

# THE REIGN OF JUSTICE

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## How to overcome old age!

WHEN Christmas, New Year or birthdays come round, people like to give each other presents and to wish each other all sorts of good things: health, happiness and prosperity. All those good wishes, however, do not prevent the years weighing ever-more heavily on those who are getting old. Each succeeding year brings fresh signs of advancing age, which is having its disastrous effects.

Old age, nevertheless, is an anomaly. It is caused by the wear of the body, which is obviously inevitable as long as the body expends more than it is able to recuperate. This failure to recuperate is due to the fact that, at present, man is not replenished to the extent he should be by the three circulations indispensable to him.

People would very much like to eliminate that wear, but they are compelled to observe it doing its work in them continuously and relentlessly. In spite of every effort being made to rule out those conditions, till today, nothing has been discovered that would enable man to avert old age and the inexorable process that leads to the termination of his existence.

The youthful vigour to be observed in early life, also called vitality, is due to an abundant circulation of blood, to the ease with which pure air is able to penetrate into every part of the body, and to a total absence of worry, of anxiety and of fear. In conditions such as these, the human organism is renewed fairly easily, and all expenditure of vital energy, both mental and physical, is constantly being made good.

A multitude of things with a disintegrating action, however, may come into play, causing all manner of perturbations to hinder the working of the organism, by attacking certain parts and hindering them in their normal functions. This gives rise to disruptions that are generally called sickness or disease. Such troubles are a great hindrance to the work of the organs of the body, which, when it can take place normally, produces life.

Worry has a most unfavourable influence on the sensory nerves, and, at the same time, upsets mental balance while causing sadness and grief. The sensory nerves then influence the motor nerves and, besides causing mental ailments, finally give rise to physical disintegration, which brings man's short existence on Earth to an end. When an inclination to be peevish and fretful sets in, ageing soon begins to make itself felt.

The truth is that man should be in a condition of

perfect balance, manifested in happy dispositions that are restful to the nerves and stimulate the various circulations which promote life.

Some people are already old at 45. There are others, on the other hand, who at 75 are still full of vigour. It all depends to a very great extent on a person's dispositions and line of conduct. At present, all members of the human race are under the influence of "the spirit of the world", which is a selfish spirit and a destructive spirit, quite unsuitable for maintaining life in man. Contrariwise, the altruistic spirit has a very favorable influence on the sensory nerves, and imparts to man contentment, a good conscience and a happy outlook, all things that are exceedingly favorable to health.

Therefore, a man's health depends very closely on the sentiments he cultivates. He has been designed for loving his neighbour and for doing him good. If he cultivates an altruistic turn of mind, its influence will be good for his whole organism. His physical being is vitalized by the process of "vasodilation", which goes on quite unhindered in his body and permits the various circulations to take place with great ease in all his tissues and organs. In those conditions, his face also will remain young-looking. Pain, vexation and grief, on the other hand, line the face deeply, owing to the contraction of the nerves that affect the whole body. Everything makes its mark on a man's face, from exuberant joy, down the whole scale of feeling, to pain, discontent and anger.

Good impressions boost vitality, whereas unfavorable impressions undermine it deeply, giving rise to nerve tension, which, as already mentioned, has a deadly influence on the organs and on blood circulation. Nerve tension significantly obstructs the latter as well as the circulation of gases that we breathe in and out. By obstructing digestion, it also has an unfavorable influence on nutrition. All those physiological troubles then are caused by our wrong sentiments.

In spite of that, there have been men of God, and they have cherished magnificent hopes. The prophets have spoken about the Restoration of All Things, in which mankind will be able to recover their destiny lost in Adam: eternal life on Earth. In the Restoration of All Things, and as the result of the Sacrifice our dear Saviour made on the Cross, all people will recover that life lost in Eden by Adam and Eve, our first parents. The life our dear Saviour gave as the Ransom for men,

ensures their resurrection and the possibility for them of obtaining eternal life on Earth, conditionally on their submitting to the life principles of the Kingdom of God.

We have now come to the time of the Restoration of All Things, foreseen in Holy Writ. It is the time when, having tried every possible way of improving their conditions, the nations are compelled to admit that they are incapable of averting death. As a matter of fact, their line of conduct is unsuited to preserving their lives or to justifying any hope they might entertain of renewing their vitality or of obtaining everlasting youth. For such a hope to be justified, something very different is required. At present, everybody is moved by selfishness, and selfishness inevitably leads to death. To avert death and old age, and to climb back to eternal youth, you have to withdraw entirely from the pursuit of selfish aims, and to turn to living up to the principles of altruism of the divine Universal Law.

In the Book of Job, chapter 33, is to be read a message delivered by a messenger who tells man what is good for him. The Almighty then tells that messenger to deliver man from going down into the pit, because a ransom has been paid for him. It is even said as a result of this, that man's flesh shall become fresher than a child's.

As a result of the Ransom he has paid for men, our Lord Jesus declares that the time is coming when all who are in the graves shall hear the voice of the Son of Man and shall come out. They will then be guided on paths of righteousness and of truth. We are told that then the former things shall pass away and that all things shall become new. Weeping, pain and death will depart, never to return. At the end of the time of the Restoration of All Things, man will have indeed reached perfection through keeping the Universal Law, which requires all to exist for the good. By that time, good will have overcome evil forever.

Today already, a class of people have arisen, called the Host of the Lord, who are practising living up to the Universal Law. That law is detailed at great length in *The Message to Humanity* (the Book of Remembrance) and quite particularly in the book titled *Eternal life*, possible on Earth.

It is a fact that, at present, people die at all ages. In all cases, however, a definite cause has brought death about. One thing to be borne clearly in mind is that, being cut off from communion with the true God by his selfish turn of mind, man is deprived of the essential spiritual supplies coming from the Holy Spirit of God. That is how death has come with all the decrepitude that comes before. Nobody has been spared.

### A healing and comforting message

IS that you Martin? Can it be possible? You're back already! So, things aren't so good in your new job? We didn't expect you for at least another fortnight!"

"Don't worry mother, things are just fine. I'm as happy as can be with my new boss. He's a very good chap, and I get on well with my workmates. But I'm no end of a home bird, and I just had to come and kiss my little mother. I was homesick and came to spend Sunday with you all."

"Well then, I'm very glad you came!" mother answered. "Father will be just as glad to see you, and your brothers and sister, too."

Martin gave his mother a smacking kiss, and they went indoors together. It was an unassuming home, but very clean and cosy. Mother, whose name was Helen, was an energetic little woman, both kind and hardwork-

ing. She was a good wife and, above all, an excellent mother. Being warm-hearted and affectionate, she never spared herself in her devotion to her family, and they all returned it plentifully.

Martin had two brothers and a sister: Roger, twenty-three; Charles, seventeen; and Angela who was fourteen. All of them were hardy, and a doctor had never entered the house in the professional way. Their neighbours envied them, as they witnessed the flourishing health of the small household.

In a short time, father came back from work, and then Roger. The whole family was gathered in the roomy kitchen, and with much gay chatter, they sat around the table. They talked about many things, and then the conversation began to centre on the topic of the day, the imminence of war.

"Oh," Helen exclaimed, "may the Lord preserve us from such a calamity! Only think if Roger and Martin had to go, how terrible it

would be! Yet all we ask for is to be allowed to live in peace, and we don't wish anybody any harm!"

"Don't worry yourself over nothing, little mother," said Roger. "Things are not as bad as that yet. So, what's the use of thinking about it? Let's be glad we're together, in good health, and let's be happy."

As the conversation turned from the subject, happiness prevailed once more, and they spent a very pleasant evening together. Then, they all went to seek a well-earned rest, having worked hard all day.

However, Helen was restless, as sleep eluded her, and her husband asked her: "What's the matter? Aren't you feeling well?"

"It's not that," she answered. "Only, I can't help thinking about this ghastly war. Whatever Martin may say, it might easily come to that."

"Yes," her husband answered, "of course, it might. I didn't want to upset the children or

make them anxious. But things very possibly, even very probably, will come to that point. And it would be a terrible thing for us if our two eldest had to go."

"I dare not think about it," Helen answered. "Of course, it's no use getting worked up over it," her husband went on. "It'll be quite soon enough when the time comes."

Just a few months went by after this conversation till one of the sons was called up and sent off to the front. A while after, the second son had to go. Both these departures were heart-rending.

The youths wrote to their parents regularly. They were at a great distance from each other, on quite different fronts. The news from both of them was good. Then, very abruptly, Roger's letters stopped coming.

Thus began a time of great anxiety for the small household. Mother would look out eagerly for the postman every morning, and the good man, knowing her anxiety, would

Everyone who is wholeheartedly applying himself to living up to those divine principles, is already beginning to climb back to life. In the measure of his faithfulness to the instructions given, he is able, little by little, to overcome all disease, to avert old age and to obtain everlasting life without going the way of death. For the time has come for the glorious effects of the Sacrifice of Christ and of his Little Flock, to make their appearance.

For that to be possible, the 144,000 members of the Little Flock — who have joined their sacrifice to that of our dear Saviour for the benefit of mankind, and who are redeemed by him — firstly had to finish their race of sacrifice. The very last are now in the act of doing so. That is why today the road to eternal youth and to lasting life, is open to all who will live up to the conditions. The calling of divine grace invites them as follows: "Choose life, so that you may live. [Why go on dying? The doors to life are open to you. The Ransom is paid in full.]"

In our publications, the fact that eternal life is possible is very clearly demonstrated. They also point out that the times we are living through, with all their increasing troubles, are the settling up of man's selfish line of conduct. People will thus be quite clear about the reality. They will be thoroughly convinced that everything that has been tried, and all the efforts made by the political, social, and religious institutions, have failed utterly in their aims, because all they did was directed along selfish lines, and because the human organism has been designed for living altruistically. It is impossible for it to prosper and to be maintained in any other atmosphere except that created by altruism.

So, everyone is being invited to forsake the way of selfishness, and to step out resolutely on the path of altruism, applying himself henceforth to loving God above all, and his neighbour as himself. That is all the law and the prophets. "Do that, and you shall live." It is today that that divine invitation is becoming fully valid and can be accepted in practice.

## Waste and pollution

In the Swiss French-language general-information magazine *GHI* on the 24th of March 2021, there was an article on wasted clothing, written by Fabio Bonavita. The figures mentioned are considerable. We quote it in its entirety:

### Wasted clothing: reasons to be angry

*Following wasted food, there is wasted clothing. To illustrate that, it is enough to show the numbers. They send a cold shiver down your spine. On our planet, 100 billion articles of clothing are produced every year, which is a production that is encouraged by the phenomenon of "fast fashion", which causes enormous environmental damage. In fact, according to studies carried out around the world, more than 70% of clothes are never worn by their owners and then end up at recycling centres. That situation has worsened since the COVID-19 pandemic because brands find themselves with mountains of unsold goods. ...*

*That frenzied consumerism made us forget, far too quickly, that the textile industry is the third largest consumer of water in the world, just after the cultivation of wheat and rice. It uses 4% of the available drinking water. Logically, when we know that it takes 20,000 litres of water to produce 1 kg of clothing, we better understand the need to find a degree of common sense. Firstly, it consists of resisting daily temptations online or in shops, and also of making good use of the clothes purchased, by wearing them or giving them away for the benefit of other people, instead of stupidly throwing them away in the garbage of the world.*

In the French newspaper *Le Dauphiné Libéré* on

the 26th of September 2019, there is further following information:

*We consume, on average, 60% more clothes than 15 years ago, and we keep them for half as long, according to a report by France Nature Environnement [a French nature and environmental protection organization], published in 2018. Some pieces of clothing are only worn a dozen times before being thrown away by their owners. ...*

*Ten kilograms of clothing is, on average, what a French person buys every year, according to a Greenpeace report. Brands' collections are constantly updated. Six to eight collections come out every year, with different fabrics, patterns, shapes and colours, at very low prices to encourage purchases.*

*First problem: the tendency of the overconsumption of clothing, pollutes the planet. Second problem: it generates large quantities of waste, of which the majority is not recycled. 80% of clothes (sometimes still fit for wearing) end their life in the household garbage. ...*

*In fact, the fashion industry is the second most polluting in the world. Each year, it emits 1.2 billion tonnes of greenhouse gases, or 2% of global greenhouse-gas emissions, which is more than international flying and maritime traffic, combined. ...*

*Each year, between 10,000 and 20,000 tonnes of clothing are destroyed in France. That is equal to the weight of between one and two Eiffel Towers, according to the Ministry of Ecological Transition. ...*

*Prohibiting the destruction of unsold clothes would save 250,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide [CO<sub>2</sub>] per year, which is the equivalent of the emissions from 125,000 cars per year.*

Another article, with the title "Textile industry: pollution and waste on all levels", written by Matthieu Combe, was presented in the French *Environnement* publication on the 29th of November 2019:

*... Washing our synthetic clothes in washing machines, releases about 500,000 tonnes of microplastics into the ocean every year, which is the equivalent of more than 50 billion plastic bottles.*

*... The fashion industry is the third largest consumer of water in the world. In the finishing phase, we also use a lot of chemicals that pollute the water and that are also partly found in clothes.*

*Add to those impacts, the waste during cutting. About 15% of the fabric goes into the garbage, which is a huge waste of resources. Finally, the clothes are wrapped in plastic (in polybags). By the way, 15% of disposable packaging in the world is used by the textile industry. The clothes are then transported thousands of kilometres. About 70% of the textiles purchased in Europe come from Southeast Asia, by boat or plane. ...*

*In France, about 624,000 tonnes of clothing textiles, household linen and shoes, go on to the market each year. That is about 2.6 billion pieces. ...*

The facts and figures explained above, allow us to form an opinion on the effects of our consumer behaviour on the environment. And it is up to the consumers, which means us, to find a solution to this far-reaching problem. As Fabio Bonavita suggests: "Firstly, it consists of resisting daily temptations online or in shops." Use and don't misuse. Because the numbers in those articles do not only quote our need to clothe ourselves, but also and especially our desires and moods. They are exploited by fashion creators, stylists, big fashion designers and manufacturers, for whom there is nothing better than continuously designing and producing. But when one knows what is consumed and how the environment is polluted through the production, treatment and washing of textiles and through the handling of waste, then one no longer has the right to succumb to temptation. It is no longer a question of financial means, but of the survival of our planet and its inhabitants.

We teach children to be wise and reasonable. But we

ourselves should also be so. When it comes to temptation, we are really like little children, so weak in view of a desired object. And if we are overcome by desire and finally succumb to temptation and acquire the object of our desires, we realize that it does not satisfy us. Sometimes, we don't even wear it, or only a few times, before we throw it away. That is the case for 70% of clothing, which, according to Fabio Bonavita, is never worn by its owners. That makes us think.

Those habits have effects on our mentality. Through the constant satisfaction of all our desires and even the most unreasonable moods, our character becomes so weak that we can no longer resist temptations, which become increasingly numerous and appealing to us. That is why we fill in our Saturday afternoons with shopping. We inevitably end up with one or several purchases that we could mostly have very well done without. All of that does not make us happy, because the satisfaction of our cravings does not produce happiness.

For manufacturers, big fashion designers and all those careers that are occupied with clothing, the hunger for new creations is understandable. They respond to the rules of the market and particularly to the rule of supply and demand. The challenge consists of introducing innovations, of bringing out new fashions and of beating the competitors, in order to secure a share of the market. That is how it has been for centuries in France and since the 14th century in Italy. But today, we have to deal with new factors, which are the effects of our habits on the environment and even on our health. One can no longer ignore them, and it is advisable to become aware of them and to change one's habits. The first habit to cultivate should be gratitude. When one appreciates something, in this case, a piece of clothing, one cannot throw it away without ever wearing it. One can no longer purchase something simply because one likes going shopping. That line of conduct shows a lack of balance. But gratitude restores balance and puts an end to waste.

Because waste is not a sign of wealth, but rather of ingratitude. We remember that our dear Saviour, after he had multiplied the loaves and fish for 5,000 listeners, told his Disciples to gather the leftovers, so that nothing would be wasted. John 6: 12.

We see here, as well as in other places, that human beings need a new education in order to be restored to perfection, which they were at Creation. In the Restoration of All Things — which was announced long ago by the Prophets and by Christ, and which began with the publication of *The Message to Humanity* (the Book of Remembrance) in the year 1922 — all people will be able to obtain that education, under the guidance of Christ and of his Church, who gave their lives for all sinners, which means, for us. By virtue of that Sacrifice, everyone can be covered with "the robe of righteousness", which will never be out of fashion, and which will enable us to attain the perfection of an earthly child of God, and therefore also eternal life.

## The tenderness of a mother bear!

The following article was published in the German magazine *Heim und Welt*:

### Despite the snow and ice, baby bear dearly loves its mother

*Over 50% of people who visit zoos or read newspapers and who wish to know more about the polar bear, ask if this "plantigrade" [an animal that walks on the soles of its feet] lives in the North Pole or the South Pole. Polar bears live exclusively in the Arctic. Many other questions are asked about these animals, and we deal with them in the publication Plantigrade Guide.*

*Polar bears are only found in the wild in the Arctic regions of Alaska, Greenland, Norway and northern Russia.*

say: "Still nothing, but there'll surely be a letter tomorrow." But the next morning would again bring no letter.

The day came, at last, which did bring a letter, but in an unknown handwriting. It came from the front.

"Roger is wounded!" mother exclaimed. "Somebody's written for him."

Feverishly, she tore the letter open, and, on reading the first lines, collapsed into a chair. The letter was from her son and had been dictated to one of his comrades. Soon after dictating it, the young man had died of a mortal wound, as she learnt from the postscript written by his friend.

Helen's grief was unbearable, and the entire little family shared it with her. Father became gloomy and morose, and spoke only little. He was in revolt against the death of his oldest boy.

Seeing how badly her husband was taking it, and how deeply the children also were af-

fectured, Helen decided that she must overcome her own grief, so that she might comfort the others. So, she did her best to master her own deep sorrow when in the company of her husband and children. But when she was alone again, her great despair would take a stronger hold on her than ever.

There was more to come.

Martin wrote that he was in the thick of it and constantly in danger. Weeks of anxiety went by. There was the pain of the loss of Roger, and, on top of it, the frightful uncertainty of the fate of his brother. Helen sometimes felt that she would go out of her mind. At long last came news which set their minds at rest, to some extent. Martin had been taken as a prisoner of war. After that, for long, long months, there was no news at all. Then, a number of ex-prisoners of war began to trickle home. But there still no news of Martin. Helen's husband was becoming ever-more morose. He would only speak in

monosyllables. The children dared not open their mouths in his presence. He had become exceedingly irritable.

Then, one day, a letter came from Martin. "Don't be alarmed," he wrote. "I'm fairly well, though I'm a little weak. I shall be with you in a few weeks' time." What a relief this was after all the anxiety they had been feeling, and even father, from time to time, would give a faint smile!

The time for the lad's return was fast approaching. It was a time of feverish expectancy, which held them all in its grip. Whenever the door opened, Helen expected to see Martin walk in.

One day, when the small family had just sat down for a meal at the table, there was a knock on the door. Angela answered and came face to face with a soldier looking sad and worried.

"Is this where Martin T. lives?" he asked. "Yes, indeed," the girl answered expect-

antly. "He's my brother. Can you give us any news about him?"

The soldier gave no answer, and Angela invited him into the kitchen. Nobody uttered a word. An agonising uncertainty could be seen on all their faces. They each felt instinctively that there was bad news coming. The soldier seemed unable to speak as he called on all his courage to tell them. At last, he uttered a short bare sentence: "Martin died in the train. It was tuberculosis."

That was too much for the poor mother. She jumped up from her chair, crying desperately: "Martin, Martin, I shall never see you again!" Then, looking demented, she ran towards the door. So great was the shock, that her mind was unhinged. Charles hastened to his mother and succeeded in holding her back.

Father felt crushed by the fatal news, and Angela was sobbing with her head in her hands, urgently calling her brother's name. Charles, himself mourning deeply, did his

Standing, the polar bear is 3 metres tall, and its weight can reach 750 kg. Like all bears, it is an omnivore. However, it prefers seals and fish. In times of scarcity, it is satisfied with berries and roots.

Furthermore, the polar bear is an excellent swimmer. That is why we saw a bear and her two cubs, in the open sea, 100 km from the coast of Greenland. They still had 150 km to swim to reach their goal: the solid pack ice of the north. In a Reader's Digest publication, the American writer Jack Denton Scott tells us that polar bears can swim at a speed of 9.5 km/h, and run at a speed of 40 km/h.

Does snow make polar bears blind? This is Scott's answer to that interesting question, which has often been asked: "The polar bear has special sunglasses for the Arctic. It is a third membranous eyelid that protects it from blindness due to the reflection of the Sun from the snow and ice." However, it is true that polar bears do not see very well. But their excellent sense of smell largely compensates for that shortcoming. They can smell seal blubber from more than 30 km away. The Eskimos take advantage of that by roasting seal blubber, to attract bears.

### So much love must melt the thickest glacier

Our photographer stayed almost an hour to observe the charming scene taking place on a rock in the den of a bear. Hugging her little one in her arms, mother bear was taking a midday nap. But baby bear tore itself away from that tender embrace to stretch a little, while its mother, still sleepy, blinked, looking ahead. It lasted until the baby gave her a swat with its little black muzzle. In bear language, that clearly means: "No, dear mother, you can't stay all day cuddling me in this cave. Don't you feel how nice it is outside and how comfortable we are in this good weather? Don't you feel attracted by the cool water of our 'pond'? Come on, mother. Besides, I'm not a baby anymore..." Mother bear understands that speech very well and responds with an exasperated growl. However, she eventually stands up, stretches her limbs while yawning, and trots behind her offspring into the water.

And so it went on for a good hour until the young one decided to take a break. It obviously had great pleasure in splashing, swimming and plunging into the icy water.

You have no idea what a mother bear can put up with from her cub when playing with it. It dares to nibble on her with its already fairly sharp teeth, without her slapping it; it dares to push her around and, according to its whims, can literally torment her.

No mother bear will slap her cubs, as almost all wild animals do in such cases. So much motherly love must be able to melt the thickest glacier, especially from a mother bear's heart.

This maternal love is absolutely necessary for the little one. There is hardly a mother bear that does not show such loving care and understanding towards her offspring. Without this care and without this extraordinary maternal love, the young cubs would perish in these inhospitable and barren lands.

Sometimes it is enough for a mother to leave a cub alone for an hour or two in a "nursery" (an igloo in the snow), for it to freeze to death.

But the little one has nothing to fear from that side, because it has the best, the most tender and the most patient mother in the whole world.

That truly is the case, and the mother bear gives her offspring the tenderest and most touching affection, which is shown by the three accompanying photos in the magazine article.

What an impressive sight this mighty animal is, with its sharp claws that can fearfully strike when in danger or when hunting, but which can show its young ones infallible benevolence. It can also be tame when it is treated well by humans, especially when they give it tasty food.

Unfortunately, bears, like many other animals, are ruthlessly hunted and slaughtered for their fur. Caught and tormented by hunters, bears are victims of human desires, and must be sacrificed for their fur for fashion. Especially the polar bear, which is the biggest of its species, which has very white fur, and which is being wiped out by stupid and senseless hunting. The Eskimo is the worst enemy of the polar bear and also the seal, by using roasted seal blubber as bait to attract the polar bear. The Eskimo is thus enticed by his greed.

For other bears that humans would like to catch, they use honey, which the bears really like. That is notorious hypocrisy associated with unspeakable cruelty, which is found in all types of hunting, even when hunting humans.

There is no consideration for these beautiful animals, which have such delicate feelings, and whose devotion to their young should touch our heart! There is also no consideration for the lives of fellow people, whom we should love!

How greatly we rejoice about the day when hunting and war will be banned on Earth, because humankind will be reconciled with the divine law, which requires all types of life to be respected! Only when humankind abides by that law of justice, will it be able to abide by its own laws. Then, the prophecy will be fulfilled, which announces harmony among animals, even if they are considered wild. The Prophet Isaiah's vision will become wonderful reality: "The cow shall graze with the bear, their young shall lie down together, and the lion shall eat straw like the ox." Isaiah 11: 7.

## For a world without money

From the Readers' Letters section in the French newspaper *Ouest-France* on the 18th of January 2021, we quote the following article by Laurent Post, who makes an interesting proposal for a world without money:

### "Imagine ourselves in a world without money"

*Society: "This Utopia seems to us to be peacefully achievable if there are enough of us who want it. Wouldn't this be the only way to achieve freedom, equality and fraternity?"*

*Many of us are aware that we must change our way of seeing and thinking about things, and that the organization of our world must evolve further so that we can primarily take care of each other (without exception) and of our Earth.*

*It seems clear to us that because of our dependence on money, we think and act in ways incompatible with true sustainable development...*

*Apart from maintaining a very relative social peace, we believe that our market system (unequal by nature) is much more of a problem than a solution. In our opinion, it prevents us from acting in a responsible and humanistic manner. So, what should be done?*

*There are many thousands of us, spread over all the five continents, who are convinced that it is necessary to "quickly" change to a civilization without money.*

*Especially since the monetary system is, in fact, really only profitable for a minority of people. Of course, this project might seem unthinkable or impossible for humanity, because of our ways of seeing and thinking, our current organization and the cultural differences among countries.*

*It is indeed a Utopia, but it seems to us to be peacefully achievable if enough of us want it. This seems to be the only way to achieve freedom, equality and fraternity for all.*

*In short, it would not be a matter of rebuilding everything, but of relying on activities that already exist, without those related to financial aspects, of which the workforce would come in large numbers to work in other sectors, resulting in reduced working time and a better quality of life.*

*Imagine ourselves in a world without money, without our reflexes connected to money... With the powerful logistical means that we have nowadays, and with a real sense of the collective (which, without the fear of running out of money, would be even more natural), we would succeed in organizing ourselves so that everyone could eat and find accommodation and clothing, have fun and participate in the life of society.*

*Whether some (a few) contribute or not, that would not be a problem, because it would not impede the life of the community. In addition, in case somebody wants to trick others, there would be enough people for the arduous tasks. In fact, our world has a huge proportion of "good people".*

*At first, because of our habits, there could be a great demand for consumer goods as well as for national and international mobility, but this would not last, because there would be fewer incentives.*

*The transition to a post-monetary civilization could, for example, be done in three stages (gathering, transition and then organization), based on a global democratic organization, with several layers of assemblies, without a leader (no desire for power), but with coordinators. Overall, we offer a non-market management system, by estimating available resources and managing their flows, meeting the most basic needs and then the secondary ones.*

*Perhaps you find our ideas for implementing this money-free civilization to be fuzzy.*

*In fact, this is partly the case because this profound modification of our values, of our vision of the world and of our way of thinking and of organizing the world, inevitably leads us into unknown territory. But human beings are incredibly creative and capable of adapting, especially if they know that the course set is good for everyone...*

F.L.A. Freytag, the last Messenger of God in our epoch, tells us in his *Message to Humanity* (the Book of Remembrance), in chapter 6, on the subject of money: *The minting of coins was introduced in Rome in the year 296 BC, but it already existed long before in Lydia. Coins in those days were employed strictly as a means of exchange. Money was not hoarded in building up fortunes as it is today. Metal coins have not always been employed for payments. In the past, cattle used to be the means of exchange and payment. When the word "pecuniary" is used today, it refers to money. But the Latin word pecus, meaning "cattle", is the root of the word for money, because cattle used to be given in payment. Slaves have also been given in exchange for goods. There are some primitive people, even today, who use pebbles for money. Others employ seashells, pieces of wood and even cloths.*

*The need for exchanging, and the appearance on the scene of money (cattle, slaves, and metal coins), are obvious signs of the condemnation weighing on mankind, at variance with the law of God. Conversely, everything that is done in the Universe, in accordance with the divine law, is entirely free of charge. There is neither exchange nor compensation, nor payment. Payment only became necessary on the day when mankind incurred condemnation. Thence forward, automatically, Redemption had to be operated with a view to rehabilitating them and to restoring them to communion with God. ...*

The above makes the origin of money understandable and also the fact that it is the result of humankind's Fall into sin. The appearance and the use of money is therefore not a sign of humanity's progress, but rather a proof of its condemnation, as the above-quoted text teaches us. To convince oneself of that, it is enough to see everything that can be done by means of money. It certainly is the driving force of war. Some people will say that we need money to live, because they are so used to the current state of things. However, it is not at all natural to calculate everything in money, and

best to restrain his mother's disordered actions. The soldier was a helpless witness of all this distress. He himself only just managed to stand, being affected with the same illness as Martin.

Helen remained in a coma for several weeks. But thanks to the care lavished on her by her children, her nerves calmed down to some extent, and she came round. At the same time, however, she again became aware of her bereavement.

At times, she would feel her grief was too much for her. At other times, she would be lost in this thought: "Is there no way of getting to the bottom of the mystery of life and death?" She started going to church, hoping to gain some enlightenment there. She didn't obtain satisfaction for her heart or for her mind. She would often repeat to herself that "that hidden something", which was preventing her from understanding the truth of things, must, in some way, be brought to light. "How can

I find the truth?" she thought. She would ardently ask the Lord, in prayer, to show her.

One day, as she sat deep in thought, a knock on the door made her jump. She opened to a tall girl who introduced herself, saying: "I'm bringing you the message of the Truth, which is a great consolation. It gives us "the science of life", and shows how death can be averted."

"The Truth", "the science of life" and "death can be averted," Helen exclaimed. "That's just what I'm looking for! Do come in. God must have sent you. I'm sure about it. Tell me everything!"

Glad to have found a heart thirsting for Truth, the girl imparted to her "the everlasting Gospel", the knowledge of the Divine Plan and of the wonderfully amiable God, unknown to religion. She described to her the Kingdom of God, about to be established on Earth, the sure resurrection and return of all the dear departed.

"Is it possible? Can it be true?" Helen would repeat from time to time. When the girl came to the end of what she had to say, Helen put her arms around her, and said: "You have given me new hope. What a comfort you have been to me! You have shown me what I couldn't find out for myself, and I'm beginning to understand. It's simple, it's splendid, it's great and it's divine! I can't thank you enough. But who gave you my address?"

"Nobody," the girl answered. "We go from door to door, to find the people whose hearts are receptive to the Lord's grace. We introduce them to *The Message to Humanity* (the Book of Remembrance), which has been written by the Lord's Messenger for the comfort and instruction of all people."

Helen bought *The Message to Humanity* eagerly and took out a subscription to *The Monitor of the Reign of Justice*. The girl promised to come again.

A few months later, the evangelist let Helen

know that she was coming again. What a surprise she had when she came in: there were quite a lot of people gathered to listen to her!

"You see," said Helen, "having been comforted myself by the Lord's wonderful message, I want everyone I know who has had troubles like me, to have a taste of that wonderful blessing."

They had a magnificent meeting. All their hearts vibrated to the message and obtained wonderful comfort from it. Helen asked the evangelist to be so good as to send them someone to preside over the meetings, for many more people would come to them.

The evangelist responded: "We will do whatever we can, but meanwhile, you could bring your friends together and hold your meetings yourself. The Lord promises us that wherever two or three are gathered together in his name, he is there with them."

"After all, why not?" Helen answered. "Already, every evening, I read *The Moni-*

Laurent Prost's proposal for a world without money greatly interests us. The particular fact that some people can imagine a world without money, is a sign of good judgement and the proof of certain elevated thoughts.

Money has definitely corrupted the understanding of those who have let themselves be dominated by it. One may well say that it, together with selfishness and religiousness, is one of the main causes of humanity's misfortunes. To establish a world without money, is not only possible, but is what will happen in the near future. One can furthermore say that it has already begun. In fact, Apostle Paul declares to us: "You know that you have not been redeemed with perishable things, such as gold or silver, from your futile way of life, handed down from your fathers — but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or spot" (1 Peter 1: 18 and 19). We have therefore been redeemed free of charge. However, it is necessary to give an equivalent, and that is love.

As a matter of fact, if one definitely wants to replace money, it needs love. When money was introduced among mankind, it replaced love, which should have circulated freely among people. To restore that state of things, one must learn to love others in everything, to give free of charge and to receive. That is what will happen in the Reign of Justice, which will soon be introduced on Earth, where all people will live as a family with one Father: the Lord God. Those wonderful times will start soon for the joy of all people, as a tremendous hope, for which we thank the faith and perseverance of our dear Saviour, who paid our Ransom with his life.

That is the wonderful Good News that is contained in the Gospel of Christ, and that is addressed to all people, such as Laurent Post, who aspire for a better world. We can say to them: the Restoration of All Things has already begun. From now on, all things will become new, and the old things are passing, including money. It will be replaced forever by divine love, which is stronger than death.

## Faith or nostalgia

From the European magazine *En Marche*, No. 1659 on the 15th of October 2020, we quote the following article that keeps us up to date with the current situation, in which many people no longer know where they stand. The article's author, Julien Marteleur, wonders whether nostalgia might be a remedy for the ailments of the soul, caused by the health crisis that we are going through.

### Nostalgia: an ointment for the ailments of the crisis?

*Long considered by medicine as a mental disorder, nostalgia is now the subject of renewed interest, especially because of its beneficial effects in times of crisis. Why not take inspiration from it to create the happy memories of tomorrow, despite the gloomy atmosphere?*

*Memories, memories... Nostalgia is a particular emotion: it combines both the pleasant and the unpleasant. Some people happily remember their school time: playground games, their first crush, a kind teacher... But for others, there was forgotten bullying, punishment and homework, which all come back to them when they talk about that time in their life. Intertwined bitterness and sweetness, nostalgia is intimate and personal: no two are alike.*

*The word is a combination of two Greek terms — nostos (meaning "homecoming") and algos (meaning "pain") — and first appeared in the year 1688 in the thesis by Johannes Hofer, a medical student from Mulhouse, France. He was referring to "homesickness", more exactly, to symptoms of lack of motivation, apathy, despair, and even propensity to suicide, shown by Swiss mercenaries who left to serve in France and Italy.*

*In the dictionary, "nostalgia" is defined as "regret experienced at the thought of what is no longer or what one no longer possesses, at the memory of an environment to which one has ceased to belong, of a kind of life one has ceased to lead, of a bygone era, etc". In the past, it was considered as a disease with strange and potentially dangerous therapeutic solutions. Perceived as a neurological disorder in the late 17th century and throughout the 18th century, some doctors even assumed that it was caused by a "pathological bone" in the human skeleton... It was not until the 19th century that medicine changed its diagnosis and considered nostalgia as an "affliction of the psyche". In the second half of the 20th century, medicine adopted a new position towards nostalgia, and in recent years, studies have revealed its psychological benefits.*

### Source of hope and inspiration

*Could nostalgia therefore have a "feel good" effect in this time of health crisis? The question is not absurd: a series of studies published in 2013, for example, demonstrated that "nostalgia counterbalances the emptiness felt by an individual when they are bored". More recently, in 2018, another study concluded that nostalgia acts as a buffer against existential threats. A concept already described by the American psychological scientist and professor Dr Clay Routledge in his book Nostalgia: A Psychological Resource and for whom nostalgia is a means for human beings to grant themselves hope and inspiration in times of crisis. He writes: "Nostalgia motivates people to focus on cultivating meaningful relationships and pursue important life goals."*

*... A study conducted in the United States among 945 people (aged over 13), looked at the effects of the COVID-19 crisis on entertainment choices: more than half of the consumers said that they found comfort in the shows and music they enjoyed when they were younger. In France, a study by the Lyon Neuroscience Research Center (CRNL), started in March, seems to show that our dreams, since the start of the pandemic, have taken us back to the past more frequently than usual. Could it be some sort of defence mechanism, put in place by the brain, to overcome dark thoughts and stress caused by the Coronavirus crisis?*

### Living the memories of tomorrow, today

*For the moment — whether the music of our young years, or the dreams of a bygone era — nostalgia firstly seems to offer an escape from the pandemic. Which is not that bad. But be careful: if it seems beneficial to regularly allow nostalgia to arise in oneself, it is also necessary to learn to tame it. It is good if it is temporary, but dangerous if we stay in it, especially for melancholic or depressed people. The French writer and aviator Mr Antoine de Saint-Exupéry defined nostalgia as "the desire for who knows what". Its indefinable aspect is its charm, but also its danger. It is a subtle state of mind, mixing sensations, images and thoughts, linked to a feeling of the past, where happiness and unhappiness are harmoniously mixed, as in real life. There, it is essential, despite the health crisis, to not forget to create new happy moments. Today, we must live the beautiful memories of tomorrow.*

We can clearly understand what Julien Marteleur is expressing there. That text tells us a lot about humanity's situation. If the present becomes uncertain and grim, and if one can no longer make plans and no longer confidently think about the future, one looks to the past with nostalgia, as this article very well describes. One thinks, with a certain regret, about the beautiful moments that one has experienced. Even if those thoughts cause us some unpleasant sentiments, they are nevertheless brief and lead to nothing, as we must admit. Even if we make a measured use of nostalgia, it doesn't solve any of our problems.

What we need is a solid anchor that we can hold on to in difficult moments. Something that doesn't fail, that is unshakeable and that we can count on. One of our hymns clearly describes what a person feels when dealing with the trials of life:

*Lost in the night, where troubles ride him,  
Man, all astray, a soul in pain,  
Seeketh a light, a flame, to guide him,  
But his poor heart doth seek in vain.*

The only question is, where does one find such a support that never fails, even in distress? In fact, the Almighty, the Great God of Heaven, is not unaware of humanity's situation. The support that all people seek actually exists in the person of the beloved Son of God. He is the Rock of Ages. As the Prophet Isaiah expresses it: "Behold, I am laying a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, a solid foundation. Whoever believes will not worry" (Isaiah 28: 16). The beloved Son of God paid our Ransom. He is our Best Friend. He invites us to his school, where he would like to teach us the Science of Life: love. The Apostle John aptly expresses it: "We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love others." 1 John 3: 14.

The Almighty has not only loved us, because He has given his Son to save us, He has also forgiven us. He does not hold our sins against us, He erases them. "By our dear Saviour paying for us, He has taken away our sins and has given us his justice" (Luther). From the guilty whom we were, we became the pardoned who can be heard before the Throne of Grace, through the Mediator, our dear Saviour. That is an un hoped-for favour for sinners. But that's not all. Divine grace is so powerful that it can even cancel the condemnation that lays on us through sin.

The Almighty has planned all of those arrangements so that we can enter the School of Christ. For that, God has given us faith, by which we are justified before Him. He already considers us as his children through that faith. If we accept all of those divine arrangements, which have been made for us, we can then become accomplished children of God, on condition that we pass all the stages of the education that the Almighty has planned for us.

Since the coming of our dear Saviour to Earth, a class of people has already received that education. They are Christ's Disciples, who have followed their Master to sacrifice. Currently, there is another class of people who are also willing to receive instruction from the Lord God. That courageous group, called the Host of the Lord, is an heir to the earthly promises. It does not give its life, it keeps it through faith and through the changing of its character.

The divine education has also been foreseen for all humankind and will soon happen, namely, in the Restoration of All Things, which was foretold long ago by the Prophets, by Christ himself and by Apostle Peter. Acts 3: 21.

We see that the remedy for the ailments of our society was provided long ago by God Himself. Let us therefore not fall into nostalgia by looking back and mourning for the past. Let us rather accept the divine promises and the faith that God would very much like to give us, and let us set our sights on the future. Let us look ahead, by faith, to the blessed time when God's Kingdom will be introduced on Earth. Let us accept the terms of the contract that the Almighty wants to make with humankind. Then, we can be an example to those around us, and we will be a testimony of the lived Truth. If we are faithful, we can even participate in the Revealing of the Children of God, for which the world is waiting, without knowing it (Romans 8: 19). We will then belong to the privileged who can hasten the Deliverance of humanity through the introduction of God's Kingdom on Earth.

tor... to my children and my husband, who himself is greatly moved by it, and it has done him a lot of good. Sometimes, he interrupts to say: 'It's wonderful! Could the Lord really have judged us worthy of understanding such magnificent things?' He, like me, is doing his best to get in line with the instructions given, and this enables us to create a wonderful harmony between ourselves and the children. So, with the Lord's assistance and that of your prayers, I shall try to give my fellow people the comfort I have received myself. Above all, I don't intend to be ungrateful for all the divine blessings of which I have been the object."

### News in brief of the Reign of Justice

The trials that have happened in the world in general and also in the Family of Faith, over several months, make us think seriously. If we want to become children of God, the Lord entrusts us with a ministry in his House. It

consists of introducing the Kingdom of God on Earth, and of making known to the world, the Lord God's true character, his law of love, and his plan of Salvation for all people. To fulfil this ministry, one must be clothed with the Spirit of God. The Spirit can only work in us through faith. That is why all our desires, efforts and aspirations should converge towards the ultimate goal of making faith grow and flourish in us.

For a child of God, everything is based on faith. It doesn't matter if they are physically strong or weak, whether they have great abilities or not, or whether they are highly educated and intelligent, or without knowledge. The Lord God can employ anyone to do his Work. The essential condition is to have faith, which is a gift from God. The Lord Jesus tells us: "It shall be done for you according to your faith."

Let us also note that we have entered "the great time of trial" that comes on all the inhabitants of the Earth. On the other hand, our

dear Saviour foretold us that if those days of Tribulation were not shortened, no one would be saved. But for the sake of the Elect (the Chosen Ones), those days will be shortened.

In his great goodness, the Lord God gives us a little more time. Let us therefore have the wisdom to use this time of divine patience to strengthen our faith. Our faith must become unshakeable, so that nothing can overthrow it. This faith is made of complete trust in Almighty God and in his beloved Son. It gives us the absolute conviction in the divine power that can do everything to contribute to the good of those who love God. If we have the benefit of this influence, we fear nothing, and we risk nothing.

Of course, for faith to work properly in us, it must be fed by virtue, which is altruism: love for others. We must exist for their good, no longer seeking anything for ourselves. Everything selfish causes a weakening of faith.

We must not let ourselves be influenced by the Adversary, who would like to intimidate us

by the reasonings of corrupt human wisdom, and who makes us think that it is too late to strengthen ourselves, and that others can do it, but that we can't. All of that represents intimidation by the Adversary, who wants to hold us back by any means. No one is too poor to be enriched by divine grace, and no one is too capable to do without the Lord's help. He is the Rock of Ages, so let us lean on Him with all our strength, and we will never be disappointed. He will never fail us, and we can experience his faithfulness and achieve victory.

Let us remember that humanity is in distress. Its situation must be close to our heart. Let us also remember that the fight is personal, but that Salvation is collective. It is therefore by working for the Salvation of others, that we will ensure our own.

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