

THE REIGN OF JUSTICE

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The Truth, a power of life and happiness

OF all things, the Truth is the most precious. It procures us inexpressible joy when we are capable of feeling how worthwhile it is and also how wonderful its effects are. We are sensitive creatures who, when we live up to the Truth, can become glorious ones. We can, on the other hand, also live in error and destroy ourselves by degrees, for everything that it is not law-abiding — which is not in agreement with the Truth, and which doesn't follow out the perfect law of the Universe — cannot keep. What we are now able to make out of the Truth is no longer a matter of theology, but a scientific matter. We are able to follow, in detail, the results of the line of conduct we are doing our best to keep to, which we call "law-abiding": we observe that it has fortunate and blessed results. In carrying out that programme, we are in a position to receive all sorts of good impressions and kind sentiments, generous ones, that uplift our souls and bring them into contact with the glorious power at work throughout the Universe. That power makes our being vibrate to the very core, and carries us away with gladness when we are subjected to its action.

In the Word of God, there are examples of people who sang hymns of praise because their hearts were brimful of gladness. David, for instance, writes in one of his psalms: "My heart overflows with a good theme." Sensations of this nature are exceedingly favourable to the health and to keep up the vitality of every human being. Generally, however, people receive impressions that are the exact opposite to these and build up in them a record, a character, which is a great calamity. We are always happy or unhappy according to the sentiments we record and display! By developing noble, affectionate and benevolent sentiments, we build up a happy character and automatically establish communion with the Source of happiness, divine love, which manifests itself throughout the Universe in the greatest possible variety of creations.

The Universal Law leads us straight to that Source of happiness when we are docilely guided by its divine principles. It is like someone coming kindly and affectionately to us and holding out a hand to fetch us out of the darkness, of our wretched condition, into the sunshine, the light of the Almighty's grace.

That was the feeling I had when I wrote *The Message to Humanity*. The introduction points out that it was as if we were in a tunnel into which only the

faintest gleams pierced through, a pallid light, things that could be mistaken for light because we had nothing better. When, however, we came to the mouth of the tunnel, the glory of the Lord appeared to us in full brightness. That is how divine love, revealed in Jesus Christ, appears to us. We can then forget all passing things, regard them as mere trifles that are nothing at all to us. When divine love makes its appearance in our hearts, it urges us to be kind, gentle and affectionate. It instils in us the desire to cover all those around us with indulgence, to be of service to them, and to be kind to them, according to our dear Saviour's example. In this way, we carry out the magnificent divine programme and go on making progress in knowledge of the Lord, because we live the Truth out. Then, all clouds are dispersed, our woes are dispelled by the power of the grace of God, and we are able to perceive the Lord's wonderfully beautiful Work. We rejoice in it to the full, regretting all the shortcomings we still have because of our lawless habits.

When — by following out the ways of law-abiding, and little by little doing away with our lawless habits instilled in us by the Adversary's influence — we become sensitive to God's Holy Spirit, our hearts are carried away with enthusiasm, and we become capable of being happy in all circumstances. We are constantly filled with a joy that nothing is able to dim, because the power of God's Spirit is able to work in us. We are then able to understand David's transports of joy when he said: "Praise the LORD! Praise the name of the LORD; praise Him, O you servants of the LORD, you who stand in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God!" David repeats his praise in over a hundred verses of his psalms, so much does his heart brim over with gladness at having been reached by divine grace through the Vital Fluid.

It is inexpressible joy for us to be able to follow out the Lord's ways as proposed to us. When things take place around us that do not agree with the Lord's ways, we are capable of making the deficit good, because of the great blessing granted to us in this way.

Of course, when a heart has been reached by divine ways, which give rise to magnificent bursts of enthusiasm, the Adversary always tries to throw a wet blanket over that enthusiasm. The question then is whether we are going to allow ourselves to be bound hand and foot by the great Adversary — who knows us thoroughly,

having shaped us with his spirit — or whether we are going to resist him.

If we do our best to live out the divine programme honestly, we shall succeed. For that purpose, we must be open and sincere, not look for any kind of excuse, and faithfully fulfil all the conditions. If we are rendered sensitive by divine grace, we find it easy to be nourished spiritually by the Vital Fluid, which countenances every action in line with law-abiding principles. This helps us to understand these words: "He who loves purity of heart... shall have the king for a friend." This is fulfilled automatically. There is no favouritism at all. Nobody receives special favours for possessing a flattering tongue, or for any other reason at all. What counts in the Lord's eyes is the condition of our hearts. When they are in good condition, the result is glorious, blessing comes in abundance, and our joy is perfect, because the Adversary's influence always finds a more restricted field of action in us. The time is past when certain things said to us could arouse bitterness or make us angry or deeply vexed, because we were still exceedingly sensitive to the devilish spirit.

The great Adversary has instilled counterfeit love in us, which is never satisfying, because it does not lead to heart's content. It is a terrible fraud. While lawless love results in a moment's joy, it is armed with poisoned hooks that enter into our flesh, causing unhappiness and disappointment. When a man is in love, he is half mad: that already is proof positive that that love is disorderly and that it is not balanced by real wisdom or by justice. Divine love is quite different. It is constantly balanced by justice and by real wisdom, and has admirable results. Lawless love cannot last, which is why people love one another today, but tomorrow love one another no more. Their love is not steady: it dulls and dies out at last. So, it is a deceptive love that hurts. It is hate in disguise.

It is a frightful thing to have been guided into error in that way by the Adversary. A woman loves her husband lawlessly, and a man his wife, and both their children, to obtain all sorts of advantages. They know no better and seek nothing else. It is easy to see that that love has nothing to do with divine love, which leads to life, even to everlasting life, and also immortality when it is expressed in sufficiently high concentration as in our dear Saviour's case. He was given a name above all other names, and received the immortality of divine nature. That is the glorious result obtained by the way he lived out divine love. We also are invited to achieve divine love. If we are surrounded by weak people, that gives us a magnificent opportunity to develop that love,

A donkey's memory, and a bull's gratitude

PIETRO, an evangelist with his heart and soul in his mission, bringing the Good News of the Kingdom of God with spirit, has a rich store of experiences, for in the course of many years, he has travelled back and forth, and up hill and down dale, over a number of regions. With a heart sensitive to the language of nature, he has gathered impressions which have brought him blessing, so that he has vivid memories to feed his enthusiasm. Having also spent some time on the Mediterranean Sea island of Corsica in the service of the Gospel, he has told us, as follows, what he witnessed there:

"Yes, I love Corsica, a French 'island of beauty', often sung about by the poets, and whose enchanting coastline alternates between rocky stretches and sandy beaches, and which is surrounded by sparkling blue

water when it is not assailed with rearing foam-capped waves. I also love its varied landscapes of pine woods and chestnut groves that give travellers some soothing impressions of peace. Its heaths are pervaded with a delicious scent of the myrtle and cistus flowering shrubs, and are embellished here and there with an occasional lentisk or arbutus tree, all of which impel you to fill your lungs with this invigorating air. I furthermore love its radiant sunshine that warms its fertile soil — its silver moonlight reflected in its rippling sea — and its starlit sky which brings to your lips these words of a hymn:

*O Majesty, divine and holy,
Monarch of all eternity,
I bow to Thee, contrite and lowly:
Rest at thy feet on bended knee.*

While Corsica is a wonderful place, whose high-perched mountain villages present broad panoramas to the eye, it is still and

above all, a land of traditions where being warmly welcomed and hospitality are duties as sacred today as they ever were. Whether you are friend or stranger, a table is laid for you as soon as you arrive. Tasty bread, excellent cheese and generous wine are set before you with a warm sympathy that confounds you. 'Refresh yourself first. We can talk afterwards,' are the words which make the visitor feel quite at home, and immediately give him to feel that he is among friends.

There is another surprise for you when, along your way, you meet donkeys and goats, proud of their freedom, not to mention cows with their calves, and sows with their piglets. Greater still is your astonishment when, at the sound of their master's voice, all these creatures come forward instantly. Without a hint of holding back, the donkey turns up for the job to be done. Whether to carry its master, a load of wood, or a sack of sand, it is always willing. What a splendid animal! It is

as sure-footed as it is faithful, and nothing is able to dishearten it when it is well treated. In time past, before the arrival of the motor van, it was donkeys that used to carry the wholesome daily bread from village to village

Carlo, the baker, was the lucky owner of one of those donkeys whose most important job was the delivery of bread. Pulling a two-wheeled cart — loaded with big fresh golden crusty loaves, whose appetizing smell would make mouths water all along his way — this male donkey would go forward at an even and dignified pace, fully aware of his responsibility. So often had he followed the same round, that his master had no need to direct him or to tell him when to stop, he knew everything by heart. He had a lot of free time in which to seek his food for himself, because, due to his kneading and baking, his master was too busy to give him much attention or to find fresh grass for him.

Being, by nature, not hard to please, the

which is fundamentally altruistic, going to their assistance and fetching them blessing.

In contact with someone who is respectful and animated with kind and good sentiments, it is impossible to be irreverential. Nobility is a magnet that attracts and encourages. It prevents your being lacking in integrity or in civility, or keeping sentiments opposed to law-abiding, that is to say, to love. So, you are urged to build up sentiments which lead to the fullness of life, which is eternal life. Eternal life is the continuation of the work of the organism when it is in quite favourable conditions, that is to say, when nothing wears out and everything goes on in such a way as to only produce life. Our organism has been so designed that when it works, the result is life. That life may be a happy one, all joy and felicity, or else very wretched indeed.

The Salvation proposed to us by our dear Saviour, is that we should obtain a happy life. The divine assistance he provides us with, relaxes us splendidly. When I felt the first pulses of divine love, this gave me wonderful happiness. I perceived, however, that they did not last, not that the vibrations of divine grace were withdrawn, but that I was doing a number of things that prevented their taking effect in me. To eliminate this state of things, you must follow out the principles of the Universal Law, which invites us to always exist for doing good. If we live in the divine atmosphere, if we are glad to serve those around us, to comfort, to bless, to cure and to make joy and happiness, our hearts are carried away with gladness. When you have done somebody a service, it always makes you glad to have been able to do so. That is a delightful sensation.

Love meets with love. It is as we carry out that magnificent divine programme that we meet with sentiments that answer to our own. The blessing obtained in this way is inexpressible and glorious. People who take that splendid road acquire the nobility of the Kingdom of God. So, all improbity, all rudeness and every selfish feeling must be put away, for those failings prevent one from feeling the glorious vibrations of divine grace, and also prevent one from being sufficiently replenished by the power of God's Holy Spirit. We are told in the Bible that if we love one another, God dwells in us. When we feel this in our hearts, we have a deal of joy and obtain a very clear vision of the Kingdom of God.

Divine love leads to life; devilish love, lawless love, leads to death. The latter is a gross imitation of the former. Those who love lawlessly, that is, selfishly, can be neither noble nor straightforward, even if they outwardly have the appearance of being so. Those, on the other hand, who apply their whole heart to living out the divine programme, receive blessing. The brotherly love they develop gives rise in them to particularly happy dispositions.

Some people highly appreciate and deeply revere our Lord Jesus. They talk about him with great respect, but it goes no further than that. That sentiment, to be sure, is for a start a manifestation of divine grace. However, that is not enough. You have to do as the Lord advises. He says: "If you love me, keep my commandments. ... This is my commandment, that you love one another." That is the divine programme put into practice. If we show one another love, esteem and veneration, we display divine sentiments in a way that is powerful and demonstrative. To get there, you need a lot of practice, for the devilish love that has grown in us, under the Adversary's influence, is the opposite of real love.

Divine love teaches us to always cover our fellows and to set them a good example. That is the foundation indispensable to building dead true. Human beings certainly are highly skilful. In certain domains, the

results they obtain are prodigious. As, however, their foundation is not true, everything on it is built awry, and finally collapses, it cannot possibly stand. It can even be seen in nature that everything that deviates from the Universal Law comes to nought. Water, for instance, the element present in greatest profusion on Earth, turns bad when it ceases to flow, to circulate, and so fails to exist to do good. On the other hand, when it goes into circulation once more, and so exists for doing good, it clears immediately. If contaminated water then flows into a river, it is cleansed as it flows, whereas clean water that becomes stagnant, soon becomes unfit for use.

The Truth is beautiful, good and generous. It leads to unspeakable blessing. As we have been able to see from the foregoing paragraphs, it is divine love that leads to life and blessing, whereas lawless love leads to disappointment and death. If you seek selfishly for something to satisfy your heart, you will always end up with being disappointed. That is why people meet with such great disappointments in the world. So, how fortunate we are to know the Truth, and to be able to see the shining splendour of real love, the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ, our dear Saviour! That love corresponds directly with divine wisdom and justice, which lead to glorious harmony that results in power. Together, they make up a splendid quartet. You might say that love is the treble, justice is the alto, wisdom tenor, and power bass. It is the last that holds everything together. Divine love sung in this way makes sublime harmony.

We will therefore become attached with all our heart to the divine programme and do our best to live sincerely. If there are people around us more difficult to get on with than others, we will seize the opportunity thus made for us to cover all shortcomings with goodness, nobility and loving-kindness. We shall then feel God's assistance and his marvellous approval. In this way, we shall be able to obtain the happiness of the Kingdom of God, and arrive at everlasting life, thanks to the Ransom paid for us on the Cross by our dear Saviour, so that we can become viable.

From desert to paradise

We quote the following entire article from Swiss French-language newspaper *Tribune de Genève* on the 18th of May 2022, written by Virginie Lenk in the column "Monde" ("World"):

Why it is so hard to slow down the advance of the desert?

The ambitious intention to build a plant barrier [the Great Green Wall] in sub-Saharan Africa against the advance of the desert sands, has been bogged down for 15 years. This is one of the challenges of COP15, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), held in the city of Abidjan, in the African country of Ivory Coast.

At COP26 [the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference] in Glasgow, Jeff Bezos, the boss of Amazon, promised 1 billion US dollars. In Paris at the beginning of 2021, international donors pledged 19 billion US dollars. The money is there, but the Great Green Wall is stalling, to the point of casting doubt on the completion of the project, which was promised 8 years ago.

The initial project was to plant vegetation on a strip, 8,000 km long and 15 km wide, from the countries of Senegal to Djibouti, and thus reforest 100 million hectares of dry land in the sub-Sahara by the year 2030. The wall is misnamed, it is rather a mosaic of forest, agricultural and pastoral lands, which extends over 11 countries. Since then, the project has been modified,

and it is a matter of restoring the lands on a much wider strip.

If we are talking about it again, it is because the UN COP15 to combat desertification, is currently taking place in Abidjan. Less well known than the COPs on climate change, but no less important, because, according to the UN, 40% of the world's land is degraded today throughout the world, and Africa is the most affected continent.

Since the launch of the Great Green Wall in 2007, the results have been very pessimistic. Only 4 million hectares have been reforested out of the 100 million targeted. There are many reasons for this delay.

Local disinterest

Some of the countries in this green strip are politically unstable or at war against jihadism. Cronyism and corruption are mentioned: the Panfrican Agency of the Great Green Wall (PGGW), which supervises the project, has distributed 170 million euros in loans in 15 years. The World Bank disputes those figures and says that it is 768 million euros, some of which has been misappropriated.

Climate change also makes planting and watering more complicated, explains Mr Régis Peltier, an agroforestry researcher at CIRAD (the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development, which works for the sustainable development of tropical and Mediterranean regions). "The rainy season is no longer continual, it can be interrupted by weeks without water. Before, it used to be the exception, now it happens every year."

Additionally, there is demographic pressure: "Today, there are 300 million inhabitants; by the year 2050, there is predicted to be 500 million," explains Mr Rémi Hémercyck, the CEO of the NGO (nongovernmental organization) SOS Sahel [sub-Saharan Africa].

Long-term investment

Plantation trees and cattle breeding must co-exist on collective lands. However, the local populations are often not sufficiently integrated into this enormous project, which many consider as coming from elsewhere. Mr Rémi Hémercyck has worked for a long time on similar large-scale reforestation projects. "This is a Tragedy of the Commons. No one really feels responsible. Once the trees are planted, cattle enter the area, and then there is fire. Conversely, trees entrusted directly to local people are still there after years."

There is also the problem of land ownership. Fleeing from desertification [the advance of the desert], populations from the sub-Sahara have moved southwards and have cleared the savanna trees. On these lands, they have no established rights. "These people have no interest in planting trees or sustainable management, because the land can be taken away from them," explains Mr Régis Peltier. According to him, more small grants would motivate people and enable them to cope with the hazards of life.

It should also be considered that the restoration of the soil is more difficult in the long run, explains Mr Rémi Hémercyck. "If you plant trees, you will harvest them in 3 or 4 years, but if you are talking about 'carbon fixation', there are time horizons of 20 years. So, it takes long-term investments, and the type of projects must be well thought out, especially in relation to their social dimension."

He cites the examples of the acacia-tree plantations in the country of Chad, for the production of "gum arabic". "We first had to create access to drinking water for the women who harvest the sap [which hardens into the gum]. In 10 years, there will be close to 100 villages that produce 1,500 to 2,600 tonnes of gum annually." A small step to stop the desert.

Reforestation is an absolute necessity that not only concerns the Sahara, but the whole world. It would

good donkey took things as they came. There did not appear to be any likelihood of a change in his life, until the day when the baker's sister from Morocco, mourning for a beloved daughter, came home in the hope of obtaining peace and consolation there.

Being an animal lover, the good lady undertook the daily task of looking after the donkey. Fresh grass, occasionally garnished with a handful of oats, relieved Jack (the name his new friend gave him) of the necessity of running around the heath in quest of food. There was plenty of water for him when he came in from work. Then, after some affectionate words accompanied with fond caresses, he would return to the heath, where he could rest and stretch his tired limbs. Several months sped in this way, and Jack became attached to his benefactor. She eventually had to rejoin her husband who still had his job in Morocco. Every year, however, at holiday time, she would return to the village and resume

her care of her four-footed friend who would greet her with joyful braying.

That went on for several years. But one day, the baker died, and was shortly followed by his old mother. So, Jack felt the loneliness, dragging his sorrow over the heath, among flowers and bushes whose scent failed to awaken any response in him. Nothing now was able to move him, life held no hope, and he would wander around like a poor orphan, as circumstances determined.

However, one fine day, when the Sun, in spite of already being at midday, had failed to warm him, Jack stopped eating the grass, lifted his head and turned his ears towards the old bakery, where a taxi with a passenger had stopped. 'What's become of Jack?' thought the deceased baker's sister as she paid her fare. Before she had time to insert her key in the lock, her question was answered. Joyful brays echoed over the heath, as Jack galloped forward to meet her. Now,

he stands there, hee-hawing his joy and quivering with pleasure. He allows himself to be stroked and patted by that generous hand which has so often lavished care on him. His donkey's heart is contented, and "the fire of life" is revived in his eyes which, a moment ago, were so sad.

Whereas he had appeared to be declining in the deadly silence of dull loneliness, and life had seemed to be withdrawing from him, now, after a few days, his coat begins to take on lustre and his eyes begin to sparkle with reawakened joy, and the weight of his 23 years bears lightly on his shoulders.

How delicious is his oat feed, soaked in warm water for the sake of his old teeth! Also, how agreeable it is to feel the brush rubbing down his spine and sending life quivering through his body! Above all, how wonderful it is, when you have known the joylessness of being alone, to feel there is a charitable soul, at hand, who understands your needs

and untiringly makes them up to you! Jack now realizes that the periodical parting which he used to dread, is a thing of the past. His mistress has taken up her abode in the village. Her husband, who has retired, is glad to enjoy a well-earned rest. Henceforth, Jack has nothing to worry about. His happiness is perfect.

His mistress (Mrs S.) is also happy to recall her childhood memories. In these rural surroundings, vibrant with life, and yet so calm, her nerves have found the rest they needed. She enjoys tending her vegetable garden and her flowerbeds, and doing the thousand and one little jobs which daily demand an effort on her part. Performing kind actions and sowing friendship, are things her heart delights in.

As for her husband (Mr S.), an active and kind man, he likes to be of service. To fill in his time, he has bought a few animals and tends them with great care. The latest arrival among his herds is a young bull calf. With

take too long and would be too superficial to go into the details here of the hydrographic balance, which is currently broken, and in which the trees play a major role. In any case, one who wants to reforest must be convinced of the importance of the project. When one knows that 40% of the world's soil is degraded by erosion, deforestation and "intensive farming", can one still ask if one should do anything? The financial means seems to be available, and some large investors seem to understand that the world is facing a serious decision, which could even be tragic. This is a good starting point, but it is not enough.

As we see in this situation that we are examining, the challenge is great. It is a matter of reforesting an 8,000 km-long strip, which means across the entire African continent, from east to west, from the countries of Ethiopia to Senegal. This is an immense project, which, one can imagine, faces many obstacles. The climate is one of them. The dryness in the desert areas, threatens the plantations. One must water them, but that is a big problem in such large areas. As the article also mentions, there is the co-existence with cattle farmers and their herds, which do not necessarily defend the same interests. The residents have other problems, which have the priority, such as the demographic explosion, which means, the large population increase. Also, if one doesn't know whether one will have anything to eat tomorrow, it will also be difficult to plan for the coming 20 years. Thus, many people find it a bother to feel responsible for a project that seems strange to them.

The difficulty of this project also consists of organizations that want to reforest in the middle of the desert. It would be better to start along the coastlines and the watercourses, before going inland. On the other hand, we know that reforestation is a part of the great plan of the Restoration of All Things, which God has foreseen for the benefit of humanity and the entire Earth. Currently, we are still under condemnation in this time period of the Permission of Evil. Consequently, all who want to work for good, will encounter opposition. That is also why it is so difficult to bring this project to a successful conclusion.

God's plan begins with the restoration of humankind, from the condition of sinners, to finally become true children of God, who regain their destiny. For that, the Almighty gave his beloved Son as the Sacrifice, so that sinful humankind's accumulated debt to justice, is paid. As it was similarly said to Adam in Eden, that the Earth is cursed because of him, humankind should now collaborate on repairing what was destroyed. They should participate in this Work, which will be greatly facilitated by the influence of the New Heaven that will then have its effect on Earth. Blessing will be the share of all the Lord's redeemed people, who will praise their Creator and their Saviour, for eternity.

Climate change and melting ice

From the Swiss newspaper *GHI* on the 2nd of February 2022, we quote an article that reports about the significant amount of ice that has melted in the last 20 years. We reproduce it in its entirety:

Dangerous acceleration of melting ice

Greenland: A study has quantified the phenomenon on the island, and its effect on the oceans.

It's as if the United States were covered by half a metre of water. Greenland's enormous ice sheet has lost about 4,700 billion tonnes of ice since 2002, according to calculations by Danish researchers at Polar Portal [a Danish institute that monitors the ice and the climate in the Arctic], based on satellite data. Most of the ice loss is occurring at the edge of the ice sheet, where independent observations indicate that "the ice is shrinking, the ice sheet is receding in the fjords and on the land, and the melting ice is increasing on the

surface of the ice". This phenomenon alone has already raised the sea level by 1.2 cm.

Climate change is particularly alarming in the Arctic, where the rate of melting has increased 6 or 7 fold in 25 years, according to NASA. The cause: the warming of the water in the Arctic Ocean. According to climatologists, Greenland has enough ice to make the sea level rise by more than 7 metres, and Antarctica by nearly 50 metres, although these processes are very slow.

In a previous edition of *The Monitor*, we produced an article that described the pollution caused by the melting ice in the polar regions. The above article shows that a significant quantity of ice has melted in Greenland in the last 20 years. Why is the warming tendency greater at the poles, particularly the North Pole, than elsewhere on the planet? The quoted explanation to understand the temperature increase at the poles, is the melting of the ice. The white pack ice has the ability to reflect the Sun's ray. This ability to reflect is known by the term "albedo" and is expressed in percentages. Ice has an albedo of 60%, and snow can measure up to 90%. When pack ice melts, it changes the albedo, which, in turn, changes the energy exchange on Earth. All of that influences the climate. By melting, the ice makes room for the darker ocean. The latter thereby absorbs more of the Sun's rays than the ice floe (the sheet of floating ice), and ocean's albedo is between 5 and 10%. The absorption of warmth limits the chances of the ice floe renewing itself and increases the chance of accelerating global warming.

Eventually, the situation leads to a loop system: the absorption of the warmth produces a temperature increase, which, in turn, increases the melting ice and thereby the lowering of the albedo. Furthermore, the warming of the poles is increased by another element: the movement of warmth, which occurs in the atmosphere and the oceans, in the direction of the poles.

One can apply the term "polar amplification" to describe the significant climate change at the poles. But it does not affect the Arctic and the Antarctic in the same way. The South Pole is less affected by global warming than the North Pole, thanks to its enormous ice sheet and its extreme temperatures. With the increase of the global temperature, the ice surfaces in the Antarctic are melting six times faster than 40 years ago. In the Arctic, the air temperature is increasing twice as fast than the global average.

In addition to all of that, there is another phenomenon, which was described in the European newspaper *20 Minutes* on the 16th of July 2021:

The Amazon, a source of CO₂ (carbon dioxide)

Environment: A study published on Wednesday in the journal Nature, confirms a worrying transformation in the planet's climate. A large part of Amazon is emitting CO₂ instead of absorbing it. Scientists have arrived at this conclusion after analyzing hundreds of air samples taken over a period of the last 10 years. The cause: deforestation, forest degradation, and temperature increases during the dry season. With the melting of the ice caps, the thawing of the permafrost, and the disappearance of the coral reefs, the decline of the Amazon Rainforest is one of "the tipping points" identified by scientists as key elements whose substantial modification could lead the climate system towards dramatic and irreversible change.

Deforestation, the pollution produced by our industrialized society, production, and the excessive consumption of energy, are all factors that have led to the current tragic situation.

There is only one remedy to fix that state of things: the observance of the Universal Law. Stop exploiting the Earth and its natural resources, to the extreme. We know that "the tipping point", mentioned in the above article, has already been reached. That is why we are

heading for the Great Tribulation, which was announced long ago in the Bible. But we also know that, according to the Bible, the New Heaven and the New Earth, will follow the current dispensation. That is why all those people who desire justice, truth, peace and happiness, can raise their heads, because their Salvation is near. God's Kingdom, which will soon be introduced on Earth, will bring them peace, happiness and life.

The grateful hen

That is the title of the following article published in the German newspaper *Kieler Nachrichten* and sourced from the German news agency "dpa":

In the tiny village of Urspring in the Swabian Alps in southern Germany, every morning, a grocer receives an egg for his breakfast, served to him at home. "Absolutely regularly, every day, between 7 and 9am," says Erwin Fink, a hen lays her egg in the wastepaper basket in front of his home and shop. In August last year, Mr Fink rescued the hen from drowning in the nearby 10 square-metre river spring. Soon after, the hen started laying her daily egg in the wastepaper basket.

"A good deed is never lost," says a proverb. That is indeed the case here. The hen, aware that she had been saved from drowning and grateful to the man who rescued her from this danger, gives him her daily egg.

That is a touching gesture, and one that the grocer certainly did not expect! It is even hard for sceptics to believe, who attribute no intelligence to animals, and who only think about exploiting them to the maximum.

However, there are many facts that prove the abilities and sensitivities with which animals are also endowed. Their intelligence and possibilities of expression are undoubtedly less than human, but nevertheless indisputable.

Regarding gratitude for a benefit received, we could certainly learn a lot from animals. We benefit in many ways from, and should also recognize (considering our dependence on air, water, light, heat, food, etc.) that everything is given to us by an invisible hand. It is the same one that formed our body (as well as that of all animal species, without them being aware of it, of course) and that designed and structured minerals and plants, having arranged everything in perfect balance from the beginning.

Furthermore, it is a lack of appreciation and gratitude on the part of human beings, the royalty of earthly creation, that is responsible for all the disorders and misfortunes that have occurred over time. Ingratitude, the starting point of pride and pretension, has reached such a degree in our time, that life is becoming impossible for everything that moves and breathes on the globe.

True gratitude has only been shown by those who, under the curse of sin, have accepted Christ as the Saviour of the world, and who highly appreciated his Sacrifice enough to join him in the gift of their lives. Alongside their Master, they have fulfilled the ministry of grace and reconciliation, so that, one day, all humanity can be restored to the dignity and sentiments of children of God. Then, all traces of the curse will be erased from the Earth, which will regain the splendour of Eden.

"The walls of disgrace" and "the walls of Zion"

We quote a very interesting article that was published in the French newspaper *Ouest-France* on Thursday the 16th of December 2021, that was written by Isabelle Hautefeuille and that is called:

Why are there more and more "walls" on our planet?

Is this "a reverse of globalization"? The number of "barriers" in the world is skyrocketing. This is blowback

his dark coat, gleaming with health, and his youthful plumpness, he makes a very agreeable picture. He is still small, but even so, his keen ears and alert eyes already seem to mark him out as a future guardian of the herd. Mr and Mrs S. call him 'Champion'. On the heath with his kind, he grows strong and imposing in stature. He is admired by all, and Mr. S. is proud of him. He bears his name 'Champion' fittingly.

Early one summer's day, while Mr and Mrs S. were still having breakfast, a neighbour came running in, all out of breath: 'There's something wrong with Champion! He's turning around and around near the big rock, and shaking his head, just as if he's gone blind!'

They hasten with some other neighbours to the spot described. Champion looks lost, but if anyone goes to touch him, he shakes them all off in his fright. You have to keep an eye open for his sharp horns, although he is not a vicious animal. At last, they succeed

in backing him against the rock and in making a halter with a piece of rope, with which they lead him into an enclosure. There, they perceive that, in truth, the animal is blind.

Now begins the very difficult task of treating the patient. He cannot understand that compresses are going to cure him. Mrs S. knows the virtues of plants, and wants to do her best for him. But there is no time to lose if they are to be effective. Two strong neighbours come forward to help her husband hold the animal while she applies the compresses. She does succeed, but not without difficulty, for Champion is opposed to the treatment and struggles a lot.

One day, the neighbours are called away on business, and Mr S. does his best to hold the animal by himself. He has to stop, for the bull shakes its head with determination. Feeling that time was being wasted, Mrs S. then said: 'Wait a moment. I'll see what I can do on my own.'

Also feeling that nothing else could be done for it, Mr S. stepped back some distance, but not without some anxiety for his wife's safety. Then, he was able to witness a touching scene, which was impossible for him to have foreseen.

A few kind words accompanied with a deal of patting and stroking, appear to calm Champion down: 'Come on boy. I'm not hurting you. Let me do you good.' Holding a horn with one hand, she applies the compress with the other, as best as she can. The bull still shakes his head a little, but much less vigorously than before. Persevering along these lines with a gentleness that strives to be convincing, she at last wins Champion's trust. Not only has he given up resisting, but he begins to take pleasure in the treatment.

He is now quite willing to submit to the healing action of the application. Mrs S. is pleased; this initial result makes her happy. Champion has become aware of the sooth-

ing effect of the compresses. Now, he comes forward of his own accord to receive the treatment from the hands of his nurse. Then comes the miracle: the persevering application of the compresses restores balance, and a little while later, he is cured.

How splendid it is to be able to see! He sees the heath where all his friends are desperately waiting for him. They come and sniff him all over when he returns to them. When Mrs S. calls him to see how he is going, you should see with what eager steps he gallops to meet her. But she must be alone. If she has someone with her, Champion keeps away. One morning, for instance, husband and wife set forth together to the heath, and as was her habit, Mrs S. called the bull. Soon, the thud of the hooves of the lord of the herd, draws nearer and nearer, till at length he comes into sight, charging round a bush. But at the sight of Mr S., he stops short, hesitates and turns around, and stops once more at the sound of his name,

after years of globalization to encourage the opening of borders.

After the Berlin Wall, a symbol of a divided world, was destroyed in 1991, the number of barricaded borders has since exploded. From about 15 at the end of the Cold War, there are nearly 70 today. A jump linked, among other things, to "a setback of globalization," analyzes Mr Bruno Tertrais, the Deputy Director of the Foundation for Strategic Research, and a co-author, with Delphine Papin, of the French book *The Atlas of Frontiers — Walls, Migrations, Conflicts*.

The recent constructions are very different to the Berlin Wall model, which prevented people from escaping. Even the term "wall" seems to be outdated: "There are very few concrete walls. Most of the time, they are metal structures, made of sheet metal or wire mesh," says Mr Michel Foucher, geographer and author of the French book *The Return of Borders* (2016). The new constructions also serve other purposes. Some of them freeze conflicts — such as the one on the island of Cyprus, which has been divided, since the invasion by Turkey in the year 1974, between the Republic of Cyprus in the south, and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus [Northern Cyprus] — and the one between Israel and Palestine. But the frenzy in recent years has been focused on barriers that "prevent entry" into a territory. And that model appeals.

A need for "sovereignty"

Hungary (in 2015), the USA (in 2016), Lithuania, Greece and Turkey (in 2021)...and the latest, Poland. The parliament in Warsaw [Poland's capital], at the end of October [in 2021], confirmed plans for an "anti-migration wall" on its border with Belarus. Traumatized by the latest rush of migrants against its barbed-wire fence, orchestrated by its neighbour: Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko, Poland is closing itself off, or rather, "is reaffirming what is 'at home' within itself, and what is 'at home' elsewhere". That is a "sovereign need", according to Bruno Tertrais.

That phenomenon — which has many factors, and which researchers say has long been associated with September 11, 2001 and the fear of terrorism — has another explanation: globalization. It began in the 1980s and made the borders "blurry".

The movement of goods and information, and the development of transport, set everything in motion. And the Western model of consumerism has become international. "There is more and more information about the state of the world and about opportunities elsewhere," analyzes Michel Foucher. "In 2015, it struck

me that the Syrians who arrived at the Munich train station all had mobile [cell] phones. [In that year, over a million refugees were welcomed in Germany (editor's note)]. They came with the idea of trying their luck elsewhere." With globalization, the number of international migrants, both legal and illegal, rose from 77 million in 1965, to 281 million in 2020, which is 3.6% of the world's population.

Between 6 and 18% of land borders

"It is because globalization produces as many illegal as legal flows of migrants, that there is a need for fences and for protection," adds Bruno Tertrais. The feeling of "slipping away" is caused by a lack of confidence in the system and its institutions. The migration crisis in 2015 — the unprecedented influx of migrants to Europe across the Mediterranean Ocean, mostly fleeing war or insecurity — didn't help the situation.

Result: The builders of walls today are not the same as yesterday. "Before, it was mainly the autocratic regimes that built walls. Today, it is the liberal democracies," says Elisabeth Vallet, an Associate Professor of geopolitics at the University of Quebec (UQAM) (in Montreal, Canada). "Walls are an immediate and rapid response of politicians to concerns about the control of territories and the flow of migrants."

However, fences are only on a small number of land borders: between 6 and 18%, according to *The Atlas of Frontiers* by Bruno Tertrais and Delphine Papin. But this further illustrates the inequalities, like the treaty of Europe's Schengen Agreement: the free movement of goods and people, for those who are lucky enough to be on the right side. According to a report by the Dutch NGO "TNI" (Transnational Institute) published in 2018: "The member states of the European Union (EU) and of the Schengen Agreement, have built nearly 1,000 kilometres of walls since the early 1990s to prevent refugees from coming to Europe."

Humanity is currently having an experience that will continue when the Reign of Justice is established on Earth. Globalization has increased, but this globalization also has consequences. It is clear that when borders are opened for markets, they will also be opened for workers, families and the poor. And that is where there is less agreement. When it is a matter of doing business, there is agreement, but when it is a matter of taking in other people, that is another question.

Globalization is defined as a phenomenon that has the tendency to increase the mutual dependency of national economies in a global market system. It affects

the economy, which is the production and consumption of goods and services, as well as the financial sector (money and capital).

One sees that the individual is not included in those various exchanges, and that is precisely the problem. What sort of society give special rights to trade, to industry and to all sorts of money exchange, but builds a wall to isolate itself from the people of neighbouring countries? The rich are welcome, but the poor are not. On the other hand, globalization benefits the wealthy who want to move the production of their goods to foreign countries in order to profit from cheaper labour costs. Those who do not have the same means are simply excluded. And if they become unemployed, that is bad luck. There is indifference to the misfortune of others. All of that shows us that without brotherliness and sisterliness, true globalization is not possible.

It should not be forgotten that the intention of globalization is to boost the economy, but at the same time, political and business leaders are striving for the progressive introduction of a world government. That can be easily seen in Europe. And there, the gap between the rich and the poor will increase even more.

It is also interesting to see that since the Berlin Wall was torn down in 1991, about 70 new walls have been built.

As we already said, the Reign of Justice, which will soon be established on Earth, will end the current state of things. There, love for others will rule as the sovereign master. Moreover, the first enemy to disappear will be money. Then, many conflicts will cease. Humankind will become brothers and sisters. They will learn to live the Universal Law and to exist for the good of each other.

We rejoice over a better world, because we have no other interests to defend than the Truth, which is love for others. And how grateful we are when we think about the unlimited love and devotion of our dear Saviour who, through his finished Sacrifice on the Cross, enables the establishment of a world in which all people will become brothers and sisters! The time is not far away when the effects of Christ's Cross will be felt and when everyone can benefit from them. Then, people will no longer build walls to separate themselves from each other. On the contrary, they will be happy to do good to each other. There will only be "the walls of Zion", which represent the Salvation of all humankind.

Under the influence of the New Heaven (of Christ and his Church), the New Earth will prosper, and everyone will be able to live eternally and in bliss.

and watches them. He would certainly like to go to his mistress who talks to him gently: 'Come on Champion. Be a good boy.' He is in two minds, but makes no move.

Realising that he is the cause of the trouble, Mr S. steps back some distance. Then, Champion comes over and, as is his habit, stretches his head trustfully towards his mistress. He licks her hand with his rough tongue, putting all his gratitude into the caress.

★

They are rich and splendid experiences, which help to strengthen Mrs S's faith, for not only is she kind to animals, but she carries in her heart the hope of the Kingdom of God, of that wonderful time when, on the restored Earth, there will be no more ill feeling. Reconciled by the Work of divine grace and goodness, men will at last be brethren. Their perfect unity, under Christ's banner, will put an end to all fear and to the curse.

Then will come the time of the Resurrection, when all who have departed will return and will be exultant. Death will be overcome forever. Won over by this atmosphere of peace and harmony, the animals will all be friendly. In these natural surroundings, none of them will be slaves or wild. No more will they feel that man is an enemy, but only a kind protector, giving out an atmosphere of security. They will no longer fly from him. Each, according to its nature, will express its gratitude and trust, for it will easily perceive in him 'the king of all creatures'.

Also, from that Paradise, where no harm at all will be done, the delicious perfume of gratitude will go up to Heaven in accents of praise."

News in brief of the Reign of Justice

We are happy to start the "News in brief..." of our first *Monitor* of the year, by offering to our dear brothers and sisters, and to our dear readers, our wishes of blessing for this newly begun year.

As we look back over the past year, we want to be grateful for the Lord's patience

for our benefit. We can also only search our hearts and humble ourselves for our many deficits that have been covered by the blood of Christ and his faithful ones. We appreciate, from the bottom of our hearts, the time that is granted to us to complete our sanctification, knowing that the time has come when humankind must be delivered.

On the 31st of January, we will have the benefit of meeting to celebrate the victorious end of the race of the Faithful and Wise Servant of God, of our time. On this occasion, we will read out a sermon that he gave in his time, and of which we give a brief summary here:

"During the time of the High Calling, in every period of the Church, the Lord sent an angel, or messenger, to lead God's people. ... In the last period, there was a particular task to fulfil. That is why the Lord asks this question in Matthew 24: 45: 'Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his Master has put in charge of his household, to give them their food at the proper time?' It is a matter of bringing the message of consecration, to come out of the lukewarmness of Laodicea — of gathering the faithful, those who make the Covenant on Sacrifice with the Lord — and of showing humankind the path to follow to no longer descend into the grave.

I did not seek to become the Faithful and Wise Servant. I did not feel capable of doing so! ... I put all my heart into serving the Lord, as I understood it, and I saw that he blessed me beyond all I had hoped for. But it also requires the corresponding consecration to be the Lord's Messenger, the bringer of the Divine Message. ...

When I realized the derailment of the Church of Laodicea, I gave it my testimony. The response was to send the bailiffs. I prayed for the authors of the persecution, so that the Lord would grant them light. That's when I began to well understand 'the ministry of reconciliation', and I practised with all my heart to fulfil it worthily. As I sought to live according to the Divine Programme, and to purify my heart, the Lord was able to give me

The Divine Revelation. That was the eyewash, the message of consecration, to come out of the lukewarmness of this last period of the Church (Laodicea). ...

Like all the Messengers of the Church of Christ, I had to pass a very strict course of training in tests, lessons and instructions, to be worthy of the ministry. ...

All of my experiences have unfailingly attached me to the Lord and to our dear Saviour, and I was able to bring to God's people the knowledge of his wonderful character, which never punishes! He is the Father of 'the prodigal child', and the God of all mercy and all compassion. ...

My desire to understand 'the mystery of life', became more and more passionate as I sanctified myself more to the Lord. By divine grace, I could remove the shroud that covers all people, and lift the veil that is spread over all nations. I could reveal the mystery in order to no longer descend into the grave, the message of the 'one among a thousand'. I never thought that I would be given this honour! ...

I was immersed in deeply joyful impressions when I wrote *The Message to Humanity*. Under divine inspiration, I dictated the first chapter, but I did not yet comprehend the importance of those lines. By reading and re-reading, I realized the extent and the greatness of this message. ...

Another deep truth that the Lord gave me, to give to God's people, was the fact that our dear Saviour is the Excellent Angel who is always with his Church during the Gospel Age, as he promised his disciples when he left them: 'I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' I understood that, for his own people, his Second Coming took place at his resurrection. What shall now occur is only for the world and will be through his holy Consecrated and those who have believed, which means, the dear Host of the Lord. I thus understood the words of our dear Saviour: 'You will do even greater things [than I do].'

The Lord also gave me to call the Host of the Lord into existence: the children of the Christ, who will be the firstborn of the New

Earth. That is the beginning of the New Earth, of the wonderful time when the Spirit will be poured out on all people, firstly on the holy Host. That is why, when the Covenant on the Law was formulated for them in the year 1938, this was the start of the Great Pentecost, and the beginning of the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy. ...

Thus, all of the mystery of God has been revealed, the full counsel of God has been given to his people. It only needs to be lived out. That is the goal of the meetings of God's children, and their instruction. It is a colossal Work, which requires total faith and full activity, especially in watchfulness and prayer. ...

In view of all this light and all of this blessing, there must now be an irresistible advance among God's people. As our faith increases, the Lord gives us new possibilities, which He entrusts to us, for displaying the true manifestations of God's Kingdom. Because the Lord now wants to reveal to the world his Second Coming through his dear children. For that, we need all of the divine power and the transparency of sentiments. ... It is therefore the last moment to develop, in us, the characteristics for the Revealing of the Children of God. ...

We should not only be calm and stable, but open 'the door of hope' for humankind, through the tangible fulfillment of the divine promises, and the powerful demonstration of these words of Scripture: 'On the day...you will again see the difference between...one who serves God and one who does not.' To give this demonstration, one must have acquired 'holy conduct and godliness'. ...

Let us remind ourselves that, according to the message received and through prayer said in faith, followed by action, this will produce the definitive crystallization of God's Kingdom, under the guidance of the Lord's Excellent Angel, our dear Saviour, to the glory of God."

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