

THE REIGN OF JUSTICE

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The Restoration of All Things

WELL may it be said that man is a traveller and a stranger on Earth. He is born, lives and dies, and the place where he was, knows him no more. When, having been absent some years, he returns to his birthplace, he perceives strangers in the house where he used to live: those people do not know him. That is how things are most of the time. People who have built houses have done it with great care, applying all their knowledge and taking great pains, but in a little while, they are carried off in the direction taken by all the inhabitants of the Earth, for all men are condemned, and capital punishment is their lot.

That hopeless situation arises from the fact that man is in disagreement with the Universal Law, which requires a thing to exist for the good of all others, to be of use to them, and to procure them blessing. Man has broken that law: his every aspiration and thought, centre solely on one thing, his own interests and on defending them at any price, in some cases even ruthlessly, thus causing great suffering to fellow men.

Man is only a creature of a day. As the Scriptures declare, he is like a flower of the fields, which blossoms into full beauty in one day, but fades the next. In spite of that hopeless situation, he possesses, in his heart, the hope of eternity, and a sort of feeling that all is not over, that there is reason to hope in some future and better life promised in the Bible. Indeed, it is written: "God has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also put eternity into the human heart, yet no one can find out the work that God has done from beginning to end."

If death comes at all ages to break off man's life, that arises from his walking in the opposite direction to that of perpetual motion, which, when it is followed, will grant man the privilege of living forever on Earth. For that to be possible, he must go in the direction of perpetual motion, which is nothing other than the Universal Law, commanded by the Lord, Jehovah, He Who lives throughout eternity. In his Word, God says: "One generation goes, and another generation comes, but the Earth remains forever." That demonstrates the fact that the Earth moves constantly in the right direction, whereas man goes contrary to his interests and his preservation.

When one contemplates the Sun following its course in Space, accompanied by its planets, there also is fidelity to be observed, an exactitude of motion in a

predetermined direction. The Sun revolves around a system even greater than its own, taking all the planets with it. The principles followed are adhered to with absolute fidelity. Nothing is able to hinder them in their course.

David noticed that marvellous circulation and speaks of it in lofty terms, full of poetic charm. He says: "The Sun is like a bridegroom coming out of his room, like a champion rejoicing to run his race. It rises at one end of the heavens and runs its course to the other. Nothing can hide from its heat." In very truth, the Sun greets the planets with its grace and its powerful friendship, and the Earth is the chief beneficiary, for there, it causes the grass to germinate and also all sorts of plants and trees, agreeable to look at.

The Lord has granted man intelligence to understand and to appreciate all those wonders and glorious manifestations of solicitude. Unfortunately, man has been struck with condemnation: he cannot see and he cannot feel all these splendours in which he would be able to see the works of God, with the naked eye, if he would permit himself to be enlightened by the divine law. He would be capable of recognizing the sublime and glorious Jehovah, Who is Kindness, Friendship, Joy and Happiness.

The Sun and the planets, including the Earth, travel around at an enormous speed. They rotate in orbits of gigantic radii. The Earth is at the benefit of that motion for its good and so that it might be a blessing to the creatures entrusted to it.

As a mother watches over her children and feeds them, so the Earth, fertilized by the dew from heaven, produces edible vegetables and delicious fruit to feed and keep man alive, and magnificent flowers to make his heart glad. The rivers flow constantly towards the sea, but the sea is never filled, because it, too, is destined to contribute towards the general blessing, according to the will of God, expressed in his glorious law, which requires each thing to exist for the sole purpose of gladdening and blessing.

Man is out for his own interests, and that is why he does not follow perpetual motion, which invites one to exist to gladden the hearts of fellow men. On the contrary, he is out for profit. He wants to employ his fellows in his own service and to make his fellows pay him interest, while for his part, he receives all things from the kind hand of blessing of Him Whom he does

not know, and Who, in spite of that, is to him a discreet Friend, Who does not boast and Who gives constantly. When He gives, his right hand does not know what his left has done. The Lord does everything for the good, the joy and the blessing of man. He makes his Sun rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Man cannot appreciate all those wonderful blessings, all that kindness and all that benevolence, and for that reason, his heart is often sad and downcast. Being unaware of his Benefactor's profound love, he turns his back on Him.

So, mankind follow a way that is apart and contrary to the circulation of all things in the direction of eternal happiness, the source of which is the love of God, which is the glorification of his splendid character. All things, indeed, circulate in the one direction, that of altruism, always for good and for blessing. In the human body, blood circulates according to the will of Him Who called man into existence to bless him and to set him over his handiwork. Man has taken no account of all that, because his mind is under the influence of "the spirit of the world", which works in the children of disobedience, of whose number he is.

The human organism thus works in accordance with the Universal Law. The blood flows through every part of the body, carrying life and depositing blessing in all the tissues. Man, indeed, is part of the terrestrial creation, which is at the benefit of all divine blessing. However, owing to his mentality, he is part of the fallen creation, which makes him an enemy of God in his thoughts and desires.

Divine love: power of everlasting life

Everything in nature is kind. When you walk along the edge of a wood, you feel delightfully enfolded in the perfume of flowers. The shimmer of green, spread before your eyes, is most restful, and birdsongs give you joy. The gentle scented breeze caresses your forehead. That gives you a feeling of the gentleness and of the delightful tenderness pervading the Lord's creation and inviting you to thank the Creator of Heaven and Earth.

As you wind your way further on, you come to a dwelling place. Here, there is a radical change of atmosphere. You can hear loud voices. In the farmyard, you may perceive a young man waving his arms around and raving at an old man, till he is driven to go indoors. The young man was threatening his father because material interests drove them apart. The cause of the dispute is a mere agricultural tool that the son has allowed to rust. His father has remonstrated with him,

The Almighty: the Best of Fathers

FRANCE: It was in the splendid region of Alpes-de-Haute-Provence, with its enormous limestone mountains, so clear-cut against the sky, which partition off some charming wooded valleys through which flow bubbling streams that break into many torrents as they tumble impetuously down the steep mountain sides.

In one of those valleys, a high mountain gave shelter to a cluster of houses. Here, a farm, somewhat apart from the rest, appeared to be seeking protection near a mighty wall of stone.

Of old, beneath those brilliant skies, pious and fervent Huguenots (persecuted French Protestants of the 16th and 17th centuries) had often gathered in the fields to meditate on the Word of God.

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One day, far from this spot, in the neighbouring country of Switzerland, there began to spread a splendid message of light and love. Inspired by the Holy Spirit of God, the Lord's Messenger had just written *The Divine Revelation* and *The Message to Humanity* (the Book of Remembrance), two very precious books which revealed God's true character and his ways. The time had come, in the great divine timetable, for the exposure of every religious error by the message of the "everlasting Gospel", destined to enlighten all people with that radiant light which will, one day, illuminate the whole world. Accordingly, some bold and determined hearts, gripped by that magnificent ideal, were putting all their strength and their whole life into the Lord's service, seeking all over the world for the hearts athirst for justice, for truth and for consolation. The Lord's Messenger also established Test Stations (Christian communities) of the Kingdom

of God, in France, the land of the Huguenots.

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In the farm nestling in the shadow of the great mountain, there lived a pleasant family. Gabriel, the father, cared for the flocks and herds, and tilled the soil of the small holding. Amelia, the mother, devoted all her loving energies to the care of her seven children, a lively lot of youngsters, all energy and joy of life, thriving on the affectionate atmosphere that pervaded their home.

Gabriel had been right through World War 1 (1914-1918). He had witnessed priests blessing big guns. He had also been present at the unleashing of the hatred of the nations, at all sorts of painful and sorry scenes which had dealt deep wounds to his honest and sensitive heart. His soul was aflame with the noble aspirations of the Huguenots. The local pastor was a friend of the family and paid them frequent visits.

That is how matters stood when, one day, a young man from Switzerland knocked on Gabriel's door to announce the Good News of the Kingdom of God, not of the god of the religions, but of the God of all mercy and all compassion, Who is not the instigator either of hatred, punishment or death. That evangelist tells Gabriel about God's Reign, which is coming, when all tears will be wiped away, when death will come to an end, and when life and happiness will be for all men.

Gabriel is deeply impressed by that message. The young man's testimony interests him very much. So, he joyfully acquires *The Message to Humanity* offered to him by the evangelist. He puts it in a drawer, quite determined to read it. However, he is so busy around the farm, that he forgets all about it.

Two years later, the youngest of his boys falls seriously ill. Samuel, another of the boys, is a great help to Amelia in nursing the young

and the young man is put out. He has had an outburst of temper.

What a terrible contrast there is between the delightful impressions obtained along the edge of the wood and that scene of disharmony and sorrow! It is the story of the human race. It is made of quarrels and disputes, and jealousy and war, that go on within a family, within a nation and among nations. Self-interest and self-love cause fellow men to be regarded as enemies. Threats are hurled at them, as they were by the son at his father.

Mankind are guided by a selfish spirit. That spirit circulates in a direction contrary to that of the Sun and the planets, of the air, of the water and of everything else on Earth. Being submissive to the divine law, the stars, planets and elements do not circulate at all for their own interests, but always for the sole purpose of being useful to others, of giving joy and of doing good. On the other hand, in man's heart, it is the devilish spirit that circulates. It makes him selfish and the enemy of his fellows, urging him to stand up for his own interests, as is to be seen from the top to the bottom of the social scale.

It is under the influence of that deadly spirit that men have promulgated their laws contrary to the law of love, the Universal Law. The powerful have grabbed the Earth and prohibit the poor from receiving blessing from it. They have robbed the poor of it. They put a wall around their property, and they hire keepers to punish any who would stretch forth a hand to pick the fruit that God has caused to grow. They punish any who go into a field of corn to take a few ears, which are the bread of life. That is how the rich prevent the poor from having their share.

In the nations around us called Christian, they celebrate Christmas, Easter and Pentecost, but do not love the poor, and are enemies of him who came to die on the Cross for rich and poor. Yet it is the acquisitiveness of those with greater ability and greater possibilities, that made the rest poor. However, all things find their level, whether one likes it or not. The Earth, acquired unjustly by man, opens its mouth and swallows him, lays him out in the cold grave. There, rich and poor are on the same level. They have all lost their lives and are no more than a heap of dung.

Our Lord Jesus came to Earth and said: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven." He came to comfort them, seeing that the powerful men of the Earth had afflicted them. He intends to free the whole human race, without exception, from its misfortunes, for it is guilty and therefore dying. He laid down his life for it, so that all clamour, disputes, hatred and selfishness would stop. He made himself poor to enrich the poor. He bore the sufferings of mankind and took their pains on himself. He was wounded for our sins and beaten for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace fell on him.

That is the manifestation of divine love. God's eternal love was expressed in the conduct of his dearly beloved Son, who did his Father's will, opening his arms to the sorrowing creation. He came to restore peace and harmony all over the world, but first of all, in the hearts of men.

Another wonderful display of the wisdom, the power and the goodness of God, is his having foreseen a class of people predestined to be the friends and the brethren of Jesus Christ, his dearly beloved Son. God loved them before the foundation of the world, because He knew how great their zeal would be for his Kingdom. Having foreknown them, He predestined them to become like his Son. They associate with the Saviour of the world, having been justified by his blood, to lay down their lives as he did, faithfully following his ways.

They are aware of the Lord blessing them, so that they may bless others by laying down their lives with that of their Master for the Ransom of mankind. The Almighty is carried away with gladness at the thought of them, because they do his will and have only one purpose, which is to provide mankind with Salvation.

Once those people, numbering 144,000, are found and educated, and when the last of them has finished their race — which is about to happen — the Lord calls up the Host of the Lord, who are the first fruits of mankind at the benefit of the results of the Redemption. They, in turn, get into the great universal circulation of altruism. They are the consolation of that Little Flock. It is also thanks to that Host that mankind will receive blessing in the Kingdom of God, which is coming, as the wonderful effects of the Work of our dear Saviour and of his Little Flock.

The last members of the Little Flock have to form the Tabernacle of God among men. The Lord extends his grace and his blessing to his dearly beloved Son. The Son of God, our dear Saviour, extends his blessing to his beloved Disciples. They shed blessing on the Host of the Lord and on mankind, so that praise and glory may return to the Almighty. The Almighty has provided and arranged for everything in advance, so that the everlasting circulation of blessing is set up from Him to his Son, from his Son to the Church (the Little Flock), and from the Church to the Host of the Lord and to all mankind, who are going to be restored on Earth into the grace of God. That is how these words of the psalmist are fulfilled: "Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!"

Extraordinary story

Years ago, the following report was published under the title "The fairy tale in Gingins" in the French-language newspaper *24 Heures (24 Hours)* from the canton (state) of Vaud in Switzerland, and was written by Xavier Dormond:

The love of Emilie, the weasel

Since 1985, the family of Guy and Line De Rham, who live in the town of Gingins in Switzerland, have been experiencing a real fairy tale. It all began one day in April when Virgil — one of the dogs belonging to Françoise Guyot, the daughter of Mr and Mrs De Rham — brought home a small "ball of fur", hardly bigger than a grapefruit: it was a young animal that Françoise first thought was a squirrel. But not at all...it was a baby weasel that was just a few days old and still had closed eyes! It was firstly fed with an eyedropper and then with a doll's nursing bottle; it was given the name Emilie; and it became a fully fledged member of the family and lived at home. But Emilie has kept her most precious possession: her freedom. "And that's the most important thing," says Françoise Guyot.

Faced with this silky but unidentified ball of fur, Françoise Guyot, a passionate animal lover, was immediately confronted with the difficult question of how to feed this little being. After having realized that it was a weasel and after having comfortably put it in a woollen nest, Françoise prepared the first bottle: reconstituted cat milk. Emilie had to be fed drop by drop, and she later agreed to take her meals from the doll's bottle. Everything is going well. Emilie is growing fast and feels comfortable in the house. The little ball of fur then settles in a wash basin in one of the bathrooms of Françoise's parent's villa, and explores the place with Othello, a young cat that grows up with her. Emilie's passion? Playing with the toilet flush, whose button she often presses. She is also interested in the books in the library. And she greedily attacks them, causing some damage. "Emilie must be an intellectual. She devours

books...but with her teeth," comments Line De Rham humorously. As for the other damages, they are limited to a few disrespectful attacks on the curtains and pelmets...and that's all.

Family life

Being tame, Emilie shares the daily life of the family. She responds to her name and comes immediately when she is called. Brought up in comfort, but never stupidly humanized or considered as a toy, Emilie does not balk at a drop of champagne. She gladly curls up on her masters' lap and likes to take refuge under Françoise's sweater to nibble on her ears, passing her little head through the neckline. As for food, Emilie lacks nothing: meat, various leftovers, a daily raw egg and some strawberries in season... The good life!

But one day in November 1985, Emilie didn't come back home from one of her escapades. There was disappointment and sadness in the De Rham family... Emilie will probably not come back! Wrong. Two days later, there she was, on the front doorstep, with a severely wounded leg, having a broken femur. An operation and careful nursing restored her leg and zest for life. The only visible trace of this misfortune is a large scar on her thigh.

Maternal instinct

In the spring of 1986, excited by the reproductive instinct, Emilie suddenly showed her desire to leave the premises. And once again, the De Rham family thought it was the end of the fairy tale. But no...nothing like that. Emilie's attachment to Françoise was too great. And it was at her home, where Virgil had brought her in 1985, that the little predator came to give birth to her two weasels. And ever since then, history has been repeating itself... Emilie lives with her offspring at Françoise's place. But she has regained some of her freedom. She left the cosy comfort of the interior to take up residence under the roof of the wood shed, located right next to the house of Françoise Guyot and her husband. Nature claims its rights, and Emilie's little ones are wild. Nobody, except Françoise, can approach them. Morals are saved!

That really is a curious and extraordinary story because weasels are particularly wild little animals that are frightened at the sight of humans, rather than attracted. And the latter certainly do not want weasels anywhere near their rabbit hutches or chicken coops either...

What is already interesting here is the reaction of Virgil the dog, which delicately brought his find to his mistress. That suggests that he was aware of her charitable and benevolent feelings towards animals, and that he himself had benefitted greatly from that and was also imbued with them. Seized with compassion in front of this small creature, undoubtedly deprived of its mother and in danger of starving to death, it did not take him long to figure out the means to help her. He knew whom to turn to and did not hesitate for a second. There is no doubt that the meticulous care given to his little protégé, followed by her physical development, and then her investigations and frolics around the house, must have interested and amused him.

And how pleasant it is to see the attachment of this little weasel to her benefactor! Her trust went as far as giving birth where she opened her eyes and where her whole being savoured the tenderness of a caressing and generous hand. The three photos that accompany the report are a magnificent confirmation of the latter. One shows Emilie perched on the head of a statue, the second shows her playing with a roll of canvas or plastic, and the third shows her in the company of Othello, the black cat with which she gets along perfectly.

That is an instructive experience which, like so many others made with animals of a different nature and appearance, reinforces our faith in the prophecies. They herald the happy and blessed times when full

patient whom they all love very much, but alas are powerless to save. While sitting up to watch over this brother one night, and rummaging through a drawer, Samuel discovers the book left by the evangelist. He reads it right through, and his heart is gripped by the Truth. The more he thinks it over, the keener becomes his interest in that Work of God's conception, which he glimpses to be immense and far-reaching. An ardent desire to collaborate on the introduction of the Kingdom of God, is born in his heart and goes on increasing. He attends a meeting which deals with that programme and comes into contact with the Lord's Messenger.

Now, Samuel has reached the age of 18. He declares his wish to collaborate on the Lord's Work, and is accepted. So, he leaves his father's house to devote himself entirely to the Lord's service.

An evangelist goes on visiting Gabriel and his family, some of whose members are

very receptive to the divine hopes and are in full sympathy with Samuel in his keenness to serve the Lord. Samuel is now collaborating on a Test Station which has recently been opened by the Lord's Messenger for the purpose of illustrating, in practice, the magnificent fraternity of the Kingdom being established.

There is a new addition to Gabriel's family, a little girl, who is joyfully welcomed as a consolation for the loss of the son who died. She is called Alice and is the pet of the whole household.

Samuel's enthusiasm for divine ways has communicated an impetus of blessing to the members of his family. Father, mother, a brother and Rose, one of his sisters, have taken a particularly great interest in the message of the Truth. Evangelists visit them regularly and lavish affection on them, keeping alive the flame of the everlasting Gospel. The Messenger himself came one

day to pay a visit to those kind and sincere hearts.

The child Alice thus grows up in a wholesome atmosphere of kindness. Already as a small child, she used to go to sleep to the sound of her mother singing to her:

*O Father, let thy hand grant blessing,
When into my warm bed I creep,
And all my faults to Thee confessing,
Beneath thy wing, I'll go to sleep.*

As she grew up, the little girl would join in the singing with all her heart. Her mother had told her that the youngest of her brothers died when he was quite small, and that the Lord Jesus had given his life, so that the little one might return to the bosom of his family at the Resurrection. Her father had told her that, one day, there will be no more poor, no one who grieves and no more wars in which fathers have to suffer and die, as well as mothers and children. All these things made

a profound impression on the child and were graven deeply in her heart.

From time to time, Samuel would come home to pay them a visit. What a day that would be for the whole family, particularly Alice, for she had great affection for her brother! She had been told that her big brother was working with all his might, so that one day, there will be no more death on Earth. Alice also stored that up in her heart, and it increased her admiration for that big brother.

Samuel always behaved with dignity. He never raised his voice. He was always calm and collected, and that had a magnificent effect on the little girl who had no taste for childish disputes or quarrelling. When anything like that happened around her, she would always go into the thick of things to try and bring peace where there was strife. The thing which stood out more than any other in Alice's heart, was the thought of the

understanding will reign among all beings, as it did until the day when Adam, the common ancestor of all men, transgressed the recommendation that had been given to him. It is from sin that misunderstanding and incompatibility arose, but it will be from grace that peace and harmony will be born.

The deception of the internet

From the Belgian newspaper *En Marche* No. 1637 on the 17th of October 2019, we reproduce an article by Tom Guillaume, which seemed interesting to us. It questions the use we make of information technology (IT) and the effects that IT has on our daily lives.

Saving attention: choosing does not mean giving up

With an average attention span of nine seconds, a 21st-century person visibly struggles to focus their mind on a specific task. As soon as they are awake, they activate their smartphone an average of 30 times per hour.

Notifications, emails, video playbacks, etc, all lead to a decline of our ability to remain attentive and not turn off an activity. Except for social networks, which manage to monopolize our attention. It is difficult to estimate the time we spend scrolling through endless news feeds. But one thing is certain: it is difficult to turn away from them, and even more difficult to go without them.

A notification appears when one has not read anything for three minutes. That is only human: the smartphone is taking over from the book. As soon as the content of an important notification has been revealed, it is no longer very important. But the user remains connected and takes the opportunity to take a tour of the news that is constantly supplied.

To illustrate that relationship to concentration and the great difficulty of focusing on one task at a time, a simple glance at our personal practices speaks volumes. Apart from the 2.5 hours that a European citizen spends on their smartphone on average every day, how many hours do they exclusively dedicate to themselves? When one subtracts them from the work hours, and cuts down on sleep time or social interactions, one thing is clear: screen time encroaches on other activities. If these technologies sometimes save us time, then they reduce the quality of this time. Chatting for 30 minutes without looking at one's screen is rare, and reading a book without leaving the page has become an act of permanent fighting against digital distraction.

The exploited driving forces are as simple as they are dangerous: "The real goal of Technology Giants [Tech Giants] is to make people dependent, profiting from their psychological vulnerability," warns Tristan Harris, a former Google product manager. "The internet hacks your brain," he constantly repeats today, to warn against the excesses of his former employer and the other Tech Giants [Big Tech]: Amazon, Facebook and Apple.

Take time

"Captology": behind that scientific-looking name hides the techniques of diverting the attention of web users. Sophisticated design, user-friendliness and intuitiveness pushed to the maximum... Hundreds of engineers work to make the use of their website (site) as pleasant as possible. Make use easy, and above all, keep the user on the site. The economic model of the Tech Giants is, in fact, based on the time that the user spends on the application or the site. The longer they stay there, the more profit the company generates. Because it would be naive to think that Facebook, Google, Snapchat and others are really free. What they earn is the attention that is devoted to them and that will be sold to advertisers. Everything is arranged for the user to connect and stay as long as possible. Invisible and insidious technical means. Huge financial means. The user is helpless in the face of the heavy artillery that is set up.

Cut off everything?

Would the solution be to cut oneself off from everything? It is hard to imagine living today without technology. Whether it's professional emails, instant messaging or organizing a drink or a photo platform to help inspiration, anyone who nowadays ignores Big Tech is an outsider and also ignores those useful tools. A study published by UNICEF in 2017 demonstrates the educational advantages of smartphones among adolescents. It shows openness to the world, ease of socialization, development of increased attention...while warning against drifts. That also applies to adults. Instead of completely banning technologies, it would be more effective to question them and make conscious use of them. Do I really need to see this? Is this the right time? Such simple questions improve usage and help to not lose sight of the meaning and the goal in this permanent flow.

Question the meaning

In his French book La civilisation du poisson rouge [The civilization of goldfish], journalist Bruno Patino mentions four indicators for the reasonable use of technologies in order to find "a new wisdom and a new freedom of learning" — 1: Secure (keep places offline) — 2: Protect (spend a moment unconnected) — 3: Explain (and warn about drifts) — and 4: Slow down. Tristan Harris, a repentant "Googler", founded the Time Well Spent movement. His programme is clear: "We envision a world where technology supports our shared well-being, sense-making..." Do not cut off everything. Rather, submit our smartphone to our conscience, but not the other way around.

An attention span of nine seconds is not really much. On the other hand, to check one's smartphone 30 times every hour, which means every 2 minutes, really is a lot. One can truly say that our gadgets know how to capture our attention and divert us from our usual occupations. And that is exactly what the information providers aim for, in order to have as many people as possible go to their websites and increase the number of their users.

But what are the consequences of that race for profit? They may be catastrophic for users. Today, we still do not have enough detachment to evaluate the consequences of our usage of information and communication technologies (ICT). But one thing that we can say for certain is that they have radically changed our way of life and our habits. Nowadays, it is unusual to not have a smartphone or a computer. And what was unimaginable just 50 years ago, is nowadays a fact. One question that one should ask oneself is: "What are the effects of these new technologies on our physical and mental health?" Because our brain is certainly not made to absorb such an amount of information or to turn to new things without a break. There are also other questions: "What do we want to do with all this information? Is it really useful? Is it absolutely necessary for us to be up to date with everything and to spend so much time on the screen?"

All of that has been recognized and clarified by Tom Guillaume. According to his opinion, which seems to be balanced and clear sighted, one should decide and choose what one would really like to be informed about, and that also applies to our distractions and the things one should abstain from, instead of completely giving them up. In reality, the choice is not as easy as it may seem, because of the techniques that the Tech Giants use to direct our attention. These techniques even have a name: captology, whose meaning is easy to understand.

To us, this behaviour of our contemporaries — their thirst for novelties, distractions and diversions — hides a great emptiness. It is an emotional emptiness and a dissatisfaction. Something that fills and balances life, is missing. Something that ensures that one does not

have to look elsewhere, a type of fulfillment that gives us the feeling that nothing is missing and that we live in abundance and do not have to look for anything other than what we already have. The providers of internet access and of social networks, have certainly understood it, and they know how to strike a weak and sensitive point. They have found a gap that has become enormous and that they exploit. That is where their success comes from.

What humankind really lacks is divine communion, communion with its Creator, from Whom it was separated by the sin of our first parents. Since then, we have been subjected to all sorts of influences, especially that of God's Adversary, Satan, who pretends to be humankind's friend, but who really is humankind's Enemy, because he has made humankind unhappy through the seduction of sin. He therefore had to replace the connection that should exist between a creation and its Creator, with other things. He therefore went to the trouble of filling the minds of humankind with the worries of life and all sorts of distractions, with the single goal of diverting humankind away from its Benefactor.

And one can say that for quite a while, that goal has actually been accomplished with all the new means that are within everyone's reach. But one thing is certain, namely, that all those things do not make humankind happy. What humankind lacks will always be lacking in the current age. Because it is not the fact of being able to communicate endlessly that creates happiness and life. For that, it requires an exchange of good sentiments with one's fellow people and with the Almighty.

It is our dear Saviour, the beloved Son of God, who came to bring us what we lacked. He paid for our sins. And through his Sacrifice and his precious merits, we can regain divine communion and consequently life. He gave us to understand what we ourselves have to do to become viable: love our neighbour as ourselves, and God above all.

Climate change, and its consequences

In the following, we quote a report whose publication source and date are unknown to us. It concerns the melting of the ice, due to climate change, and we quote it in its entirety:

The sea ice is forming slower

Northern Hemisphere, autumn 2020: The formation of sea ice in the Arctic Ocean is experiencing an unprecedented delay. The Laptev Sea [a part of the Arctic Ocean], located on the northern coast of Siberia, is a place where sea ice is formed during the transition from summer to winter. At the end of October, the sea ice still has not returned.

Moreover, the last 14 years have recorded the smallest sea-ice areas ever recorded.

The first explanation for the delay in 2020: the record heatwave observed in northern Russia this summer. As a result, the water temperature is about 5°C above average, and the pack ice created the previous winter is melting. Another reason for the delay: climate change. It brings gentle currents of water from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arctic Ocean, which disrupts the formation of ice.

Scientists are warning us: a late arrival of sea ice could have repercussions for the entire polar region. The ice that forms in the Laptev Sea in early winter, is carried by currents to neighbouring oceans, where it melts in the spring. There, it releases the multitude of nutrients it contains, which nourish the plankton. Less ice would mean less nutrients, and therefore, in addition to impacting the ecosystem's food chain, a reduction in the ability of plankton to absorb carbon dioxide from the air.

Resurrection, which her mother had taught her in these words from the Gospel: "The time is coming when all who are in the grave will hear his voice [of the Son of Man] and will come out."

Alice would often spend long moments meditating on those words. She longed to know how that will happen. She would also wonder whether she would still have to wait a long time before she would see her dead brother return from the grave.

When she was 11, Alice attended a meeting presided over by dear Brother Victor Droz, who had come from Switzerland to spread the Good News of the Truth. The following year, great was her happiness to be able to spend her holidays on the Test Station where Samuel was working. Her young heart is profoundly impressed by the atmosphere of peace and serenity which pervades that spot where everybody is working to overcome death. Of course, all that is somewhat difficult for a child

to understand. Although she feels it is a little beyond her grasp, she believes in it firmly. How she longs to be able to understand those things, which she feels are so beautiful and so lofty, and which have deeply marked her heart, ever since her earliest days!

For her 13th birthday, Father takes her to a big general meeting in Switzerland. What joy she has! There, she meets a large assembly of brothers and sisters in faith, and is plunged into a wonderful atmosphere of blessing. Above the speakers' platform, an inscription in large gilt letters greets her eyes: "My son, give me your heart." The Lord's Messenger sings a solo: "Hear, O Heavens, and Give Ear, O Earth!" After that, many in the assembly raise their hands to signify their wish to make a Covenant over the Law with God. Others come forward to be baptised with the Baptism of Consecration. She goes to one of them, quite trustfully, to ask some questions, and the answers from that brother,

who has just newly consecrated himself, impress her deeply.

When she gets home from that meeting, her mother asks her: "Alice, my child, what are you going to do when you grow up?" She answers: "I shall do like Samuel and work for the Lord. That is what will give me the most happiness."

What a magnificent consolation the child's answer is to her mother, the more so that she is beginning to feel her strength diminishing! Very shortly after that, mother falls sick. Rose, one of Alice's sisters, comes home to nurse her. It is about this time that World War 2 (1939–1945) breaks out, and Rose's husband has to go to the front, and she is left deeply discouraged. Fortunately, a passing evangelist, as they always do, brought her divine consolation. Finding comfort in that, Rose plucks up her courage. Samuel also comes home to help to nurse his mother. In spite of all the care lavished on her by her loved

ones, Amelia is unable to pick up again. She dies in her husband's and her children's arms.

When this painful event took place, Alice had turned 15. For her, it was a terrible heart-break. Here was death, snatching away the one who had always been her greatest moral support and a magnificent power of affection.

Amelia had often spoken to her daughter about the Divine Family. She told her: "There, you do not meet that coldness which so often cuts you off from your fellow men. You are all delightfully close to one another in a brotherly communion that does you good, because in that family, you love one another truly, selflessly, sincerely and devotedly."

Having spent a few months at home, Samuel returns to The New Earth, which is the name of the Test Station where he is working, and Rose to her home, leaving Alice alone with her father, who also keenly feels the loss of his wife. The girl is inconsolable. She wonders: "Why must one suffer such

Methane trapped in ice is released

As a result of global warming, deposits of methane, frozen in the depths of the Arctic Ocean, are released into the atmosphere.

That is the discovery of a team of scientists who observed high levels of methane at depths of 350 metres in the Laptev Sea. The probable cause of their thaw: the arrival of warm currents from the Atlantic Ocean, due to climate change.

Known as "the sleeping giants of the carbon cycle", those deposits, which trap methane, release powerful greenhouse gases: over 20 years, methane has a warming effect 80 times greater than that of carbon dioxide.

In view of that situation, scientists believe that we have crossed the point of no return.

That discovery follows the recording of record temperatures in Siberia, which were an average of 5°C higher over the period from January to June 2020.

We thought that climate change would melt the ice and cause the sea level to rise. In reality, the consequences are much more far-reaching than that. In addition to the rise in the sea level, there is an environmental problem that we had not expected: the melting of the ice releases methane. According to scientists, this gas could be obtained from the anaerobic decomposition of organic matter, however, "the ultimate source of this methane remains unknown". The Antarctic contains about one quarter of the total amount of methane stored in the ocean. Scientists believe that the melting of the permafrost could be one of the most important causes of climate change. According to their estimations, since the time of the mammoths, about 1,500 billion tonnes of carbon have been stored in the ice.

Methane (CH₄) is a gas that is composed of one carbon atom and four hydrogen atoms. Carbon dioxide

(CO₂), also a gas, is composed of one carbon atom and two oxygen atoms. In the atmosphere, one 1 kilogram of methane has the global warming potential (GWP) of 25 kilograms of carbon dioxide. Methane is found in the permafrost in the form of methane hydrate, also called methane clathrate, which is composed of methane trapped within ice. There are immense energy reserves contained on the edges of the oceans, especially in the Arctic. Because methane is a gas that has big effects on the greenhouse effect, its reserves could be a climate time bomb. Unfortunately, methane, which is stable in clathrate at certain temperatures and pressures, is released during a slight warming of the ocean. The amount of methane that is currently being released from the Arctic off the East Siberian coast, is comparable to the amount that is released from all the other oceans combined. This region is responsible for 9% of global methane emissions. 50 billion tonnes could be released from the Siberian Sea. That is 10 times more than is currently in the atmosphere. The permafrost on the ocean floor is currently losing its quality as an impenetrable lid.

Furthermore, the more that methane gas is released, the more there will be in the atmosphere. One study has even claimed that if methane is released from the Siberian Sea for 10 years, for example between 2015 and 2025, that it would bring forward, by 15 to 35 years, the likely date that the temperature would increase by 2°C, which is the limit that should not be exceeded to maintain an inhabitable planet. That study concludes that the effects of that change would cause additional costs estimated at 60,000 billion US dollars, which is almost the value of global gross domestic production (GDP) since the year 2010.

Currently, there are also natural methane sources in the oceans and seas.

Apart from methane, polar ice also contains viruses, such as the "pithovirus", which is a very old "giant virus", and which was discovered in the frozen ground of north-eastern Siberia. It is not dangerous to humans or animals, but it is nevertheless not a good sign. "The demonstration that viruses buried in the ground more than 30,000 years ago can survive and still be infectious, suggests that the melting of permafrost due to global warming and the mining and industrial exploitation of the arctic regions, could pose risks to the public health," emphasizes Jean-Michel Claverie, who is an Emeritus Professor of Genomics and Bioinformatics at the French National Research Center (CNRS).

According to a study by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) in 2008, the Arctic might hold up to 13% of the world's undiscovered oil and approximately 30% of the world's undiscovered natural gas. There is also zinc in Alaska, nickel in northern Russian, tungsten (a rare metal)...

All that information is very thought-provoking to us, and we understand that the scientists who are occupied with the climate-change problem, cannot find a solution. From the human point of view, there isn't one. We know that the only solution comes from God, and that it will be the Restoration of All Things, which was already announced by the Prophets (Acts 3: 21). Condemnation will be lifted, and God's Spirit will be poured out on all people (Joel 2: 28). Under that influence, humankind will leave the path of selfishness, and head in the direction of lawfulness. Humankind will learn to live according to the Universal Law, by living for the good of each other and of their place of residence, the Earth. Humankind will no longer hurt or harm each other and will form a large single family of people who love each other, which thus enables them to live eternally.

partings? It's so agreeable to live with those you love." However keen her own pain is, she also realises that her father needs the consolation of her affection, and that helps her to bear the terrible parting.

Five years go by in that way, and then fresh pain comes to Alice. Father goes to sleep in his turn, and now she is completely alone in the home from which all the old impressions of blessing have vanished. It appears to her as if all the home joys have fled for ever.

Alice thinks a great deal about death, that terrible thing that breaks up homes and that has pitilessly taken from her, one after another, those she loved, her advisers and kind protectors.

Alice feels incapable of staying alone in her empty shell. Her brothers and sisters understand that perfectly. The matter must be thought over. Rose, who is very fond indeed of her younger sister, takes her to live with her in Paris, and gives her all her sisterly love and care. Soon, Alice finds a job in a telephone exchange, where she discovers some kind workmates. When summer comes around, those new friends take her with them to the seaside for the holidays. For, Alice it is impossible to live in that holiday mood. Three times, she leaves the holiday camp and joins some evangelists whom she has discovered working in the region. She evangelises with them and has great joy in doing so.

Back in Paris, after the holidays, on the strength of her short experience in evangelizing, Alice gives the reason for her hopes to her work friends, who all listen to her respectfully.

She then devotes all her spare time to evangelizing. The poor folk who open their doors to her, tell her all their troubles and all their pain. Out of the fullness of her heart, from which such magnificent hopes are brimming over, she is able to comfort so many who have gone through the vicissitudes of life, to impart, to them, the assurances of the Kingdom of God, which her dear mother so carefully instilled in her when she was still young. Those experiences help her to very much more keenly appreciate how great the value is of the divine message deposited in her heart, which some evangelists, in the past, carried with them so zealously and fervently to her home region.

The worldly atmosphere becomes increasingly tasteless to the heart of Samuel's young sister. She thinks over and over again about the question her dear mother asked her shortly before she died: "Alice, my child, what are you going to do when you grow up?" and the answer she gave back then: "I shall do like Samuel and work for the Lord." She feels ever-more powerfully drawn towards that ideal. She prays to the Lord with all the

ardour of her heart to give her the strength to take the step and to keep her promise to her mother.

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Alice has taken that decisive step, and the following year, she is received on one of the Test Stations of the Kingdom of God. She spends several months there, in the atmosphere so dear to her heart. She has a growing understanding of the wonderful message of the Truth, and her heart opens ever-wider to the sunshine of divine grace.

The year draws to a close. Everyone on the Test Station is preparing to celebrate the Saviour's birth in a special family meeting. The brother presiding over the meeting reads the story of the Wise Men who came from the East to bring gifts to the newly born Son of God and also to Joseph and Mary. The brothers and sisters deliver vibrant testimonies and also sing hymns. Very stirring impressions are made on all hearts by the various commentaries of the Lord's birth, ministry and Sacrifice, his life given to redeem mankind. Anna the Prophetess, and Simeon the venerable old man, are also mentioned from the Bible.

That is the very first time Alice has ever taken part in a family meeting of that kind. She is very, very deeply moved. She particularly keenly feels the atmosphere, so delightful to the heart, of the Father's House. At this solemn moment, so full of brightly shining impressions, what adds to her emotion is the profound assurance, imparted to her heart, that her beloved parents and her dear little brother will all come back at the Resurrection. Now, she is able to sympathise with the feeling Simeon had when he held the little child Jesus in his arms, and exclaimed: "Lord, now let your servant die in peace...for my eyes have seen your Salvation."

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Years have gone by. Alice is still at her post, and great blessing accompanies her joyful activity. Every day, she understands more clearly the depth and the radiant splendour of the divine programme, and applies heart and soul to hastening the presence of the Day of God, when his Kingdom will be established all over the world, and when, owing to the Work of Christ and of his faithful Disciples, everyone who has gone into the grave will be restored to life. It is for that reason that these words of a hymn are so often on her lips:

*Lord, Thou from shame didst take me,
Saying in accents mild:
"I, to my heart, will take thee,
And thou shalt be my child!"
Thou, Lord, art my Salvation,
I have no more distress.
I feel thy consolation,
Given with tenderness.*

News in brief of the Reign of Justice

We will once again have the opportunity to gather on the 18th of October to celebrate the birthday of the dear Little Flock, of those courageous people who followed their Master on the path of Sacrifice. In the following, we reproduce several extracts from a commentary by the dear Messenger, which will be read out in Cartigny on this feast day:

What is the Little Flock?

It is a group of personalities of incomparable beauty of soul, who, on the inside and on the outside, have become the lived Gospel of Christ, because it has completely crystallized in them through a sublime mentality.

Apostle Paul completely embraced that Gospel. He could reflect it in an admirable way. He went through great difficulties, but he considered them all as minor afflictions compared to the excellent grace of being a sacrifice with his Lord and Master. It is that work of the soul, that allowed him to say, at the end of his career: the proof of my apostleship is my gentleness. ... From the sowings of his soul, he reaped the infinitely sweet fruits of gratitude and attachment.

If we sow like him, we will also reap like him. That is why it is now about amassing a great amount of wealth in order to share it during the Restoration of All Things, for the benefit of humanity. The acquisition of that wealth, costs us, as it did for Apostle Paul, the sufferings of the ministry. But if we have the same zeal as him, we will also have the same impressions. ...

The time is indeed quickly coming now, when the power of the Gospel — which was lived by our dear Saviour and put into practice by the Little Flock, assisted by the Host of the Lord — will be manifested everywhere on Earth. The dry lands will become green; the mountains will be covered with vegetation. The rivers will run clear and transparent water, and the streams will flow like silver threads, for there will no longer be anything to disturb them. There will be nothing to trouble the heart of man, to darken or sadden it. The dead will come back from "the land of the enemy". The Garden of Eden will spread over the whole world. ...

The large Test Station, which is the Earth, will be set up with family homes and superb colonies of the Reign of Justice. The whole world will breathe peace, joy and happiness. ... It will be filled with the blessing coming down from Jerusalem.

That will be the result of the Gospel of Christ, lived by our dear Saviour and by that Royal Priesthood. To achieve that, the battle will have been heated and fierce, and it will have cost everything of those who fought in

it, but it will result in the definitive victory of the Lamb over the Dragon, and the establishment of peace and happiness forever. And the Host of the Lord will have nobly participated in that achievement by assisting the last members of the Body of Christ. ...

The rescue of humankind can only be done through Christ, whose last members currently form "the feet". They are the Priests associated with the Master and are constantly and continuously capable of justifying the guilty, of making just what is unjust, of making honourable what is vile, and of finally bringing humankind to resemblance to the Lord.

The Bible tells us that those Elect (those Chosen ones) will shine like the splendour of the Sun in Space. Everything in Heaven and on Earth, will be subjected to them. They will be, with our dear Saviour, the immortal and glorious Royal Crown of the Almighty, because of the sparkling beauty of character they will have obtained. They will associate with the Son of God, to create other worlds and to give life to and nourish other beings of infinite number. ...

It is now absolutely necessary that we are able to move in that mentality and in those high divine spheres, through our sentiments. Every Consecrated must come to consider their consecrated brother or sister according to the incomparable greatness, glory and nobility of their mandate. One ignores one's "old creature", and only the new one must count, the one who is invested in "the ministry of reconciliation". What prevents us from fully merging into the full majesty of our mandate, is the lack of sufficient reverence, esteem and respect for the Lord, for his Son and for our brothers and sisters. And especially the lack of gratitude and attachment to the Most High, because He does not yet have first place in our heart in everything and everywhere.

Today should therefore be for us a day of happiness, of joy, of rejoicing and, above all, of gratitude, of deep appreciation and of firm decisiveness to have no more restrictions in the giving of our life. The Host of the Lord also has the opportunity today to gain new momentum to be more faithful to the programme and more attached to its new "mother" and "father". So, this celebration day will be pleasing to the Lord because it will be the starting point of magnificent spiritual progress in the heart of God's dear people. ...

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We join in those expressions from the heart of the dear Messenger, and offer our wishes of blessing and success to the dear Consecrated who are still among us.

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