

THE REIGN OF JUSTICE

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Founder: F.L.A. Freytag

What God has in store for mankind

A wonderful feeling of consolation sinks into us when we learn to know the Almighty and to nourish our hearts with his kindness and benevolence. The Lord is affectionate, kind and tender, and animated with thoughts of the highest nobility and generosity on behalf of mankind. You only have to take a look at nature to be filled with emotion at all that He has placed at our disposal in profusion. Yet the Earth has been ravaged, damaged and profaned by mankind. Since the Flood, the tall trees have ceased to be, and they can no longer impress us with their majestic height. Nevertheless, everything we can see around us, in spite of the havoc that has been made with it, sings a hymn of praise and glory to the Creator of all things, and it says: "Praise the Lord, for He is good."

At present, mankind are in a terrible situation, but they need not be. There is no need for them to be wretched, downcast or unhappy, or for them to go into the grave, shedding many tears and suffering great pain and all manner of feelings of despair and disenchantment. Everything on Earth could be so splendid and so agreeable. Everyone could have endless joy. It is merely because they have taken the wrong road, that mankind are in such a situation of unhappiness and desolation, and of misfortune and death.

If only mankind would draw near to God with all their heart and follow out his line of thought, things would improve at once. Their hearts would be flooded with the sunshine of divine love, and they would have wonderful sensations. When the Sun suddenly comes out after the rain and floods the countryside with light, an atmosphere is created that grips man and makes him want to sing. Hope is reawakened in his heart because God has set the thought of eternity there. Under the effects of sunshine, sad thoughts are dispelled, and a pulse of joy is given.

Of course, at present, man only has such wonderful sensations for very short periods; moments of hope and happiness do not last. Dark clouds soon appear once more on the horizon and plunge everything into gloom; then, care, fear and disenchantment make themselves felt once more.

On the other hand, for him who has the possibility of looking at divine ways and at what God has in store for poor humanity, and who will follow out the conditions of the divine programme, his mental sky will clear, the clouds will be dispelled from it, never to return — dif-

ficulties, sadness and the sorrows of life will depart — and the glorious Kingdom of God will make its appearance to the eyes of his faith. The Promised Land with its ever-blue sky and its radiant spring, arises before him as a wonderful vision that never fades.

That is what all men could experience if they would try to get into harmony with divine ways. It is a good thing that knowledge of the Lord will soon cover the Earth, as the waters cover the sea. Before the Kingdom of God is finally introduced, the human race will, of course, have to put several difficult stages behind it. But when the "old world" is quite cleared away to make room for the new, when the introduction of the Kingdom of Heaven takes place in power and in glory, suffering and groaning will come to an end, and joy and gladness will come in, as the Word of God informs us.

When the time has come, the tall trees will reappear, and the dry lands will become wooded. There will be no more winter, and the dry leaves that fall will go to make the leaf mould necessary for fertilizing the earth. There will be no more dung, no more detritus and no more stagnant water, nothing to give forth a bad smell. There will be only the scent of flowers, created by the Lord, as a kind caress for man's sense of smell. In the Garden of Eden, there were no bad smells at all, no smoke to make the eyes smart, and no draughts to make one catch cold or a sore throat. Whereas now, everything is topsy-turvy: a multitude of disagreeable things exist.

All those difficulties are not to be laid at God's door. He created everything perfect, admirable and for the general good, for man's blessing, his prosperity and his joy. All the unpleasant things are caused by man himself, from mankind's misguided line of conduct. They have broken the divine law, the Universal Law of goodness and blessing, and they have automatically had to suffer the terrible consequences of having done so.

Everything the Almighty established was sublime and wonderful. The lakes, the watercourses, the mountains, the valleys and the plants, even the smallest wisp of moss, all these things are a splendour to the eyes and happiness to the heart. The Lord also created a great number of animals, all for man's joy and also for his blessing, since this gives him the opportunity to do good. God placed him in Paradise to be a sample on Earth of the glory of God.

In the Book of Genesis, it is pointed out that, in Adam, its first representative, the human race was one of God's direct creations. He was intended to be a god on Earth, whom the animals were to be able to approach fearlessly for a caress and to obtain help and protection. Such was the case, at first, in the Garden of Eden. At present, however, things are entirely different. At man's approach, the birds fly away in fear because he has become wicked, a poor creature suggestionized by the devilish spirit. He only thinks of satisfying his palate or of gratifying his selfishness by every means. So, we are not astonished that the animals flee from him. Man himself frequently has to flee from his own kind, to take all manner of precautions, to dodge, to lock himself in and to take shelter, because man has become the enemy of his own kind, owing to the frightful selfishness in his heart.

What is the reason for that cursed state of affairs? It is that man has wilfully delivered himself into the Adversary's hands, the present — and still for a while — "god of this world", as our dear Saviour himself calls him. In the Adversary's power and under his harmful influence, mankind are wretched: they suffer, and they fall ill and die. They are the sorry conditions that mankind have made for themselves in becoming Satan's slaves.

It is from that wretched and miserable state that the Kingdom of God is going to free the whole human race when it is established. We are therefore quite able to understand the flights of enthusiasm of the Prophets who were able to see, by faith, the wonderful time of the restoration and to describe the feelings of mankind delivered from the Adversary's dominion: "How the tyrant has ceased! How his oppression has ceased! ... The whole earth is at rest and at peace. ... The ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing, and everlasting joy will crown their heads." Elsewhere, we are told: "The desert shall rejoice and blossom like a rose. ... The dry land shall become a pool. ... They shall not hurt or destroy." The Paradise lost in Eden shall be recovered at last.

They are the wonderful prospects lying ahead of all mankind in the Restoration of All Things, spoken about, of old, by the Prophets and also by Peter in the Acts of the Apostles. Those things have been made possible by the Work and the Sacrifice of the beloved Son of God who came to Earth to pay the Ransom for men and to redeem them from condemnation and death. He is the Prince of Peace, who is going to say to the raging sea of nations: "Peace, be still!" Then, all will calm down, and the times of refreshing will start for the blessing of all the inhabitants of the Earth.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted"

FRANCE: Who would have thought it could be possible to feel so happy, so light and so free? Is it right, with so much sorrow, so many sick and so many hungry in the world? Well, how can he help being happy when he has so much to be thankful for? Frank remembers how he, too, has known poverty and hunger, doubt and fear, and worst of all, the loss of a dearly loved child, taken from him at the age of 14. But now, all that is over: he knows the time is not far off when his boy, Michael, will be restored to him in the Kingdom of our Lord, now being established on Earth, where all those we mourn will return from "the land of the enemy".

He is abundantly consoled, and besides, he has the privilege of carrying the Good News to others, for he is an evangelist of the Kingdom of God. Today, 11 people each bought

a book from him: *The Message to Humanity* (the Book of Remembrance), 11 cheerless faces in which was kindled the light of hope. How eager they had been to possess that book after he had told them how he himself had been comforted and helped by the wonderful things it contains and about the splendid family of real brothers and sisters, true children of God, who is taking shape on Earth!

It has not always been so, although now, on looking back over his life, he realizes that there has always been a power watching over his destiny.

When he was a little boy at school, he was always left out of the children's games, owing to the shabbiness of his clothes, his parents being so poor. Yet one day, when he was feeling particularly sad and left out of things, his schoolmaster said to him: "We are one short for a game of croquet. Would you like to stand in?" He did not wait to be asked twice. He eagerly took part in the game

and played with so much skill that his side won. From that day forward, the children were always glad to have him on their side, because they said that when he was with them, they always won.

When he was in the army during the war, he was detailed to the field kitchen. He was happy about that because he did not want to kill anybody. One day, one of his fellow soldiers pointed out to him his rifle lying dirty and neglected in a corner. He responded: "I've enough to do with my cooking pots without worrying about my rifle." Later, however, he was detailed to another unit and was taken off kitchen duty. That saved his life, because a bomb fell on the field kitchen, and a large number of men were killed. He was one of the most zealous and indefatigable in the work of rescuing the wounded survivors.

When matters started to go badly in the war, Frank was taken prisoner. There were 10,000 of them who remained stationary for

45 days, having to sleep on the wet ground. Weak and underfed, many of them never got up again. Some died, and others went mad. Frank felt greatly weighed down by the servitude from which mankind are powerless to free themselves. Finally, as one of his arms withered, owing to injections, he was sent home.

Frank has always had to struggle along in the face of hardship. His father was a man who had always been very easily discouraged and whose work had greatly suffered thereby. With five children to clothe and feed, in spite of the fact that mother also did what she could to bring money in, poverty was an ever-present trial. Because father spent a good deal of time and money at the pub, there was never enough to buy new clothes.

Frank, the third of the children, found his consolation in going to church with his mother, a fervent Catholic. He was a great admirer of the Lord Jesus. He used to enjoy

Such are the divine assurances and certainties we are faced with and on which we are glad to work with all the strength of our soul. We are inviting all who wish for life, for joy, for peace and for happiness, to join us in setting up the Reign of blessing and to become happy and free citizens of the Kingdom of God, in which there is no more pain, in which no one dies and in which all recover divine filiation and the Lord's fatherhood by becoming sons of God who remain viable for all time.

“Claiming to be wise, they became fools” Romans 1: 22

That was said by Apostle Paul. What would he say today...?

On the French website of POLLINIS, we read the following information on “gene drive” technology (a new form of genetic engineering), which numerous scientists would like to release on a wide scale into the environment. In an open letter, dated the 30th of June 2020, 78 European organizations, including Greenpeace and POLLINIS, demanded that the European Commission calls for a worldwide moratorium on the use of “gene-drive organisms” (GDOs). Following are brief explanations by POLLINIS, an organization dedicated to the protection of pollinating insects:

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and genetically modified (GM) insects from gene drive: the biased terms of the debate.

While preparing a regulatory framework for the marketing of new generation of GM insects resulting from gene-drive insects, the European Commission has asked EFSA to determine to what extent the risk-assessment protocols of traditional genetically modified organisms (GMOs) could be applied to these new GMOs.

Worried about the idea of seeing bees and other genetically modified pollinators being released into the environment — in reality, without any control of the consequences — POLLINIS participated in EFSA's public consultation and in assessment work, and sent it its comments on the 24th of April.

Spreading in nature without knowing the risks?

The POLLINIS organization points out the dangerous consequences of EFSA's proposal. In fact, the latter recognizes the “uncertainties” and the “unknown risks” linked to gene drive. It also notes that no laboratory test makes it possible to assess the unpredictable effects of a release of these modified organisms into the environment. However, it does consider the spread by simply accompanying it with “mitigation measures” and “a checklist of possible risks” (risk hypotheses, and pathways to harm), in order to limit the risks “to an acceptable level”...

According to that logic, since it is impossible to know all the risks in a laboratory, it is therefore necessary to carry out the experiment in nature...even without the means of anticipating the risks which are — according to EFSA — unknown... However, the risks that are already known include the irreversible modification of species and of entire areas of biodiversity, and the eradication of certain animal populations. Experts also refer to gene drive as “extinction technology”.

In its comments, POLLINIS states that, under those conditions, the Precautionary Principle requires that any spread of GMOs resulting from gene drive should be prohibited.

An unpredictable technology cannot be contained

This new gene-drive technology allows genetically modified organisms to be released into the environment, which, by reproducing with their natural counterparts, will impose their genetic modifications on all their descendants. In that way, these modifications, in

a few generations, can completely make “natural” individuals disappear.

In agriculture, the first envisaged applications of this technology include the release of so-called “harmful” insects, genetically modified to produce sterile offspring. Thus, in a few months, an entire population of insects could be permanently wiped out.

Citizens are absent from the debate

To eliminate a species, even if it is deemed “harmful”, inevitably involves the upheaval of an ecosystem, with probable unsuspected detrimental consequences: the occupation of the ecological niche, left vacant, by other “pests”; the disappearance of species that are dependent on those eradicated (for example, because they were their food source); etc. The complexity of ecosystems and the many connections in the ecosphere, are such that no scientific experiment and no simulation today, is capable of revealing all the possible risks.

Finally, in its comments, POLLINIS believes that the public must be absolutely informed of this new gene technology, which could significantly change the fauna, flora and human health. POLLINIS emphasizes that citizens must be included in this debate that touches on the very nature of living things, along with biologists, toxicologists and representatives of the social sciences, such as sociologists, philosophers, ethicists, etc.

That appears to us to be a serious fact and an unacceptable danger to nature and consequently to humanity who is totally dependent on it. We could quote the saying “science without conscience”, but we know that the leaders of that initiative are perfectly aware of the goal that they are pursuing, but obviously not of the seriousness of the catastrophe that will result from it. What they are obviously lacking is an awareness of good. Their intentions are exclusively aimed at profit, and nature should submit to their will, so that in the near future, even life depends on them. That certainly is a good way of putting even more money into their accounts. But it is also the surest way to ruin the planet and the balance of its environment and to seriously threaten life on Earth, thus sawing off the branch they're sitting on.

The greed of those people is unlimited, and their politics of personal enrichment through the depletion of the Earth and the grabbing of common goods, is nothing other than short-sighted. It is the Machiavelian politics of destruction, which can have no other origin than Satan himself, the prince of evil. All those who let themselves be used by him in that way, will be completely confused and feel wretchedly naked, when it becomes clear to them that all their plans for domination and accumulation, will miserably fail, because the time has come for Christ to take possession of his Kingdom and to assert the authority given to him by his Father for establishing justice, truth, peace and harmony on Earth.

In fact, our dear Saviour said: “All authority in Heaven and on Earth has been given to me.” And that is exactly what the powerful of this world forget or deny. They want power for themselves, so that their fortune is guaranteed and grows. They particularly don't want to bend the knee to the Creator of the Universe or to his Son who has redeemed the Earth and its lost people. There will be unprecedented catastrophes, caused by themselves, which will bring them to their knees. It will take the total failure of their mad science, which Apostle Paul, if he were still here, would call “witchcraft”.

How good it would be to have deep respect for Creation, to respect its perfection and to admire its governing beauty and harmony, so that a feeling of humility develops in us, the right idea of our place in the immensity of nature, and the awareness of our inability to “improve” it...! Apostle Paul, in his high spirituality, expressed his admiration in these words: “God's invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature —

have been clearly seen and understood through what has been made.” Romans 1: 20.

Everything in nature that seems to be harmful to us today, is not a sign of imperfection, but quite simply a degeneration caused by humankind's actions towards its environment. Because humankind is not controlled by God's Spirit, but by selfishness, humankind destroys nature and its ecosystems. Large areas of the world's tropical forests have already been cleared for cursed money, without benefitting any of the poor local populations. That only makes the super-rich richer.

Today, we can see the dawn of God's Day, the Reign of Justice, where all iniquity will be consumed. The Almighty declares through a Prophet: “I will make justice the measuring line, and righteousness the level. Hail will sweep away the refuge of lies, and water will flood the hiding place” (Isaiah 28: 17). The Earth belongs to Almighty God. He is the absolute Lord and Master, Who has affirmed, through his Prophet, that He will make the Earth his footstool. That is what today's emerging Great Tribulation will remind everyone who believes that they are entitled to do everything, simply because they have money.

What else is money apart from an imaginary and ephemeral wealth? The emerging crisis will totally dispossess them, which will certainly help them to give up their unbridled ambitions and to bow before the Almighty, as we are already trying to do today by following the psalmist's invitation: “Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker” (Psalm 95: 6). We also bend the knee to the one whom He sent to save us, because “God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bend”. Philippians 2: 9 and 10.

Who is right?

Recent worldwide events — be they environmental, political or economic — have led to many considerations about the future of our society. There are divided opinions. Some think that humanity will manage and continue, while others see a collapse in the near future. Whom should we believe, and what should we think? To illustrate, we publish below an interview by Mr Fabrice Pouliquen with the former French environment minister Mr Yves Cochet. The following newspaper extract was sent to us without the name or the date of the publication:

Mr Yves Cochet puts it bluntly: the collapse of the globalized society is “possible from 2020, probable in 2025, and certain around 2030”. How did he come to that conclusion? The former French environment minister and president of the Momentum Institut (a French think tank focused on a possible collapse), explains in “Before the Collapse, an Essay on ‘Collapsology’”, which was published this week.

Will the post-collapse society you are talking about, be anything like the one we know?

If the human species survives the collapse, I foresee two phases. The first is the survival time (2030–2040). That will be the more difficult, because it will be characterized by civil wars, famines and epidemics. The world population will be drastically reduced to no more than two or three billion people. Around 2050, there is the hope of a “rebirth”. But we have to imagine a world without automobiles, aeroplanes and probably electricity, and therefore without the Internet. They will be very sober societies, relying on “low tech” (simple technologies, especially recycled devices fallen into disuse).

Why will this worldwide collapse be triggered by an energy crisis?

Without energy, no civilized world can exist. Currently, 82% of our energy needs are provided by fossil fuels,

those moments of peace and quiet, because at home, there was always worry and sorrow. It was impossible to be even-tempered with poverty and want reigning supreme. He joined the choir and spent a good deal of his time with the village priest, accompanying him when he presided over the funeral services, and was therefore often absent from school. The priest used to talk to him a lot about Hell and Purgatory. Frank was afraid of Hell and did a lot of praying to escape the terrible fate of being consigned to that place.

When he was 12, he had to leave school because there was a deal of work to be done in the fields. He had to do the ploughing with two mares, one of which was blind and the other deaf. From one end of the field to the other, Frank would recite the prayers of the rosary.

In those days, his great longing had been that his parents would speak kindly to one another. Alas, instead of that, daily quarrels

were becoming more frequent and more violent. It used to get on the neighbours' nerves and make them angry.

One day, his father accused him of making holes in the bread, and to punish him, made him go without meals for the day. The lad had not minded, for he told himself that the Lord had also been accused of all sorts of things, although he was innocent of all of them.

Every Saturday, he used to go and confess his sins, so that he might take the Host with a pure heart, and if, as it sometimes used to happen, he defiled his heart in between times, he would go to confession again to unburden himself.

Being perfectly honest with himself, he was clearly able to understand the things going on around him. So, when he saw the village priest indulging in all sorts of pleasures and being light and careless, he used to think: “Doesn't he realize how serious things are? He ought to be more faithful, so as to save

believers from going to Hell. It's such a terrible thing to go to Hell!”

One day, when things had been particularly unpleasant at home, Frank made up his mind to go away. However, when his mother realized what he was going to do, she wept so bitterly and begged him so earnestly not to leave her, that he was deeply moved. He stayed and continued to share in the troubles of the home, which went on getting worse. What was adding to their difficulties was that a certain man in the village, versed in black magic, was exercising his occult spells against them.

The time came when Frank had to leave home to perform his military duties. All the time he was in the army, nobody at all took any interest in him. At the end of his term of service, he came across a paper in which there was an article on personal magnetism. Wishing to know all about the subject, so that he might free his parents from the influence

of that spellbinder, he was led to go to Paris and buy a book of prayers and a book of secrets written by Abbé Julio (Ernest Houssay, a French mystical priest), and some amulets and pentacles. He attended a spiritualistic seance, at the end of which, he was told he had brought a contrary influence into the seance, which hindered the spirits.

He immediately realized that no good could come of such practices. So, he got rid of all the things he had bought in Paris and thenceforward confined himself to reading the Bible. His mother was greatly worried about this. She told her son that everyone who has applied himself to reading the Bible has lost his faith. Frank responded: “What I am reading is what our Lord Jesus himself said, so it must be true.”

After Frank returned from the war, he got married and had 11 children. He and his wife, Suzanne, did everything they possibly could to bring them up the right way. One of the

which are non-renewable. They are oil, gas and coal. Those energy sources will become scarce or can no longer be used, because their extraction will be too expensive. One can therefore imagine the shock and disruption that will be caused by this energy crisis in other areas of our society. Agriculture, health, security, telecommunications, finance... How can those services be provided if energy no longer exists or is too expensive to produce?

Don't you think that this essay will be received like another prophecy which, like others, will be contradicted by history?

Yes, I expect that. Apart from climate skeptics, there will always be people who say that humanity has always managed or that civilizations have already collapsed without dragging all of humanity with them. But this time, it's different, because we have a globalized society and our activities today have a significant effect on the Earth's environment. We are in denial of reality. The enormous extent of this collapse surpasses our ability to comprehend.

What should therefore be done to limit the consequences? Should we strive to reduce the global population, as you mentioned?

I, in fact, assume the position of Malthus (1), and I regret that this overpopulation issue has remained a taboo. For a long time, I thought that a massive training and information programme was necessary, in which family planning is recommended by advocating that a "third pregnancy" should be avoided in Europe, there where the environmental footprint of each individual is one of the most important. I am speaking in the past tense, because in the year 2019, it is already too late to avoid a collapse. There is a far greater challenge to minimize the consequences through concrete actions. For example, a tenfold increase in the number of national stud farms in order to revive the breeding of draft horses. That way, by the year 2050, France could have 10 to 15 million of them. That might make you laugh, but it is more sensible than betting on having 100% electric autonomous vehicles by the year 2050.

How are you preparing yourself on your seven-hectare property, north of Rennes [a city in northwest France]?

I bought that place with my daughter 15 years ago. We are trying to create an environmentally-friendly place, which works independently and in solidarity. We've already made good progress on independent energy and water. The next stage is to try food self-sufficiency by developing permaculture. I insist on solidarity. Collaboration among neighbours will be one of the pillars of societies in the year 2050. At least if there are any people left then.

(1) Thomas Malthus (1766–1834) was an English economist and social philosopher. His population theory states that population growth occurs much quicker than the growth of food production. That therefore makes a reduction of the birth rate necessary in order to avoid hunger caused by overpopulation.

The proposals by Mr Yves Cochet in this article, seem to be plausible and completely possible. In fact, if one thinks about the current situation, then questions come to mind, such as: "Where are we going? Can things continue as they are?" Some think, with unshakeable optimism, that everything will go well and that one shouldn't worry: since the beginning of the world, humankind has survived all natural catastrophes, wars...

The defenders of the collapse, in order to support their thesis, advance factors that will bring the collapse into motion: depletion of natural resources, biodiversity crisis, climate change, economic crises, civil wars, etc. Those causes will have effects, among which, the following are cited: drastic reduction of world popula-

tion, ruin of countries, and end of fossil and nuclear energies, to which, one must add: severe soil erosion and significant air and water pollution. If one adds up all those elements, one can easily conclude that life on Earth will be difficult, if not impossible.

What our modern scientists and thinkers seem to ignore, and what is not clear in their analyses, are the Bible's statements about the coming times. It announces an unprecedented Tribulation, but that is where opinions diverge on the causes of this misfortune. While our scholars talk about pollution, war and inflation, the Bible formally declares that the main reason for the Great Tribulation, which is imminent, is the fact that humankind disobeys the Almighty's law. That disobedience is called "sin" in the Bible. That, among other things, is what Apostle Paul said in the Letter to the Romans, in chapter 1, verses 20 to 25 and 28, and we could cite numerous passages that confirm this thesis.

For the individual, the equivalent of sin is death (Romans 6: 23). For the collective, it is the collapse of society. It is sufficient to take the Jewish people as an example, who were destroyed as a nation in the year 70 AD. That event was announced by our dear Saviour. Matthew 23: 38.

If it is still possible to foresee the future several years in advance, it is much more difficult to define the distant future of humanity. Yet it is here that the Bible shows itself to be a valuable help. If one has trouble believing what is reported in it, then let us try analyzing the prophecies that have already been fulfilled. When they were announced, their fulfilment was far away, but their predictions have been literally fulfilled. That should stimulate us to trust this valuable collection in the Bible. And what does it say about the future of humanity? It mentions the Restoration of All Things (Acts 3: 21). We are on the eve of the End of the present wicked world, which will be followed by the introduction of God's Kingdom on Earth.

That is the wonderful Good News that can reassure all those who worry about humankind's fate. It is Almighty God Who has set up the gigantic Work of the Restoration of All Things, which began with humankind's Fall in Eden. This promise was made: the seed of the woman will crush the head of the serpent: "He will crush your head" (Genesis 3: 15). Our dear Saviour came to fulfil that prophecy. When he died on the Cross, he "disarmed the rulers and the authorities, and he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them on the Cross", as Apostle Paul said to us in Colossians 2: 15. He triumphed for us, and thanks to that victory, all forms of evil will disappear from the surface of the Earth and from the surrounding layer of air. It will be replaced by good, which will be lived by all intelligent creatures, to the glory of their Creator, the Great God of Heaven, for eternity.

The role of parents

In the French publication *Sans Abri* No. 251, the subject of parental education was discussed in an article with the title:

Parents, stop being (too) nice!

Julien is a male teenager addicted to online games, and an expert in bogus arguments for school truancy. Headaches, stomach aches, a passion for gaming, the idea to make a career out of it... All excuses are good for staying at home and being able to continue playing. They are so good that his parents would rather tolerate them than face the facts. Mistake! They are "trapped by their empathy", explain Raphaële Miljkovitch and François Poisson, the authors of the French book Parenting: Le parent aussi est une personne [The parent is also a person], published by Odile Jacobs in October 2018.

[Quote from Parenting:] "As they begin to glimpse the problem, their very persuasive child manages to

convince them of the need for him to not be deprived of what he loves. The urge is so great that it seems cruel to frustrate him. Parents, rather than trusting any doubts they might have, adopt the child's point of view."

You read correctly. In the book Parenting, we assume that the parent can "fall into the trap" of empathy, and that they must "frustrate" their child, must defend the superiority of the adult as the experienced person, and must not be "too attentive" to the child. "Too attentive"? t Raphaële Miljkovitch says: "Some parents will go along with what the child wants rather than what they think is good for it in the long run, which is not the same thing."

... [François Poisson says:] "Today, we are adding freedom to a freedom that already exists, at the risk of undermining the authority of parents." As for educational methods, "they require a lot of control and self-mastery on the part of the parent. What sounds great in theory, is sometimes difficult to implement. They put some parents under pressure, which undermines them", explains Raphaële Miljkovitch.

Example? François Poisson insists: "It is useless to ask a tolerant parent to be strict. Above all, they have to be consistent with themselves, so that they do not contradict themselves." In his opinion, these measures can even be counterproductive. "The parent who gets very angry does not respect the book's instructions, which tell them not to get angry. So afterwards, they will apologize to their child, put themselves at fault and feel guilty."

For our authors, each parent must find their own solutions to their difficulties. How do we do that? "One often has an idea of one's child, that needs to be updated," says Raphaële Miljkovitch. "The parent who has taken care of the child since birth and who has never ceased to accommodate themselves the child's needs, sometimes stays too long in this function, which prevents autonomy and progressive empowerment." In other words, many people think of their teenager as a big baby who needs someone to make their sandwiches or wash their clothes. But this mistaken image isn't good for anyone, and might even become completely disabling in adolescence. To cope differently with uncooperative offspring, they suggest that parents adopt a "meta-educational" attitude: "It's about looking at the way we educate, a form of reflexivity. You have to be able to see your child growing up," explains Raphaële Miljkovitch.

Observational work and a possible "reset" which, she assures, do not require "ten years of psychoanalysis": "It can be done at a specific time or in a specific situation, possibly with the help of a third party, even if only the spouse. Our method is simple, because as soon as the idea that the parent has of its child, is right, the right behaviours will naturally set in."

For example, definitely stop washing the child's clothes after a certain age. "Does the child smell bad? Close the door to its room! When the child's friends start to make remarks to the child, the child will use the washing machine," advises François Poisson, a 21st-century "bogeyman".

Also, stop helping the child with its homework: "It's better for the child to see for itself what it is capable of. After a certain age, it's no longer your business!" And keep in mind that the child's needs (sleeping, eating, etc.) do not always correspond to the interests that the child is pursuing. The sooner that a child faces its responsibilities, the better off it will be, and so will you. You might even become more tolerant by being less empathetic.

It seems like the task of bringing up children has never been as difficult as today. Parents have to deal with a great number of things that previously never existed, but that now come and occupy an important place in their child's life. The emergence of the Internet and of everything that has resulted from it: online games, social networks, videos, etc., have so powerfully captured the interest of young people, that it has become a real

boys, Michael, fell ill at the age of 6. He had to have an urgent operation for appendicitis. Something in the operation went wrong, and the child was partially paralysed. Frank had a lot of love for this little boy of his, and when out walking with his family, he used to carry the little lad on his shoulders, so that he might miss as little of the fun as possible. Nevertheless, when seeing his brothers and sisters running around or going to school, Michael shed many tears.

Things having been what they were when he was a boy at home, Frank had never had time to learn a trade, and for that reason, his work mates had often teased him.

One day, one of them mocked him, saying: "You're good for nothing. The most you're good for is to sweep the floors. Why didn't you learn that trade?"

Another went on: "You're too simple-minded. All you're fit for is the Kingdom of Heaven."

"If only that were true, I would be the happiest man on Earth!" Frank responded.

"You won't have to exert yourself very much for that to come true," another said.

Someone else said: "You ought to attend the meetings of the Kingdom of God, that my aunt used to go to."

"Where are they held?" Frank asked.

"It's such a long time ago, but I think they used to be held in *Rue du Faubourg Saint-Martin* (a street in Paris)," he answered.

Being deeply affected by the sufferings of his little boy, Frank had searched long and hard for those meetings. So as not to neglect anything that might be of assistance, the very next Sunday, he had gone to Mass early and had prayed to be guided in his search. Then he had set off for *Rue du Faubourg Saint-Martin*. How long that street had appeared to him as he went from block to block, examining every door and asking everyone he met, till at last, someone was able to tell him that

one of those meetings was going to be held that very afternoon at the town hall.

He had presented himself at that meeting, saying: "I am not happy. I lack for something, and I am looking for the Kingdom of God." He had been amiably invited to take a seat, the meeting being about to begin.

Whenever Frank's thoughts hark back to that first meeting, he feels, all over again, the joy it gave him, the avidity with which he listened to everything, and the comfort he felt from the affectionate atmosphere that pervaded it. His mind being simple and open, he readily understood our dear Saviour's words: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek [the gentle], for they shall inherit the Earth."

From then on, Frank followed the meetings assiduously. He learnt all about the true God: his mercy and compassion. He learnt that God

does not punish poor wretched people, but gave his Son to save them. What relief and comfort had come over him when he learnt that God had never made Hell or Purgatory, those terrors which had scared him so much all his life!

All these delightful impressions helped him to bear the pain caused him by the affliction of Michael who suffered 8 long years of paralysis. At the age of 14, his trouble started to get worse and worse. The poor lad would be crying nearly all the time. He gradually lost his voice, and it soon appeared that he did not have many days left to live. Finally, the day came when he was completely paralysed, and he died making a last effort to signal with his eyelids.

To watch his child dying in so much agony had been a great sorrow to the father who felt that his heart would break. At that very moment, so cruel to him, the words of a hymn he has often sung at the meetings of the

challenge for parents to manage to keep their children away from this excessive attraction, and to limit their children's digital activity.

It is understandably the duty of parents to intervene and to set boundaries, which adolescents don't know yet, in order to protect them and to make them into balanced adults who are capable of expressing their physical and mental abilities in various domains, and who especially become capable of serving, in many ways, as useful members of society. But when we see the weakness with which many parents, so to speak, allow their children to do whatever they want or to spend excessive time in front of a "magical" screen, even at a young age, we have to ask ourselves: "What will tomorrow's society look like...? Will there continue to be capable people who do work, and valuable people who take the right initiatives so that human society can continue to exist?" This subject is in no way insignificant and finally even raises the question of collective existence.

We have to prevent the creation of a new society of "lazy bones" who can only type on their screens and surf the Internet. It is also not good for the physical and mental health of children when they overly occupy themselves with everything that the Internet has to offer. It is necessary for parents to muster the energy and the consistency in order to keep children away from things that harm them, and not to give in to their moods or ideas. It is true that education today is difficult because temptations, to which children are exposed, are powerful, everywhere and constantly increasing. It is therefore a fight that should not be eased off.

We should direct children's interests towards useful and edifying things, teach them how they can support their parents in different types of maintenance work in the house and garden, let them share in housework, offer them creative manual activities, discover nature with them, the spicy air of a forest, the size of the Universe... They are all things that help them to distance themselves from their tablets and smartphones, and help them to find a balance, internal well-being, that makes them social beings, not withdrawn into themselves, but open to others and to their own environment.

Of course, the best way to bring up a child is the one that only very few human parents have done. It consists of oneself becoming a child of the Almighty, and of letting oneself be guided and led by his divine education. The Lord educates those who are ready to obediently submit themselves to his guidance, which consists of learning altruism and all the resultant virtues: gratitude, benevolence, gentleness and humility. That is the only education that forms happy and completely balanced

beings who are a great blessing for the people around them. Those who accept the Almighty's education and who have made a covenant with Him through Christ's Sacrifice, can clearly recognize how their heavenly Father educates and transforms them. They understand and feel that God educates them out of love — without using violence, punishments or threats — and by showing the strict conditions for becoming a child of God.

They also recognize that God is not weak and does not prevent trials from reaching his child when they are necessary for the change of its character and for the development of its faith. Through these trials, God's child, who is accepted on probation, can recognize its shortcomings, weaknesses and errors, because they are revealed to it in the midst of adversities.

The Lord also allows deficits and difficulties when his child has not been sufficiently faithful and obedient. But his mercy shows itself to be wonderfully vivifying, comforting and protective as soon as sincere repentance manifests itself on the part of the wrongdoer. The power of the Ransom, which Christ paid for the benefit of all sinners, has a marvellous purifying action and brings the gentle sensation of divine forgiveness and calmness into the heart of the sinner. The latter then manifests profound gratitude towards their God and their Saviour for the received deliverance, and pulls themselves together and makes new effort to reform themselves.

One who perseveres on that path of the sanctification of the spirit, gradually obtains a pure heart and great self-mastery. One further acquires wisdom, love and justice, which are God's attributes, and which enable one to be fed by the power of God's Spirit. It is only that Spirit that gives one many possibilities, including that of child education, as the Lord Himself educates us, with love, justice and wisdom.

A "foster mother" with a big heart!

Under the above title, the following article appeared in the *Info* newspaper distributed in the French region of Clermont-Ferrand. It tells a very touching story:

Once upon a time, there was a lamb that was abandoned at birth by its mother, but that was lucky enough to be adopted by an exceptional "wet nurse": Jacinthe, a four-year-old cow from the island of Jersey, and which was a prolific supplier of milk and affection. This is not a fairy tale, but a true story that has been going on for five months.

When the ewe gave birth at the end of last April, no one knew why she refused to feed her offspring. Was she an unworthy mother, or was it instinct? Nature has its secrets, and at least a few of them escape us humans.

However, the lamb was born under a lucky star and in a welcoming barn where solidarity is not an empty word.

The owner of the farm, Mrs Marcelle Pion-Roux, was of course eager to bottle-feed the lamb as soon as it was born. To her great satisfaction, the lamb was enjoying it from day to day, without, however, having a big appetite.

And for good reason! What a surprise for Marcelle when she discovered the lamb drinking from Jacinthe's udder: a generous "milk factory", as creamy as could be, and which our young friend was eagerly enjoying.

This wet nurse really had adopted the lamb, which entitled it to plenty of food and lots of licks and nuzzles. There was no risk of her adopted child being disturbed by goats or other farm animals. None of them wanted to upset the mother, due to her intimidating size!

During the day, all Marcelle's animals go to the meadow under the attentive guard of a special male Border Collie dog called Yoyo. Although Yoyo is very energetic and has a high canine IQ, he has a problem with Jacinthe. This cow, with its carefree character, often goes on adventures. Being nimble, sure-footed and a good climber, she will even jump over fences and then wander around for a while, before returning to the starting point with great fanfare and mooing loudly to signal that her escapade is over for today. She is a perky star and an attraction in her village! Her temperament was undoubtedly indispensable for easily accepting a lamb under her udder.

Now it's time to go back to the barn for Marcelle's three cows, twenty sheep and dozen goats. "Go, go, go," Marcelle shouts. Yoyo and all the other animals understand. They make up a long parade that walks through the main street of their village.

When they're back in the barn, the lamb immediately takes refuge with Jacinthe. This cow-lamb duo is a touching sight... Such is life sometimes in the countryside.

A large photo accompanies the above report, showing the grey cow offering its udder to the plump lamb that suckles its adoptive mother!

In the midst of all the painful news in today's world, where so many children are martyred and scarred by wars and other atrocities, it is comforting to look at the animal kingdom that often gives us comforting lessons in friendship. How beautiful will be the day when peace reigns throughout the world, as the Prophets have foretold! That will be the sublime equivalent of the Ransom so dearly paid by Christ and his faithful Disciples. Let us hasten it through holy conduct and godliness, as we are invited to do by Apostle Peter, who greatly rejoiced over the vision of that New Heaven and New Earth where righteousness will dwell for eternity!

Kingdom of God, are recalled to his mind:

*They come, great joy their brows adorning,
Those whom from chains the Lord hath freed:
All those for whom we have been mourning,
His love doth give them back indeed.*

How those words then came to life as he realized what personal meaning they now held for him: a wonderful consolation sank into his heart!

Thus, the wonderful divine hopes, so comforting and reassuring, have filled the hearts of Frank and his wife. For years now, they have been most assiduously attending the meetings of the Truth.

Frank has been able to retire on his pension comparatively early in life. Realizing that there are many living in fear of Hell and eternal torment, just as he himself used to be, he immediately converted the canvas bag in which he used to carry his lunch to work, into a satchel in which he now carries his evangelical books and papers. Besides carrying the Good News from door to door, he visits subscribers to *The Monitor of the Reign of Justice*.

He also has the privilege of giving a hand, from time to time, on the Test Stations of the Kingdom of God, in which the brethren work together, exerting themselves to live fraternally. In that atmosphere made entirely of friendship and affection, Frank feels his heart expand. He could leap for joy when he thinks of the grace the Lord has granted him, to be able to understand the Truth and to stride with assurance along the road that leads to life and happiness.

Whenever he leaves one of the Test Stations after having collaborated there a while, he says to his brothers and sisters, as they wish him godspeed: "I only wish these days of blessing would never come to an end." He nevertheless goes away very joyfully, for he is eager to fetch to all who are in pain, in distress and desperate, the wonderful hopes and consolations that the Kingdom of God provides. It makes him glad to carry around

with him the splendid atmosphere of the Father's House and to communicate it to all who are responsive to it.

News in brief of the Reign of Justice

From the *Angel of the Lord* paper No. 1, 1923, we happily quote a summary of a very interesting exposé from the dear Messenger:

What is greed, and what is generosity?

"Beware, and be on your guard against all types of greed, for life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." Luke 12: 15.

"The principles of the Universal Law are contrary to human laws, based on selfishness, of which greed is a main element. Other elements — such as jealousy, hostility, quarrelling and envy — are sometimes very seductive to the depraved human heart, because humankind wishes to possess. Thus, humankind defends what it has, which reveals a jealous, envious and stingy spirit.

An extremely destructive food for humankind is money. Humankind feeds its soul with money, and its heart is full of it. Humankind thirsts for gold and hungers for cash. The madness of some people goes as far as literally filling a barrel with cash. Greed is common in humankind, because the wish to possess is seen everywhere, and that wish is always fulfilled to the detriment of others. One is not only stingy with money, one is sometimes also stingy with food, clothing, a kind word, a friendly gesture or a warm smile. There are some people who don't even grant a little happiness to others. They want to be happy, but don't grant any happiness to others, because they themselves are envious and jealous. Other people are discontent if someone else has as much as they do. One wants to live in a society in which one is the first or perhaps the second or the third, but one would find it terrible to be one of the last...

We therefore see that in the Devil's kingdom, in which the world on Earth currently

finds itself, one does good to use it as a cover for evil. Greed, selfishness and all types of gifts are often on the agenda to help an unhealthy or unclean cause win.

As we have shown above, the Universal Law is not lived by humanity. That law governs the entire Universe, and that is why it is called the Universal Law. The Almighty, the God of spirits, has established that law, and He Himself conforms to it. Everything is subject to it, both what exists in Space and what is on Earth. Humankind, however, does not respect it. Humankind is in darkness, and the beings that depend on humankind are very unhappy.

God's gifts are wonderful. Everything that happens in the Universe testifies to the greatness of soul that inspired the Creator. The Almighty is the Source that produces all that lives, all that moves and all that exists, both inert matter and beings. Everything was created by his Spirit. Everything existing on Earth was formed through its action. We see there an infinite abundance of things that, in their diversity and splendour, show the Creator's gifts which He has freely given to humankind, to rejoice its heart. We therefore see that the Almighty spared nothing and was not greedy. He generously gave to humankind who can appreciate all those things at their true value. However, humankind didn't thank God.

The Lord's gifts to humankind cannot be counted, because new ones are being discovered every day. The Lord isn't greedy, because He hasn't kept anything for Himself. He constantly gives and thus also manifests his benefits to angels and archangels. The power that emanates from Him, the wonderful Spirit which acts in all sorts of ways, is a food for the heavenly beings, who have great glory. The heavenly beings daily nourish themselves on God's goodness. It's like a friend who cannot do without the kindness of their friend, without receiving their gentle affection.

While He keeps billions of those beings alive — we could quote any figure because the number of God's heavenly children is incalculable, and despite the intense communion He maintains with all his spiritual children — Jehovah doesn't forget to constantly supply the energy that keeps the countless solar systems in motion, in perpetual rotation. Humankind, who is cut off from communion with God and has thus become his enemy, nevertheless receives the Lord's blessings. God indeed lets the Sun rise on the good and the evil, and He lets the rain fall on the righteous and the unrighteous. He is generous and benevolent. Our dear Saviour showed us God's gifts by teaching his Disciples to bless those who curse them, to pray for those who persecute them, and to be merciful, just as their Father is merciful. Luke 6: 36.

When we consider the greatness of soul and the glorious benevolence and generosity that the Almighty manifests for everything that exists, we are in awe. When we, on the other hand, see the greed, the jealousy, the hostility and the quarrels that exist among humans and demons, our heart is deeply moved to see that the glory of God is to forget offences.

We want to reform our heart, so that that spiritual power nourishes our soul and we become 'the light of the world' and 'the salt of the earth', who praise the Lord and bring blessing, like dew, to the inhabitants of 'the valley of the shadow of death'."

As we can see, it is thanks to the Lord's generosity towards us, that it is possible for us to learn to become generous to our fellow people, by us developing faith and living the Universal Law. So, let us live that wise advice and become benefactors who are able to exist for the good of those around us.

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