done, just as we said. It is the Work of our dear Saviour's associates, called the Little Flock, who, with their Master, receive the power to set the prisoners of death free. But before anything else, a halt must be called to the terrible stream of departures for the grave, going on unhindered all over the world. That curse must stop, for Christ and his associates pay the Ransom to remove the curse. All that is now required is for the last members of the Little Flock, still on Earth, to finish their sacrifice. That is what is taking place at the present time. The thing announced on the fields of Bethlehem, will thereafter take place. The promised peace will be able to spread over the world, and all mankind will render their homage to the Lord, saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and peace on Earth to men of goodwill." That will be

the Lord's Second Advent, his Second Coming obtained in his Saints and in all those who have believed, as the Apostle Paul writes to the Thessalonians.

Those things can be grasped and understood by faith alone. And that does not mean a theoretical faith, but real faith obtained to the bottom of one's heart as an irresistible force. Such faith is the result of living up to the Gospel of Christ in practice, with one's whole heart, and with the assistance of the power of God, as in the case of Paul the Apostle. So, the question is for the Little Flock to fetch that power of God by living up to the Gospel of peace, and spreading it everywhere. Paul the Apostle said that the Kingdom of God is not made of words, but is an irresistible manifestation of divine power.

The first representatives of the earthly Kingdom of God, are the people now living, that is, living at the time of the establishing of the last members of the Little Flock, and who have faith in that wonderful event. They are the people the Apostle calls "all those who have believed". They are called up by the Book of Remembrance (*The Message to Humanity*), mentioned by Malachi the Prophet, who says that it is to be written before the Lord in our time for those who seek Him for the purpose of serving Him.

The Little Flock have been given to our dear Saviour by the Lord to be his associates, whom he takes into his school, to educate and sanctify them and render them apt to carry out their mission of Priests. For that reason, our dear Saviour, speaking of his Disciples, said: "I sanctify myself for them... Father, I desire that those whom You have given to me, be with me where I am." That is constant Work of kindness, of tenderness, of assistance and of justification done by our dear Saviour for his Disciples till they are firmly established in their mission of saviours with the Lord. It is their great privilege to follow their Saviour faithfully in the gift of self for the sake of poor humanity, who are as sheep on Earth without a shepherd, and who, without knowing it, are expecting the Revealing of the Sons of God.

That is the programme now being set before the last candidates for the Little Flock. Those who wish to be of it must therefore get up to the level of the mission they have to carry out. For that purpose, theory is not sufficient. What is required is to faithfully and integrally comply with all the conditions.

The result obtained when the last members of the Little Flock have victoriously finished their race, will be sublime beyond imagining. The first part is the birth and development of the Host of the Lord, who have to

### The Almighty's law refreshes one's soul

**M**ARINA came into the world under the azure sky in the region of Veneto in northeastern Italy. At her birth, she was such a tiny baby that her grandmother felt urged to measure her. "What do you think? She's shorter than a beer bottle!" grandmother exclaimed. "She won't live long, the poor little thing!" Nevertheless, to the joy of her grandparents, Marina holds her own. Of course, she has to be treated with great gentleness, and her progress is slow. As the months go by, she slowly gains in strength and becomes a sweet child, for she has the advantage of living in the country with her grandparents who have the care of a large estate belonging to a count who is rather exacting, to put it mildly.

The open air and the sunshine, of which there was plenty at the time, do the little girl

a great deal of good. Everything around her is radiant: rich groves everywhere, tree-lined alley ways, cool and shady, and along the lanes, hedges of honeysuckle and jasmine which give forth their delicious scent. The fields offer a fine show of flowers of many colours. The hills are covered with hazel bushes and chestnut trees and with aromatic plants that this region is known for: lavender, rosemary, thyme and sage. The air is laden with their penetrating scent brought out by the sunshine. Two splendid rivers are confluent here: the Piave and the Ardo. At some distance to the northwest, the chain of the Dolomites (a mountain range) rises, making a show of colours constantly changing between dawn and sunset, offering a view of grand harmony of tints, impossible to reproduce.

The soil is exceedingly fertile. There are grapevines growing there, magnificent corn and an abundance of green peas. And

throughout the summer months, you can feast on cherries, peaches, figs, apricots and many other delicious fruits that ripen in this generous land. The water is pure and soft, so soft that no hands are ever chapped. Summer is long and winter almost unknown. Marina is too young to be aware of her good fortune in being surrounded by nature's abundant blessings. In later years, in less congenial climes, she is frequently assailed with homesickness for these wonderful surroundings.

At the age of six, little Marina has to go to school and thus leave her grandparents to go and live with her father and mother who live in a neighbouring village. She is keenly interested in her school work, and how irksome are the long Sundays which compel her to stay at home!

Marina has a vivid remembrance of what happened one day at school. A little boy had stolen a pen, and the teacher calls each child in the class before him, compelling them to

look him straight in the eyes. When her turn comes, Marina is so deeply affected by this that she turns as red as a rose. It makes it look as if there can be no doubt that she is the guilty one. She is terribly upset. She will pass for a thief. But the little boy sitting next to her helps her out by boldly declaring: "Marina didn't steal the pen. You mustn't accuse her, sir. She blushes like that over the least thing, she is always doing it!" The fact is that little Marina suffers from terrible timidity.

Marina is eleven when her father has to go away to Africa, staying there for about ten years. His departure is the signal for the beginning of much trouble for the little family who is left behind. Marina has a brother older than herself, and a younger sister. Mother has to work to provide for her children, but earns so little that, at times, she is unable to feed them properly. Salaries were paltry in those days, and employers most exacting. Marina is often hungry. She asks for some

demonstrate, to the rest of mankind, the tangible result of the joint Sacrifice of our dear Saviour and of his Little Flock, which opens up the way to everlasting life for all who will step out along this brightly lit way by living up to the conditions on which eternal life depends.

That is also something that is essentially practical and calls for real effort. Indeed, it should be borne in mind that all mankind, without exception, have received a lot of harmful impressions from the power of the devilish spirit. Their minds are far from being virgin soil. They are soaked through and through in sentiments that make them die. As the Bible tells us, man is born in iniquity and conceived in sin. Then, from his birth onwards, he receives evil impressions. The result of that is that all people are more or less hostile to the impressions of God's Holy Spirit. Man has been shaped, in all points, by the Adversary's spirit, which instils thoughts in him that are entirely opposed to his nature and his destiny. The final result is dispositions which lead him to his grave.

The whole of mankind is in that terrible state. There is nobody in the various religious groups able to point out the right way, the way to freedom. Yet we are told in the Bible: "If there is a messenger with him, a mediator, one of the thousands, to show man what is right for him, then God is gracious to him, and says: 'Deliver him from going down into the pit: I have found a Ransom'." The time has come, and that prophecy is fulfilled. "What is right for him" is pointed out in *The Message to Humanity*, written in the Lord's Name by his Faithful and Wise Servant.

So, the question now is for the last members of the Royal Priesthood to carry out their mission in all holy conduct and godliness. Each one who has come forward to take part in that glorious mission, must do all his duty to hasten God's Day by faithfully practising renunciation and atonement, and laying down his life.

The Host of the Lord, for their part, also have a glorious programme to face up to. The fact is that those two callings — that of the Little Flock and that of the Host of the Lord — work together for one sole purpose: the demonstration of the Kingdom of God, now already taking shape on Earth, tangibly and visibly, for the benefit of the meek, who will inherit the Earth, and who are redeemed from condemnation and sin by the precious blood of the Lamb of God, our dear Saviour.

The Host of the Lord have begun to make their appearance, and we have already opened up some small Test Stations of the Kingdom of God, which must now become real Demonstration Stations. The most important Work to be done is that which must take its course in our hearts. It is indeed a matter for the complete renewal of all hearts, for shaping new dispositions. That means, to change a selfish creature who can only descend into the grave, into an altruist who will inherit eternal life in the terrestrial Kingdom of God.

To do that, each must fix his eyes on the Pattern, our dear Saviour, and do his best to follow in his footsteps, taking his teachings to heart, together with the programme described in *The Message to Humanity*. One has to obey the Truth with faith and conviction. That is the way to hasten the Day of God and to bring about the Restoration of All Things for the Deliverance and the happiness of all mankind. They are in the labour pains of the New World, expecting the Revealing of the Sons of God, to the glory of God and of our dear Saviour.

They truly are exceedingly comforting and rejoicing prospects that will enable us to easily pass over the present momentary difficulties that mankind have made for themselves with their evil dispositions. Let us then do our best to live up to the conditions of the Kingdom of God with all our heart, so that we may contribute

towards hastening the Deliverance of all mankind, setting up God's Kingdom on Earth, and making the Earth God's glorious footstool.

## Gender equality: where do we stand?

Following are several extracts from two articles in the French magazine *Partenaires* (Partners) No. 1/2018 from the Swiss development-aid organization "Helvetas", which is dedicated to the dignity and security of people in underprivileged countries:

### Men and women — stronger together

... *Sharing rights means giving up power, and losing power is scary. We know today that the fears of the past were unjustified. Because equality not only gives new freedoms to women, but also to men. ...*

... *When it comes to saving money, purchase decisions and conflict resolution — it is no longer a secret that many problems are in good hands with women. That is not only an intuitive realization. A global report [The power of parity] published in 2015 by the consultancy company McKinsey Global Institute (MGI), clearly shows the positive effects of gender equality. So, better access for women to basic health infrastructure and to a functioning health system, leads to a distinct increase in the number of women in the public service. That reality, in turn, leads to an overall better development of society. And finally, the report estimates that the economic value of complete worldwide gender equality between today and 2025, would add as much as \$12 trillion [12 trillion US dollars] to annual global growth [GDP] — a number that equals the current national economies of Japan, Germany and the United Kingdom combined.*

*It must be recognized that that is a one-sided view of things. Gender equality is much more than a purely economic matter. But that amount shows that the improvement potential is very great, also in Switzerland. Yesterday, today and tomorrow — small and deep divides must be bridged, and fears must be overcome, which, we hope, will soon only amaze us.*

The following considerations from the second article relate to the situation in Africa.

... *In the 1980s, structural-adjustment programmes by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), led to privatization, the closure of schools, massive job losses and a serious economic crisis. Overnight, men lost their jobs and their roles. They suffered a lot and felt broken and paralyzed.*

*So, the women took the reins. They reclaimed their old traditional role. Many are selling the latest jewellery and have started a small business. They have freed themselves from colonial rule and have economically emancipated themselves, like the women in Europe during World War Two. The crisis has been shaking African societies for two decades. Since 2000, things have been improving, but African women are keeping their old-new role. They can do a lot with little. They have the ability to always find solutions. Today, there are more women than men selling products in the markets. They are establishing savings and credit groups in order to be able to invest. ...*

*One constantly talks about men, but even if women discretely remain in the background, they occupy an important place beside them. They ensure cohesion, not only in the family. But their contribution does not appear in official statistics, because growth figures only reflect the formal economy that is mainly in the hands of foreign companies.*

... *What really helps women is support in family farming, which forms the basis of life in Africa. ... They have always had so much to do in their homes and for their families, that they have an inborn sense of organization, and also the sense to maintain honour and dignity,*

*even if everything is taken away from them, and even in poverty. Women always get up. ...*

*30 years ago, men were the first recipients of "micro-credit". Later, women were recognized as being much more reliable. Today, 90% of microcredit on the entire continent is in the hands of women. ...*

*Women, just like men, have to think for themselves, and that is why culture is so important. It opens the horizon. Culture should be integrated into every development project. ...*

Originally, at the creation of the first human couple, there was no domination or enslavement by the husband of the wife. Both were equal before God. The Lord God had placed them in Paradise where they mainly should have developed a mindset that would have guaranteed them life forever. To do that, the Lord gave them only one commandment that they should have obeyed. The thus observed obedience would have formed the basis of a character that would have led them to acquire the most beautiful divine virtues, namely, to love God, their Creator, above everything and everyone, and each other as themselves. Those divine sentiments would have enabled them to reach their destiny: eternal life.

As we know, that was not so. Our first parents fell into sin, and Adam was told: "The ground is cursed because of you. All your life, you will struggle to survive from it. It will grow thorns and thistles, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow, you will eat your bread until you return to the ground from which you were made. You were made from dust, and you will return to dust" (Genesis 3: 17–19). Eve's sentence was: "I will greatly increase your pain in childbirth; you will give birth in pain. Your desire will be your husband, and he will rule over you" (Genesis 3: 16). It is to be noted here that that is not a matter of a punishment from God, but simply an equivalent, the exact equivalent of the line of conduct of our first parents.

Through those few indications, we can recognize that the domination of men over women, is the direct product of the condemnation that occurred as the equivalent of sin. That is not a normal situation or an irreversible symptom. Furthermore, we know that that situation will end in the Kingdom of God which will soon be established on Earth. Moreover, God's Kingdom is the only solution, not only for the problem of the inequality of men and women, but for all problems. We will come back to the latter, but let us firstly examine the current situation.

As the author of the article rightly says: "Sharing rights means giving up power, and losing power is scary." But "sharing rights" does not also only mean "giving up power". It also means "to delegate responsibility", "to share tasks" and "to take some of the load off". Sharing has a positive aspect. One could even say that it has a "double-positive aspect", that it is a "win-win situation", when we consider that men and women should complete each other. There are some differences between their abilities. And the equality of men and women, does not only bring a lot from the economic point of view.

But there are so many barriers to be eliminated in order to reach that goal! Just in character. How often we have been the sad witnesses of scornful words between men and women, for the simple reason that they were not the same gender! It is regrettable to see that our society, which is so proud of its culture and technology, displays such scenes, and that we, in our relationships with our fellow people, especially with people of the opposite sex, are often so poor. To belittle others, to despise them or to look down on them, is definitely not a sign of progress, but rather of degeneration. Especially in countries where women are exploited and treated as objects, and are not respected personalities.

It is a matter of looking at one's fellow person as a brother or a sister whom one loves, but not as a ri-

bread, but the cupboard is empty. Mother is reduced to answering: "Wait till the hens have laid, then we'll sell the eggs and buy some bread." Now, there are only four hens, which gives one an idea of how they were living from hand to mouth.

Marina hungered, above all, for affection. Her mother is kind, devoted and attentive, but hasn't got it in her to kiss and hug her children, and that is what little Marina desires so much. It is therefore not to be wondered at that, when she grows up, Marina dreams of marriage as being the ideal condition for living happily ever after. At that time, she felt no need to satisfy her ardent heart by drawing near to God. The religion in which she had been brought up, left her indifferent. It was too mystical for her, she needed to live her life to the full. She had a feeling that only material blessings would be able to satisfy her: money, lots of money. To be able to dress well, to make herself pretty, and to

be pleasing, such was her object, her preoccupation at that time. She makes up her mind to go to town to earn her own living.

City life... Marina had imagined it to be far different from this! Can it be possible to be so alone among so many people? What haste, what agitation and what noise! And that air that almost chokes you as you breathe it! Those walls, so close together, stifle you! Besides all of which, the little she earns has to be sent home. Good bye to splendid dreams! If only she could go home, to the country!

Soon, that dream is realized. Then, again, what a disappointment! Nothing is like it used to be. Marina's father has come home from Africa. So long has he lived away from his family, that he is received as a stranger. He is incapable of winning back their affection. He is afflicted with a dreadful character, domineering and harsh. So, Marina decides to go away to a country where she will be

able to earn a decent living. She has delicate health, but what does that matter? Young Marina possesses a will of her own, and unshakeable faith in her future.

Marina goes to Switzerland and finds employment in a town in the canton (state) of Jura. She feels entirely out of her element. On the other hand, she at once earns the esteem and affection of her employers. She is exceedingly devoted and does not stint her time. She earns a little more than before, and so is able to gratify some of her desires. After all, her new situation has its advantages. As for the climate, however, that is another matter. Here, winter is long, and summer is hardly noticed. They try to comfort her by telling her that the air from the pine trees is a tonic... Maybe it is, but how she misses the warmth and sunshine of her own country! Not for a moment, however, does it enter into her mind to return home. Then, one day, she meets an agreeable young man who be-

comes attached to her and asks her to marry him. As she returns his feelings, she says yes.

The young couple are very happy till the day when the failings of each of them come to light. Marina got married to have her husband all to herself. He, for his part, has kept up his bachelor habits. He must go with his friends every evening, and be able to watch every football, ice-hockey and any other kind of match that may be on. What is left for poor Marina?

Besides, she would really like to have a child. She has to wait eight years for it. Till the day it comes, what painful feelings rise in her disappointed heart! To go to the pictures is the only pleasure she has.

At last, she gives birth to the child she has so much wished for. It is a little girl. Great is the joy of both the father and the mother. The baby becomes the centre of the universe for its parents and its grandparents. The little

val, someone whom one can exploit. We must accept differences and not fight them. Briefly said, we must treat others as we would like to be treated. That is the measure to observe.

We therefore understand that the work to do is profound and so vast that it is impossible for us to envisage it for ourselves. For humankind (men and women), it requires a new education, that of altruism, which is learnt in order to put selfishness aside. That is only possible under the guidance of Christ. During the Gospel Age, a class of people was successfully educated at our dear Saviour's school. That is the true Church of Christ, which was faithful, and which will share glory with its Master. Currently, a new class of people is appearing in order to collaborate on the introduction of God's Kingdom on Earth. But for most people, their education will take place during the Restoration of All Things, which was announced in advance by Apostle Peter in Acts 3: 21. There, "there is no Greek or Jew, no slave or free, and no male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus". Galatians 3: 18.

## Altruism or self-interest?

We are happy to see that in our modern society, there are still generous and altruistic impulses. That becomes clear through the following article, which was printed in the Swiss Coop newsletter (published by the company Coopération) on the 20th of May 2019:

### Give of yourself to others

*Volunteering is priceless — literally and figuratively. Without all of its philanthropists, our society would be very dull and impoverished. Good action takes many forms.*

*In a time when ego is king, and most people think about careers, money, power, material possessions, fame or thrills, there are still many "good fairies" who do things for others. Helping others, giving one's time and of oneself to those who are in need, can also boost the adrenaline level. It may even be the best way to do it.*

*Professor Udo Rauchfleisch (76) — who is a former lecturer of psychology, and who is now invited to various Swiss and foreign universities and colleges — explains: "Human beings who perform an altruistic action immediately feel intense joy after they have helped someone. This joy is completely legitimate and in no way contradicts the generosity that good deeds create."*

*Buying something for a sick neighbour, giving a homeless person a warm meal, making a donation to a charitable institution, paying the rent for a friend in financial distress, lending a hand at the refreshments counter of a sporting club, taking part in a soup kitchen, etc. The list of volunteering assistance is long.*

*Some people even sacrifice their own lives in order to save the lives of others. A few years ago, in the Swiss canton [state] of Bern, a grandmother handed her two-year-old grandson to a neighbour outside her window of her burning house, before perishing in the fire, alongside her husband. In 2016 in the Swiss canton of Aargau, a court witnessed another exceptional fact: the relatives of a woman who died in a terrible motor vehicle accident, hugged the truck driver responsible for the tragedy, who had collapsed and was devastated, in order to relieve his pain.*

### Altruism and philanthropy

*Two concepts characterize good deeds. On the one hand, there is "altruism", which is "selfless action for others". And on the other hand, there is "philanthropy", which can be understood as "love of humanity".*

*"We understand philanthropy to be any voluntary action of a private nature with an aim of public benefit," explains Professor Georg von Schnurbein (42), Director of the Centre for Philanthropy Studies (CEPS) at the University of Basel (in Switzerland), and an expert in the management of institutes. "In other words, philan-*

*thropy does not depend on wealth or social position." To act, you don't need to be a Bill or Melinda Gates at the head of the largest private foundation in the world, whose capital is estimated to be 37 billion US dollars.*

*Philanthropy, volunteering, and selfless acts: are these concepts interchangeable? "Yes and no. They overlap and are therefore difficult to differentiate," continues Georg von Schnurbein. "Voluntary work is a job that you choose and do without pay. It is therefore a question of volunteering and, consequently, of philanthropy. Selfless acts cover a wider field: they are present in the private sphere without being simultaneously considered as a public benefit."*

### 7,477 years and 2 months

*A good deed is help given without compensation of any kind. An unexpected volume of hours is devoted to that every year in Switzerland. In fact, more than 665 million hours of volunteering are done, or nearly 7,477 years and 2 months! The Federal Statistical Office [of Switzerland] reports an equivalent value of 41 billion Swiss francs. To make a comparison, Switzerland's national budget for 2019 is approximately 72 billion Swiss francs. But that's not all: Professor Georg von Schnurbein estimates that the private sector annually pays about 4 billion Swiss francs to charitable causes. "Compared to other countries, Switzerland regularly appears in the leading pack in terms of philanthropic engagement," he specifies.*

### We can all do good

*Altruistic behaviour is present in all cultures. All the religions of the world extol its merits. Studies show that babies are united from an early age. However, it is education that plays the decisive role. Other factors come into play: because some people consider themselves to be spoilt by life, they want to return part of their good fortune to society.*

*Tennis superstar Roger Federer (37), whose mother Lynette (67) is from South Africa, illustrates that state of mind very well: their foundation supports training projects in southern Africa. Among the most famous Swiss philanthropists, we can cite Henri Dunant (1828–1910), who was the founder of the Red Cross; and Luc Hoffmann (1923–2016), who was a descendant of the Roche family and a co-founder of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), and who helped create many nature-protection associations.*

*The current Swiss philanthropic landscape is dominated by entrepreneurs and by families who are heirs to industrial dynasties. "However, I find it reductive to only consider the financial aspect," continues Georg von Schnurbein. "Philanthropy is valuable to society when it is based on a broad consensus and can help to improve living conditions in various situations." According to him, we can all do good, whatever our fortune, origin, gender, age, education, profession or social position.*

*But good deeds can sometimes have less glowing facets. In human goodness, there is always the risk of exploitation. In fact, some people have motivations that are anything but charitable: for example, they want recognition and hope to get social or professional benefits from their actions. "There is a paradox in acting selflessly for a selfish purpose. If self-interest is the real motive, then it is no longer a good action in the sense of self-giving, in a selfless way," explains Udo Rauchfleisch. But according to his colleague Georg von Schnurbein, that attitude is completely normal: "It is human nature to mix altruism and selfishness." That being said, the beneficiaries of good deeds can disregard it [selfishness] because the assistance is very valuable indeed.*

*"A philanthropic attitude, voluntary activities and other good deeds, are essential for society," says Udo Rauchfleisch. That is an approach that corresponds to that of Georg von Schnurbein: "The different forms of philanthropy constitute an important element of social cohesion. A society in which citizens are not ready to commit themselves for others, is dysfunctional."*

It is encouraging to see that in a small country, like Switzerland, there are so many good deeds, voluntary work and philanthropy. And one can easily understand that all those people feel joy when they have done good. That is one of the reasons why they do it again, in order to feel that contentment, that satisfaction of the soul, which is very specific with devotion, and which one cannot feel anywhere else. The feeling that one has made oneself useful and that one has created happiness, fulfills the doer of the good deed with joy. Selfishness also brings an immediate satisfaction of having obtained what one wanted. But it is a short-term contentment that is not enough to maintain joy of the mind.

It is also interesting to see that one can do a good deed for selfish purpose. But we can then no longer speak about a good deed in the measure that it was not done with unselfishness. But as the report says, it is typical human nature to mix selfishness and altruism, because it is very difficult, if not impossible, to act completely selflessly.

In fact, humankind are sinners, and sin is selfishness. Sin is the violation of the Universal Law, which is the law of altruism. What humankind does not know is that they were created to be selfless, to exist for the good of others, and to have communion with them. The human nervous system requires the above-mentioned feeling of joy, which is created for it by the practice of altruism. To stay alive, one must absolutely observe the principles which can be called "the principles of life". We can therefore ask ourselves the question: "How can we, as egoists, become altruists?" It is the miracle of the Cross, and one of the reasons why our dear Saviour, Jesus Christ, came to Earth to pay our Ransom. Through faith in the power of his Sacrifice, we are justified, and through that justification, we can begin to give up what Apostle Paul calls "dead works", which means selfishness, in order to do works which lead to life.

That is a big fight that has already been fought by all the valiant and courageous defenders of the Truth, by the Prophets and all men of God in the Old Testament (Old Covenant), and by those who have followed our dear Saviour on the path of self-sacrifice during the entire Gospel Age. They have truly lived pure altruism, as our dear Saviour expressed: "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends." Their sacrifice is almost complete, and the way of life is now open to all who wish for it. It is no longer a matter of satisfying oneself with doing a couple of good deeds, but of becoming a perfect altruist who exists for the good of one's neighbour, who has thus become a benefactor, and who is capable of loving one's fellow people as oneself. Then, this great event will be accomplished, which is expected and was announced by the Prophets and Christ: the introduction of God's Kingdom on Earth, for the joy and the deliverance of all the unhappy. Humankind will regain their destiny that was reserved for them in the Garden of Eden: eternal life in happiness.

## Goma, a gorilla like no other

The following report in the Swiss French-language newspaper *L'illustré* No. 16 from the 18th of April 2018, attracted our attention. We reproduce it in its entirety. It takes place in the city of Basel in Switzerland.

### The incredible saga of Goma, the female gorilla

**She is the only gorilla, in the Basel Zoo, that looks straight in the visitors' eyes. Because when she was a baby, rejected by her mother, she grew up among humans. Today, Goma is the oldest gorilla in captivity in the world.**

*There, where there are salad leaves scattered on the ground, where there are places lined with straw that invite a sleep, and where the day starts with grunts, there is the world of the gorillas. The humans' world is where the air smells like hot dogs, where rickshaws line*

girl grows; she becomes a magnificent child; and so it would appear that all goes well. But there it is: instead of two characters clashing, there are now three. Then begins a long struggle for the health of the young mother. She goes to see a doctor, and then another, and after that, a third. They all diagnose the same thing: her nerves, always her nerves! They are the cause of her digestion being so bad, of her not being able to sleep at night, and of her always being tired. Nothing is as it should be. She only sees the dark side of things. At times, she feels she has had enough of life. She wishes she could die, yes, she would like to die... Unless... If only God could help her!

Marina thinks of Him for the first time, and prays to Him sincerely. Wonderful to relate, the true God, the God of love, answers her! He is neither deaf nor blind. His compassionate heart is all kindness, and broods over hearts in affliction. He hears the groans of

the Adversary's prisoners, of the captives of "the god of this world", and He grants assistance.

Through the agency of a charming woman who visits her one day, the Lord reveals to Marina what she must do to get rid of sorrow and to obtain the joy and freedom of children of God. The divine hopes and certainties communicated to her heart, restore her joy of living. Her visitor assures her that God will take her cause in hand as long as she will be guided by Him, for He never compels anybody. He has nothing against anyone who resists Him and so punishes oneself. Her visitor explains that, to be happy, one has to live up to the divine law, which means, that one will exist always for the good of one's fellow men and never to their hurt. To forget self, to be thankful for what one has, to not long for what one does not have, and to work with the efforts of one's heart on the coming of the Kingdom of God on Earth, that is the

altruistic programme that ensures peace of mind. When it is honestly lived up to, every cause of fear and disappointment disappears, and health flourishes anew.

Marina makes the attempt at once. She attends the meetings where this grand message is taught in the town where she lives. She does not immediately fully understand the programme and everything it comprises, but what she does understand, she strives to live up to gradually as her understanding opens. That is the beginning of a slow but sure healing of both mind and body. Once she makes out, in her heart, the sentiments that make happiness impossible for her, she makes it a point of duty to overcome them. In the course of a meeting, she hears that one who wishes to reform, ought to wish for the trials that will make that reformation possible. She also wishes for them. Some of them bring tears to her eyes, but she stands fast.

Being touched by the efforts his wife is

making, the husband follows her example. He humbly confesses that he cannot hold a candle to her, but he does his best. He feels honoured by the active part Marina is taking in the affairs of the Kingdom of God. He is the foremost witness of, and the first to benefit from the tremendous transformation that has taken place in her. He also recognizes that the Lord takes, in hand, the cause of those who put their trust in Him.

Meanwhile, the little one has grown into a lovely young girl, strongly attached to her parents. Though she does not understand a great deal about it, she is quite capable of enjoying the delightful atmosphere that pervades the home, owing to the wonderful efforts made by her mother. Father speaks the truth when he says that, in entire the town and even in the whole canton, there is no home as happy as his.

Marina has profound esteem for the Work that God has done by giving his only Son as

up, and where a mother says: "Quiet!" when a child asks: "Is it true that apes have a big bottom?" A glass wall [in the Ape House (Monkey House)] separates apes from people at the Basel Zoo. But one ape is in between both worlds: Goma.

"Come here, Goma!" says an elderly lady this morning in the Ape House. But Goma does not come. One can only see a patch of her fur that sticks out of the hut that she has withdrawn into. Goma is old, very old. She is the oldest gorilla, in the world, that has grown up in the care of humans. Next year, she will be 60 years old. In the wild, in Africa, she would have reached the maximum age of 35.

"She needs a lot of sleep," says the same elderly lady who talks about Goma like a friend with whom she would regularly have tea. That is normal: of course, Goma is a gorilla, but she behaves like a human. In other words, she shares a slightly similar fate to Mowgli, the human child in the book *The Jungle Book*.

When Goma was born in 1959 at the Basel Zoo, she was the first gorilla born in Europe. A tiny baby weighing 1,820 grams, with a bright face surrounded by black hair. At the time, great apes were still rare in zoos, and the fact that they had offspring, caused a sensation. But euphoria quickly gave way to anxiety: Achilla, Goma's mother, did not feed her baby. Anxiety grew: the precious baby could have starved to death. Twenty-four hours later, it was decided to give a mild sleeping pill to Achilla in order to take her baby away from her and to safeguard it in the care of humans. The then director of the zoo, Ernst Lang, adopted the baby.

### The logbook

Ernst Lang and his wife Trude had not had any experience with baby apes, but they had raised two boys, and that helped. Because, during the first months, a baby gorilla is only slightly different from a human baby. At the time, Ernst Lang kept a diary of Goma's first weeks for the Swiss German-language news magazine *Schweizer Illustrierte*: "At night, her basket was in our bedroom, and it was not difficult to satisfy her hunger, which she loudly let us know about. One of us would rush out of bed and warm some milk, and the baby gorilla gulped down 20 to 35 grams of it."

Goma wore nappies, had fun in the bedroom and played with the family dog. When she had grown a little, she ate her mash at the table, with a spoon. One day, she went on a family holiday to Ticino [in Italy]. "We simply secured the baby ape into the child seat," wrote Ernst Lang. Along the way, Trude was asked by a lady: "Madame, is that your child?" Yes, Goma had learnt to be a human.

It is early afternoon. Adrian Baumeyer — [the Basel Zoo curator, and biologist] aged 37, wearing hiking shoes and with a friendly look — has just finished giving a guided tour of the Ape House to visitors from the University of Basel. "Gorillas fascinate us because they are very similar to us," he says, and adds, "But it's only an illusion."

Behind the glass wall, the silverback [adult male] gorilla named M'Tonge is the leader of the group [troop] of eight gorillas. Underneath his powerful eyebrows, two black holes stare at nothing. And, when one stands there, in front of the glass, one inevitably thinks of *The Panther* poem by Rainer Maria Rilke, in which the pan-

ther's gaze has grown so weary from constantly walking back and forth behind the bars of its cage. Animals undoubtedly have the ability to reflect our joys and fears: from their behaviour, we deduce our wishes and anxieties.

Adrian Baumeyer brings us back to reality: "Even if the silverback gives us that impression, he doesn't get bored. We must stop giving human attributes to animals." According to him: "Gorillas never look each other in the eye, it would be considered rude. That's why they look away."

But there is one which does not respect that gorilla code: Goma, who finally came out of her hut. She sits near the glass wall and looks the visitors in the eyes. "She learnt that among humans," adds Adrian Baumeyer. "In fact, we teach our children that if you want something from others, you look them in the eye." The problem is that Goma is on the wrong side of the glass. But of course she is not stupid, she also learnt that one does not look at a gorilla.

"Today, we would no longer raise a gorilla in the care of human beings," assures Adrian Baumeyer. "We would instead encourage other mother gorillas to take care of the baby. Or we would teach adult gorillas to bring it to the gate where caregivers could feed it with a bottle. In 1959, it was different, we had no experience."

### The two-and-a-half-year threshold

Previously, one did not know how a young gorilla would develop among humans. How should one behave when the animal becomes more and more animal? When Goma was growing up, she used to occasionally pull off Trude Lang's glasses or steal a visitor's hat. Ernst Lang knew that one day she would be as strong as four big men. That's why, when Goma was two and a half, he slowly started to introduce her to her fellow gorillas, to the life she should have led from birth.

Meanwhile, in the Ape House, Achilla had another baby: Jambo. But Goma was not interested in her brother or other gorillas. She often stayed away. She looked for human companionship, but humans were on the other side of the glass... But close enough to make contact with her. One day, when she had reached sexual maturity, Goma clearly invited a visitor, on her side of the wall, to mate. So, Jambo just sat behind her and mated. That was the one and only time that a male gorilla was allowed that type of freedom. Tamtam, Goma's son, became a superb silverback.

In the afternoons, Goma turns her back on the zoo's visitors. Around her, the young gorillas: Mobali and Makala, are playing. Their black coats intertwine to form a single ball of hair, and then they tumble. Goma watches them. Whenever there are offspring nearby, she babysits them. The mothers bring their children to her, because they knew that this old female will not move away. Goma has trouble moving: it is arthritis, veterinarians think. But they do not examine her, because they want to spare her an anaesthetic. The zookeepers prepare special meals for Goma: carrots, potatoes and beetroots that are well done, so that she does not have to chew too much.

Now, Goma needs a lot of rest, as both the elderly lady and Adrian Baumeyer, observe. That is why, in the late afternoons, she retires to her hut. Maybe she's just fine there, because it's her own world, and because she

can be herself. But that consideration is again surely tinged with human attributes.

[Editor's note: Goma died on the 7th of June 2018, aged 58]

A touching story, that of a baby female gorilla welcomed into a human family. The animal was raised by humans and like a human, and it is very touching to see the tender care with which she was enfolded, proving that humans can also be kind and do good. Everything was going well until the day the zookeepers found that her mother, Achilla, did not feed her child. There must have been a good reason for the gorilla mother to make the decision to let her baby die. She certainly did not want it to share the same life in captivity. It was necessary to intervene, and that is why the Lang family decided to adopt Goma.

Thus, raised among humans and far from those of her kind, our gorilla took up habits that were foreign to her species, human habits, such as looking at people in the eye. However, the writer of the report clearly states: "Gorillas fascinate us because they are very similar to us. But it's only an illusion." There is, in fact, a huge difference. If our scientists want to see many similarities between humans and great apes ("anthropoid apes"), as they are called, to highlight their resemblance to humans, humans nevertheless differ from all animals by the ability given to them to have communion with their God. No animal has that ability.

Goma's story moves us, as does the tender care of the Lang family for her. That enabled her to reach a great age for a gorilla: 58 years old. But in the wild, among other animals, it would not have exceeded 35 years. But how did she spend all those years? Was she really happy and fulfilled? Of course, she never experienced anything else. However, Adrian Baumeyer is decisive: "Today, we would no longer raise a gorilla in the care of human beings. ... In 1959, it was different, we had no experience."

At present, humans are objects of fear for most animals, which flee at their approach. But the day is coming when there will be no more harm done in the whole world, which will be restored according to the divine promises that the prophets have brought to us. Humankind will also be restored, thanks to the great Sacrifice of our dear Saviour who paid our Ransom. "The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid. The calf and the lion shall graze together, and a little child shall lead them. Also, the cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together, and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play near the cobra's den, and the weaned child shall put its hand in the snake's nest. They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the Earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea." Isaiah 11: 6-9.

That prophecy is not only a beautiful description of an imaginary paradise. It is, for all who believe in the Lord God, an important element of faith and the assurance of the Restoration of All Things, which is very close.

The Good News is also that all those who wish to, can work on hastening the coming to Earth of those wonderful times for all people, just like all those who, during the Gospel Age, heard the call of our dear Saviour and joined him in introducing the Kingdom of God.

the Ransom for the sins of the whole human race and to ensure its Salvation. She does not intend to take selfish advantage of this, for she is aware that such a gift is lost when it is not esteemed.

No more does Marina dream of seeking consolation at the pictures or in watching television, for she is quite consoled. As she herself says, she has laid her finger on her selfishness, and has grown to abominate it. She will have no more to do with it. It is her joy to make known the Kingdom of God, which is to be set up on Earth with the assistance of men of goodwill.

When Marina thinks over the past, her childhood years, she only has one regret, and that is to not have appreciated all that was done for her. But she is glad to be able to be a source of consolation for her parents as well, her people who are living in the land where she was born. The whole human race is to become her family. She is aware of it and is pressed that it should be so. Truly, happiness has had its birth in her. So happy is she, that she often says: "I shall never be thankful enough to God for having concerned Himself with me, who never did anything to deserve such grace. He has put such great happiness in my heart, that I really cannot keep it all to myself! I can only spread, to those around me, the message of the Kingdom of God, which grants happiness to those who live up to it with all their heart."

### News in brief of the Reign of Justice

At the time of this paper going to print, we do not know if it will be possible for us to meet to celebrate Passover. That is why, in order to prepare our hearts to renew our vows before the Lord God, we quote, in the following, a summary of a talk, by the dear Messenger, that appeared in *The Angel of the Lord* publication in April 1942, titled:

#### Our conscience review at Easter

"What is truth? Truth is, above all, knowing how to love and forgive. One who does not know how to do that, is not in the truth. One might have the theoretical knowledge of the truth, but one is still not in the truth, because what is not lived cannot have the desired effect in the heart..."

All the difficulties that we share only come from our darkness. It is therefore necessary for the light to be able to penetrate us and chase away the darkness. Truth is light, and light is divine love. Love is also forgiveness. When we love each other, when we complete each other, the light manifests itself in us, and we are in harmony with the Lord. But we have to recognize, if we want to be sincere, that we are more likely to criticize than to complete. That is why there is still a great deal of work to be done, so that we can be receptacles and bearers of light.

The divine programme is very clearly out-

lined to us. First of all, it consists of self-denial. That is the essential condition for being able to associate in our dear Saviour's Work...

When we have done wrong, we are used to humbling ourselves before the Lord. But perhaps we do not always do so with all the necessary contrition in our hearts. Sometimes, we do it out of habit and from the tips of our lips, with words that are not linked to the heart with real feelings of regret. As a result, there is not the necessary equivalent, and the result cannot be a true blessing either.

We have to try to feel things with our hearts, so that we become more and more sensitive. The more sensitive we become, the more contrition we feel when we have offended the Lord God. Finally, it pains us so deeply to have grieved the Lord, that we make even greater efforts to avoid this with all our heart. In that way, we purify ourselves more and more, the light in our heart increases as it goes on, and divine communion can be more and more intensified in us. That is how we advance in true holy conduct and godliness.

It is therefore essential for us to get into the habit of looking after our hearts, in order to faithfully carry out the conditions of the programme... There is still a lot to reform among us. Jealously still plays a big role, and so do greed, boasting and the wish to shine, to be someone and to have privileges, etc. It's fantastic how much power all of that still has over us...

We are not phoenixes at all, we are poor sinners who have obtained mercy and grace before God. We want to penetrate ourselves with that profound truth and remember it. That is why we want to become modest, kind and humble. That is how we can be a true light, encouragement and joy for our neighbour...

Above all, as I keep repeating without tiring, we must strive to be grateful and attached, to know how to appreciate all the benevolence of the Lord and that of those who wish us well. Above all, we must be grateful that our Master has risen for our justification, for our sanctification and for our deliverance.

We therefore want to allow ourselves to be touched by divine benevolence, to allow ourselves to be sensitized by the ineffable impressions of the Kingdom of God, in order to become receptacles and projectors of this gentle light of divine love, to the honour and the glory of the Lord God and of our dear Saviour."

That is some wise advice that we wish everyone to apply, in order to reap its blessings.

The next congress in Lyon, France, is scheduled, God willing, from the 4th to the 6th of September.

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