

THE REIGN OF JUSTICE

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for moral and social uplift. Published monthly

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The look, and the reality

PHYSICAL beauty used to be an object of worship among the Greeks of old. Even today, there exist statues, by sculptors of ancient times, whose lines are ideal for the form of the human body. In all these works, we discover their worship of the beautiful. For instance, in Greek mythology, Apollo is called "the god of beauty". Today also, beauty is sought after. A handsome man, with ideal proportions, attracts all eyes. In the case of a beautiful woman, it is the same. Outward beauty, of course, distinguishes its possessor. But that is only a part of an individual. It further requires that his character, that is to say, his spiritual part, is pleasant and that he should be so constituted that his virtues and his amiable dispositions should make his company agreeable and beneficial. If he has a magnificent physique, but a heart that is dry, selfish and domineering, people will shun his company. Later, when his physical beauty has faded away, there is nothing left but a disagreeable remembrance. Whereas, as the Bible tells us: "The righteous man will be remembered forever."

People, of course, particularly at look that which strikes the eye, that is to say, at the outward appearances. The nobility of the heart's dispositions, comes second in their eyes. We may even say that they are unacquainted with this aspect of the matter, and that, without knowing it, they are antagonistic to real mental beauty. The divine Word points out that they are enemies of God in their thoughts and habits, both of which are the outcome of their sentiments which are self-centred.

In anyone's daily life, there are many difficulties and a deal of trouble. It is "the struggle for existence", as it is called. The character shaped in this scramble is that of a perfect egoist. Now, an egoist is an ugly man even if he looks attractive. If an outwardly handsome man is avaricious, irascible, full of hatred, impatient and vain, all his good looks cannot make one forget his inward ugliness, his ugliness of mind. He is like a vessel made of precious metal, but containing a putrid fluid. That is the portrait of a man or woman with attractive looks, but a corrupt heart.

"The god of this world" used to be perfect in beauty

The divine Word teaches that the Son of the Morning — later called the Adversary, Satan and "the god of this world" — was full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. He had been appointed by the Almighty to be mankind's

kind and benevolent instructor and protector, and to educate them in divine ways. Instead of that, he made them fall into sin. He gave them an education diametrically opposed to that of the divine Spirit, although it was very skilfully disguised in an outward appearance intended to deceive the eye. And so, on Earth, all things are an imitation of the Kingdom of God.

That then was how mankind fell into Satan's power. The whole human race is saturated through and through with his dreadful spirit. Under what looks like religion, like science, like wisdom and like culture, there is terrible degeneracy. Man is no more than a rag when compared with what he used to be in his first condition, being animated as he is now with an infernal spirit to such a degree that some authors have called him "the human beast". Others have said that he has come down from the monkey.

We, in civilised countries, are sometimes scandalised at the behaviour of savages. We consider their religions stupid. We ask: "How is it possible for human beings to kneel before carved images, idols which are as ugly as they can be, and statues with stupid and monstrous faces?" Yet, when you consider the matter, you are bound to admit that some of these savages behave better than many civilised people. Savages have no law courts. They have neither prisons nor police, whereas self-styled Christians would fall into consternation at the mere idea of doing away with police, judges, prisons and all the rest of it. Civilised people go in fear of their neighbours. They go in fear of being robbed or of being assassinated, and that is why they are very glad about the existence of jails, of police, and, in some countries, of fully armed police. The nations called Christian truly possess remarkable outward beauty. On the occasion of national festivities, all the people prepare, put on their best clothes and work up a lot of enthusiasm. The head of state makes an appearance, all smiles and condescension. He waves his hand and is acclaimed. Flowers are thrown, and there are enthusiastic ovations and thunderous applause. It is a magnificent celebration, and everyone is filled with joy. A primitive man suddenly falling into the midst of such a ceremony, would be enthralled. He would think these are wonderful people, agreeable, benevolent and all kindness. He would think he's on another planet.

In a short time, however, this shining exterior changes its aspect. Humdrum life resumes its course. Words

of equality, fraternity and liberty are quickly forgotten. Each individual returns to his own particular business, and the struggle for existence goes on more bitterly than ever. All those people, yesterday so amiable and smiling, display a very different face. Once more, it is each for himself, strict rules in factories, dates of payment for owners and for all, and the cares of life. Landlords want to raise their rents, and they continually lodge complaints. Car drivers drive everywhere, forcing pedestrians to breathe their smoke and the smell of their oil and petrol. Everyone is in a hurry, they shove each other out of the way to get there first, all seeking a personal advantage.

Among all that, there are those who are poor, who are wretched and who have no bread or no fire. In big towns, there are areas of misery. These are pictures which are quite different from the splendid festive days. There is great sorrow in the hearts of many people. They complain, they are jealous one of another, and they quarrel. The courts are up to their eyeballs in work, and the prisons are crammed with prisoners. To crown it all, there suddenly comes the most terrifying thing of all: war bursts upon the nations.

Young people are called up and sent off to the front where armies are going to slaughter each other, making use of all sorts of murderous weapons. The clergy preach that one must do one's duty. One must kill or be killed. In a short time, millions upon millions of the injured, of the dying and of the dead are strewn over vast areas. The winds of hatred breathe their fury everywhere. One seeks to do one's enemy as much harm as possible. Now, the civilised nations have displayed the reverse side of the mask, they have turned a page in their history, they make it clear that beneath an appearance of smiling benevolence and of kind generosity, a terrible mentality lies hidden, terrifying ugliness.

That is the history of Christendom. Not only have Christian people fought Christian people, but Christian denomination has fought Christian denomination. This is due to the fact that all these people are seeking a personal interest. It is not the Spirit of Christ guiding them, for following the Spirit of Christ, one renounces self-interest. All those nations therefore display outward beauty, which, as we have said already, is only an imitation of the Kingdom of God, beneath which, very deeply hidden, lies the spirit of the Adversary. This spirit breaks forth occasionally and becomes apparent. At such times, it shows itself in all its hideousness, particularly when self-interest is at stake.

The light of divine Truth, now showing up the so-called Christian civilisation in its true light, has the

The truly wealthy

PERMEATING fog had been holding this European city in its grip for some days, and the chilly dampness was filling the streets with gloom.

Two women, with nothing to distinguish them from the general run of people crowding the streets, had just crossed a tall bridge. They had much ado to make their way among this human stream, with more people spilling in from every side street.

One of them could have been named Suzanne, and the other, Ruth. They were making their way through this bustle of people hurrying along in all directions — some preoccupied and others indifferent — all concerned with their own business and scarcely aware of the many with whom they were rubbing elbows.

Anyone who could have understood the thoughts of those two friends, would have

realized that they were different from the world — among the crowd, but not of it — away from the slumps, storms and distresses of mind, common to all people. They were perhaps the only ones whose thoughts did not centre on the search for entertainment.

There were streams of people going in and coming out of the shops, whose windows were showing attractive displays to draw people in.

Suddenly, our two pedestrians were halted as the crowd became denser, if possible, and started milling as it was joined by a fresh stream of people coming out of a cinema. At the same time, among all the unidentifiable smells that assailed their nostrils, there came one very appetizing one, that of roasting chestnuts, with the voice of their vendor, crying his wares and reaching their ears: "Hot chestnuts!" competing, in his own way, with the confectioners and supermarkets making

great displays of Easter Eggs and chocolate rabbits, to take full advantage of the season of the death and resurrection of the Prince of Peace. Whereas there had never been so much talk of war, and quarrelling, and never before had there been so much assassination, fratricide and genocide. In the world, there was no end to conflicts, and the rising wind of hate on the sea of nations, was blowing up a storm of violence.

As they walked, Suzanne and Ruth were discussing that vast subject, for it was one they very much had at heart. As a matter of fact, it concerned them deeply.

In the past and all her life, Suzanne had been longing for something that would be the fulfilment of all the promise and all the hope contained for her in the Easter festival.

In a London hospital where she used to work, she had frequently felt a longing for that Kingdom of peace, shared by the rob-

ber crucified with the Saviour of the world. It had been a sore trial to her every day to come face to face with implacable death, which personified "the power of darkness". No, the ideal inspired by God's great creation did not reside in the grave, and a poet had said with good reason:

*The object e'er is birth,
The aim is never death:
A mouth to speak kind words
And not a biting tooth.*

In the end, Suzanne had come home to her native region of Jura in Switzerland, with the feeling that something in her life was going to change. There had been a heavy fall of snow, and the fir trees were loaded down with it. The streets in its city of watchmakers, were narrow between white ramparts.

It happened to be Christmas time, but not a very happy one at home, and the New Year showed no promise of being any better. Father

effect, on us, of a hand lifting up an immense stone on waste ground. Then, you catch sight of countless vermin, foul creatures, quickly disappearing into the ground because they cannot stand the light. In the same way, when the light of Truth falls on religious people, they thrust it away with marked hostility.

That is the result obtained by the god of this world in his dealings with the inhabitants of the world, the subjects of his kingdom, which he has usurped. When he was still in harmony with God, he was a protecting cherub with outstretched wings, perfect in beauty. So low has he fallen that he has become the god of a kingdom which cannot stand the light. His title of "the god of this world" proves that he is exceedingly religious. His worshippers are human beings in the various religions they adhere to. All who are ruled by the god of this world, are animated with his spirit, the spirit of selfishness, which is "the spirit of the world".

We can see from that that religious people — whether the Jews who crucified the Lord Jesus, or present-day Catholics and Protestants — that is, all who are guided by selfishness, self-love, are influenced directly by the devilish spirit.

The Son of God preserved his beauty and increased it further

In his pre-existence, the Lord Jesus was God's Creative Agent. It was he who made Heaven and Earth. He spoke in the Name of the Lord, and things came into existence. The Scriptures tell us that all things were made by him and that nothing was made without him. The Only Begotten of the Father, the Son of God, created thrones, dignities and powers of the hosts of Heaven, of God's holy angels. In these creations, there are only wonders of glory and of beauty. In the Bible, the angels are called "flames of fire", and their glory is a shining light. The great Logos, the divine Word, our dear Saviour in his pre-existence, also created the Earth and all that it contains.

When we contemplate the wonders of nature, when we examine the trees, plants and flowers attentively, their splendour, their perfect lines and magnificent colours, how greatly our eyes and our hearts are charmed! When we enjoy the sweet scent which pervades a garden of roses or of other perfumed flowers, and when we observe the many varieties of animals — such as the antelope, the horse and the dog, which all run with magnificent agility — we are filled with wonder. When we gaze at a sunrise or a sunset, particularly from a high mountain peak, and snow-clad peaks are in sight and reflecting the Sun's rays, it is a veritable enchantment. The greatness of it all makes us gasp, we are ecstatic.

Unfortunately, few are the members of the human race who are able to recognize the glorious signature on all those pictures, and who, when they see those wonders, say: "He Who made all this possesses ineffable beauty of soul, gloriously overflowing with love." The truth is that He intends to make the heart of man rejoice in his supreme goodness and wonderful benevolence. The Apostle Paul, who knew the Lord and his Son, said: "God's invisible qualities, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen and understood by what He made."

There are many people, as we said above, who admire the beauties of nature, but, as they do not possess God's Holy Spirit, they get no further than that. Being apart from his divine communion, they are able to recognize neither the Lord nor his glorious Master Workman, our dear Saviour. Mankind are condemned, and they have defiled the beauties and magnificence of the creation brought forth by the Almighty.

The fact is that the Earth is under a curse because of

man. The great Logos, the Agent who created all things, offered himself to the Lord, in accordance with his wonderful plan, to come to Earth and take the place of the guilty party, to take upon himself the chastisement mankind had incurred, to bear their opprobrium. He came, so that, by these means, he might deliver them out of darkness, out of misfortune, out of sickness and out of death. But, being constantly suggestionized by the Adversary, mankind do not even understand the first thing about God's plan. That was why they let themselves be made use of in bringing about our dear Saviour's death.

Why did they put him to death? Because he taught them with authority and bore witness to the Truth. Like centipedes, they hid themselves in the dark to work out an iniquitous plot, an infamous plot, against our dear Saviour. They allowed themselves to be influenced by the devilish spirit to accomplish the Adversary's, Satan's, infernal purpose. Our Lord Jesus always remained Master of the situation. He could quite easily have resisted the Adversary and all mankind together. It was of his own free will that he permitted himself to be arrested and crucified like a felon. As he loved mankind more than himself, he did not hesitate to lay down his life as the Ransom for them all.

All through the Gospel Age, the Little Flock is able to recognise those things. It associates with the Lamb of God, and follows him wherever he goes (Revelation 14: 4). The Little Flock is enthusiastic. It receives the Spirit of grace and of Truth. As we have already mentioned, it follows in our beloved Saviour's footsteps. It is the Little Flock — now accompanied by the Host of the Lord — which, in spite of adversity successfully coped with, brings mankind the message of Truth. This message describes our dear Saviour as follows: "You are fairer than the children of men: grace is poured on to your lips: therefore God has blessed you forever." Psalm 45: 2.

That is what the Little Flock thinks and how it speaks and acts, for it is made up of true and faithful disciples of Christ. They renounce self and follow our beloved Saviour. Their line of conduct shows wonderful beauty, sentiments perfect in their nobility and true loftiness of mind. When Christ — made up of Jesus and the Little Flock, his true Church — is manifest, it will be the resplendent light of Truth, whose first gleams are already shining on Earth. The would-be Christian nations' idols of gold and of silver, will be cast down upon the ground. This is already beginning to take place. The nations have been driven to the brink of a veritable chasm into which Babylon the Great, which is Christendom, is going to fall.

When it has been humiliated by the unprecedented Tribulation on Earth, it will, at last, receive with docility and submission, the Almighty's message of love. Then, it also will say, speaking of the Lord Jesus: "You are fairer than the children of men: grace is poured on to your lips: therefore God has blessed you forever."

When it stops raining...

In a newsletter distributed by the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), we read about the extreme situation of the population in the Horn of Africa, especially in Somalia, but also in Ethiopia and Kenya. The testimonies told here give us some idea of the dramatic state of this part of the world, and the terrible suffering of the people who live, or survive, there...

Shamsa Amin Ali, a mother from southern Somalia, has seen her crops destroyed and her livestock decimated by the drought that has hit the region. Forced to flee several times, she testifies:

"In previous droughts, we would move to nearby towns and go back when the rains come, but this drought is the worst we have ever seen."

After 5 seasons of insufficient rain, Shamsa was forced to leave her country with her 82-year-old mother and her children.

"We walked for 8 days to reach here. There was nothing to feed my children. They would cry and cry and cry," she recalls. "At some point, I thought of taking my own life instead of watching them die of hunger in front of me."

After a long and difficult journey, Shamsa and her family found refuge in Kenya, in the Dadaab camp, which currently hosts more than 320,000 refugees. The countries of the Horn of Africa — particularly Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia — have been facing a historic drought for almost 3 years.

Today, the situation is increasingly worrying, and local populations continue to suffer from this drought, now considered to be the longest and the most severe ever experienced in the region. These extreme climatic conditions represent a significant threat to the lives of millions of uprooted people in the Horn of Africa. To date, 3.3 million people affected by drought have been identified as being in priority need of humanitarian assistance.

We are deeply saddened to think of the fate of these people who are born in a part of the world that has become so dry that they can no longer live there. Although water is one of the essential elements of life, they are almost totally deprived of it. One can imagine all the suffering and distress this can cause, as expressed by this courageous woman who, faced with reality, has thought about ending her own life so as not to see her children die in front of her. Could there be any greater pain for a mother?

It is good and right to think of those who suffer, and to not be indifferent, according to the saying: "Out of sight, out of mind." Affluence, which is still enjoyed by a privileged part of humanity, can easily neutralize feelings of compassion, and plunge people into indifference. It is an indifference that certainly kills, since it does not inspire the thought and energy to reach out to those who are in distress. Until the day when we find ourselves in distress and finally understand the value of solidarity...

And we are well aware and can clearly see that distress is gaining ground and that no one will be spared. According to the prophetic words of our dear Saviour, all the nations in the world will be tested by adversity, to the point of imploring the help of the one who alone can extend, to humankind, a helping hand that is friendly, sure and effective. The Saviour of the world is the true Friend of humankind, the one who shed his blood for them in order to erase all their sins and deliver them from the curse.

It was humankind themselves who brought the curse on to the Earth. They have destroyed its marvellous balance by overexploiting it and destroying its majestic forests, in order to turn everything into money. It is the direct opposite of wisdom, and therefore complete madness that dictates the actions of humankind who are driven by the influence of "the prince of this world", Satan. Under his rule, humanity suffers greatly, they are mistreated and enslaved by this power that overcomes them.

But Deliverance is fast approaching through the Work of God's beloved Son and his faithful Church. Their Work of ultimate love and sacrifice, on behalf of humanity, will soon make real and effective, these words of a prophet: "How the oppressor has ceased, and how fury has ended! The LORD has broken the rod of the wicked, the sceptre of the rulers. ... The entire Earth is at peace and at rest, and people sing for joy." Isaiah 14: 4-7.

had had a drop too much, and mother had come out with the bad temper she always had in store for these circumstances. Suzanne had been in great despair when a friend of the family explained to her the deep-seated cause of all the trouble: "I've got what you're looking for. The Kingdom of your hopes has been born on Earth, and one day, which is perhaps not far off, it will be established in power and glory."

The objections that had arisen in Suzanne's mind were quickly dispelled by the soundness of the explanations. She had wanted to know what that newborn Kingdom was like, for she was now sure she had seen the shining of its star. So, she had set forth, for meetings of this prospective Realm were held in the city of Geneva.

A door had been opened to her for those prospects, which, as one prophet said, none would believe if they were told. But Suzanne had believed, because she had felt the

great blessing that developed. Her parents, however, shutting their hearts to the Good News, also shut the door of their home to their daughter.

So, she had to set out on a pilgrim's path, and, as she went, had met Ruth. Their destinies were henceforth bound together, as were those of all the people who had set out for the Promised Land in the Saviour's footsteps.

Ruth was younger, but her memories went back a long way. She was recalling them as they fell into step with the stream of people heading for the train station. She was telling Suzanne that she had spent her first Christmas in prison.

Her father was a child of the mountains, where those whom religious persecution, in the past, had driven from their native land and had taken refuge. He was a child of the mountains and of Switzerland. How would it have been possible for him not to love this

beautiful country, when even the French novelist and poet Victor Hugo was able to write:

*On Earth, o'er which all things exude
A poisonous emanation,
Where even that pale instinct,
Honour its designation,
From slope to slope
And into vileness low doth glide:
Alone, one nation's free, the Swiss,
A mountaineer well tried.*

Thus, he loved his country with all his heart and according to the principles of the civics handbook, for he wished to be worthy of the forefathers. He loved action and discipline, and in the army, this quality had raised him to a non-commissioned rank.

However, one day all that had changed, for a beam of light had pierced through the clouds of human concepts, and this light, far from being flickering, had shown him the

Way, the Truth and the Life. A path along which men learnt to love one another as brethren, to clasp one another's hands over every obstacle, to get over them. This called for a deal of effort, sincerity and willingness, and Ruth's father realized that you shouldn't hesitate to start.

Consequently, he had revealed, to his superior officers, his impressions concerning the way in which evil could be overcome. He had explained the Christian method for overcoming enemies: laying down all lethal weapons for the purpose of making use of the arms of goodness. He had spoken about the Constitution of the Kingdom of God, which requires one to love, whatever the cost, for such was the law of divine justice.

That was all that was required for being shameful in the eyes of men: a coward and a defeatist. He was made an example of in the presence of the entire company. His stripes were torn off and flung in his face... This

Let us pray for our fellow people who suffer the torments of thirst and hunger, and let us sanctify ourselves, on their behalf, to hasten the beautiful Day of God. Through a prophet, He has foretold: "I will make rivers flow on barren hills, and fountains in the middle of valleys; I will turn the desert into a pool of water, and the dry land into springs of water. I will plant, in the wilderness, cedar, acacia, myrtle and olive trees; I will place, in the desert, fir, pine and cypress trees together, so that people may see and know, and may consider and understand together, that the hand of the LORD has done this." Isaiah 41: 18–20.

Social or asocial networks?

In the Belgian French-language magazine *En Marche* — No. 1711, from the 23rd of March 2023 — Aurelia Jane Lee raises the question whether social networks really are social. We quote her analysis as follows:

Aren't networks very social?

Who has never taken refuge in the virtual world of social networks or online games? How can we avoid becoming so addicted to our screens, that our personality and our relationships with others are affected? Two authors are sounding the alarm.

Like a cuddly toy, we take it everywhere, and we don't like anybody else touching it. It reassures us. In the space of just a few years, it has become an essential object, without which, we feel completely helpless. In fact, the smartphone is a real tool, a sort of technological Swiss army knife. But sometimes, it is also a way of not talking to others, of not thinking, of escaping difficult emotions...

In France, the Institute of Medical Education and Prevention (IEMP) has estimated that the main risk linked to excessive use of screens, is desocialization, a factor "that contributes to the increasing risk of depression, and can compromise a career or studies". Psychologist Sabrina Philippe is seeing an increasing number of social phobias among her patients. Younger people, in particular, feel safer in front of their screens than in public spaces.

A world apart

The virtual world is an endless source of distractions: a constant stream of publications, personal notifications, advertising... It is addictive, and designed to be so, says the psychologist: just think about the endlessly scrollable "newsfeeds"...

It is also marked by immediacy. Sabrina Philippe invites you to carry out a simple exercise: the next time that you are about to publish something on a social network, or react to a publication... wait. Hold back from commenting or "liking", for a moment. It is likely that, after a few minutes, your opinion will change, or that you'll give up expressing it... "Because when you're no longer impulsive, the child in you, this regressive part that is solicited by the internet, calms down, and leaves your adult part free to express itself," explains the psychologist.

Addiction, regression, avoidance... Psychological disorders are increasing, observes Sabrina Philippe, but they mask or compensate for a problem in personality development: low self-esteem, feelings of insecurity, and unresolved suffering.

A distorted personality

On social networks, we naturally tend to show our most advantageous profile, an image of ourselves that corresponds more to an ideal than to reality. In our quest for social recognition, we lie to others and to ourselves.

That is also what we see of others on the internet: an enhanced or misleading reflection that, when measured against one's own experience, is demoralizing. Comparing ourselves to those around us is a normal

reflex, which allows us to assess our choices and situations. But in real life, analyses Sabrina Philippe: "On the one hand, we have rest periods, moments when we are not in contact with others, and on the other hand, most of the time, we move in a circle that resembles us. These two points are fundamental and guarantee our psychological comfort."

"Virtual reality" — a contradiction in terms, if you think about it for a second — tends to distance us from ourselves, and leads to the appearance of a "fake self", a fictitious self. The more time we spend in virtual world, the more difficult it becomes to get used to reality.

Be satisfied with reality

This psychologist encourages us to question our own practices and those of our children, and to recognize that we are all affected. If you notice the beginnings of an addiction or withdrawal, don't hesitate to seek professional advice. Therapy can help us to get back in touch with our emotions, to talk to our loved ones, and, above all, to rebuild our self-esteem, so that we can become "real" again. It is time to reconnect, without filters or avatars, to our emotions, our desires and our creativity.

Lionel Joly Charrasse [holder of a doctorate from the Paris-Sorbonne University] suggests that we make sure that we are more satisfied with our real lives in order to avoid the tendency to escape into the virtual world. "The way in which social networks operate, and the knowledge that their creators have of our cognitive system and our biochemical functioning, mean that a simple decision to get away from screens or to use them consciously — in other words, in accordance with our wishes — is almost automatically doomed to failure," he warns, before proposing some very concrete tools and approaches to avoid these pitfalls. For example, you can establish dedicated screen time, use an app to objectively monitor your consumption, deactivate certain functions or notifications, get used to going out without your smartphone, etc.

One can really ask oneself whether "social" networks really are social at all. It is doubtful when we consider their effects on those addicted to them, particularly young people. After all, social networks separate us from our fellow people. They isolate us from society. So much so, that those who excessively use them feel less safe in public spaces. As Aurelia Jane Lee says, they feel safer in front of their screens.

Social networks can be useful, effective and fast tools for communication and information, but we shouldn't let ourselves be bewitched by their fascinating possibilities. Fascinating but also destructive. By being connected to the distant, we disconnect from those close to us. But we don't live with those who communicate with us online. That's why we can present ourselves in a light that might be advantageous, but is exaggerated or even deceptive, something impossible or at least more difficult, with those around us.

It is always abuse that compromises everything. Given the intentionally addictive nature of social networks, many people make unreasonable use of them, which ends up disconnecting them from reality and contact with their loved ones. It is not uncommon to see, in a family, a child sending a message to its parents in the same house. So, perhaps without realizing it, our relationships with social networks can make us asocial. Yet human beings are outstanding social beings. To develop, we need contact with those around us. We need to feel affection and, above all, to give it. However, social networks might be a tool for communication, but not for communion. And even communication through them is relative, in the sense that we can exchange, text, words or images, but feelings are much harder to come by. Writing or saying: "I love you," to someone is not at all the same thing as making them feel our af-

fection when they are close to us. Besides, a lot of the time, we exchange trivia on social networks.

Obviously, this phenomenon is not new. In the past, people escaped by watching a film or reading a novel. What has changed is the interaction between those who communicate and the fact that we can take our mobile phones everywhere. Furthermore, the readiness to communicate shows that human beings have a real need to communicate. Doing so online offers a degree of comfort, because one is not face-to-face with someone. However, as the above article explains, there is also a danger in avoiding direct contact with those around us, and in creating a world of our own tastes and fantasies, by choosing those whom we want have contact with, and by cutting others off. In that way, our life becomes increasingly artificial and disconnected from society.

We live with those around us. Where we are is where we should strive to make those around us happy, to be there for them, to spend ourselves for them and to show them the good feelings that we have for them. Human beings were made for this. One has no reason to exist if one is not or does not become a benefactor to one's fellow people. Furthermore, the happiness that we urgently need to live, does not come from the good that we do to ourselves, but from the benevolence that we show to others. This is "the science of life", the great Universal Law, which says that every being and every thing, exist for the good of those around them. There can be no sustainable life without respect for this fundamental principle. And to do it, one needs to be in direct contact with those around one. A long-distance relationship, as is the case through social networks, is not at all sufficient.

In the Reign of Justice, which will soon be introduced on Earth, all people will learn to love each other. Reality will then be so beautiful that there will no longer be any need for the virtual world. Human beings will no longer be deceived and will learn to know the Lord God's kind intentions towards them. They will be brought into contact with the admirable Work of God's beloved Son, and will be able to enjoy its beneficial effects through the education that they will receive in order to attain everlasting life.

An original idea

The French newspaper *Ouest-France*, on the 6th of July 2023, reported an original idea from a young student for combatting the plastic pollution of water. We fully reproduce the article written by Jean-Marie Cunin:

He extracts plastic from water using magnetism.

Fionn Ferreira, a 22-year-old Irish student, has developed a process for magnetizing plastic. His goal is to clean up the oceans. Since then, he has further developed his idea...

Irish student Fionn Ferreira, aged 22, is no stranger to the spotlight. In 2019, he won the Google Science Fair, a global innovation competition. In 2021, he was named a "Forbes 30 Under 30" [for achievement].

On Tuesday, he came third in the Young Inventors Prize, a competition organized by the European Patent Office. Nothing to discourage the dynamic inventor, who has been promoting his invention for several years: a magnet to remove plastic from water.

This is an idea inspired from his youth on the Irish coast, in Cork. "I saw large pieces of plastic washing up on the coast," he says. When he realized that these pieces break down into microscopic pieces, called "microplastics", he decided to take action.

Oil to trap plastic

"I started by trying to filter the water, but I soon realized that this wasn't the right solution. If we want to remove plastic from water, we need something different

was not to be compared with the blows, and "the crown of thorns", and even less with the Cross, yet it had all led Ruth's father into prison. A gleam of light had got into the prison walls with this new prisoner. His peace, his joy and particularly his willingness, though they had not shaken the prison walls, had knocked a breach in the warden's beliefs.

So, there were laws to condemn the innocent? He was brought to realize the fact for the first time!

Ruth's father had painted the warden's entire flat. He also cooked the warden's Christmas dinner. Ruth's whole family had been invited to the feast, and Ruth, who was then scarcely a year old, had spent it on the good warden's knee.

Some months later, when this uncommon prisoner left, having served his sentence, the prison warden was very much affected, and presented him with his most valuable paint-

ing. It was a very faithful reproduction of a Rembrandt, showing Jesus and his disciples, on the road to Emmaus. He had decided that it was more fitting for this painting to be admired in the house of a man who was not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ.

So, those memories were retold on the way to the train station, which was finally reached, and our two travellers took their seats on the train that was waiting at the platform.

It was only a slow local train with a few passengers aboard. However, at the last moment, a lady with a little boy, got into their non-smoking section. She was elegant and well dressed and exuded an expensive perfume, and her darling looked so much like a small prince that one could have wondered whether she got on to the right train. Her darling must be taking up a deal of room in the life of this fond mother. One could see she was on the lookout for the slightest sign of a desire on the lips or in the eyes of her

darling, to gratify it on the spot. She worried if her darling was a little restless, and next moment would worry because he was saying nothing.

Her darling had only to give a little cough, and then her eyes would immediately fly to the window to see if there was a crack letting a draught in. Her darling only had to yawn... and perhaps he was hungry. If he sighed...he must be too hot. Everything that happened was only a matter between her and her darling. None of the people around entered into the picture at all. The whole world revolved around him, and the darling, fully aware of his own importance, would cast his eyes over the people around him with the air of a commander reviewing his troops. All this had taken place in the course of two or three trains stops, during which the darling had unfortunately been shaken, which was quite visibly contrary to what he was accustomed to.

Now, the train stopped at a small local sta-

tion. It was cold outside, and the trees were covered with frost. There were hardly any passengers either getting in or getting out. On the platform was a peasant woman, not at all well-off in appearance, and the young lad she had brought to the station must have been her son. He came into their compartment, and a gust of cold air blew in with him. He managed to get his little suitcase on to the luggage rack, and took his seat exactly opposite mother's darling.

The other lad scarcely glanced at him, being absorbed in the enjoyment of a large toffee under the watchful and fond eyes of his doting mother. So, the newcomer sat there, making himself as small as he could in his corner. He was poorly dressed, and this made a sharp contrast with his opposites, a very marked contrast with the other lad, who was pouting now, so that his mother, made anxious by this change of mood, redoubled her attentions.

from conventional filtration and instead use something based on the chemistry of plastic," explains this young man who is still a student in the Netherlands.

Fionn Ferreira says that, once again, the inspiration came from observing the coastline. "I saw oil residues and lots of plastic particles sticking to them. So, I thought: 'What if we could capture them using oil?'"

But, once that was established, the inventor stumbled on the next step. How could he control the oil and prevent it from spilling into the ocean? He then discovered the work of a physicist, Arden Warner, who, in 2010, invented a method for magnetizing hydrocarbons and combatting oil spills. "I then thought that we could magnetize the oil and thus control the way it moves while the plastics are attracted."

Plastic business

His invention caused quite a stir in 2019. Since then, this young man has established an association and a profit-making company in the United States, called Fionn & Co. At first glance, however, the removal of plastic does not seem very lucrative. "Governments and private companies integrate my device into their drinking-water cleaning systems. We can also resell the plastic we extract." Companies that market drinks and need healthy drinking water, are also interested in his invention, according to Fionn Ferreira.

His story is reminiscent of that of Boyan Slat, a Dutch engineer who created a buzz in 2012, at the age of 18, with his project to clean up the oceans. Since then, NGOs, such as the Surfrider Foundation, have warned of these "false good ideas" [this hype]: it would be far more urgent to fight against the production of plastic on land.

"While it is, of course, important to start by reducing plastic waste, we must realize that we consume a lot of plastic every day, through our food and the water we drink," replies Fionn Ferreira.

The above report contains a message of hope in the face of the calamity represented by the pollution of the oceans by plastic. Of course, there certainly is a long way to go from young Fionn Ferreira's idea to the total elimination of plastic from the oceans. However, it is interesting to see young students looking at the problem of pollution and seeking solutions to remedy it. This shows an awareness of environmental challenges and an interest in their fellow people and future generations.

Using oil to trap plastic pieces, and then magnetizing this oil to control their movement, is an original idea. This is something to think about! Although we don't have any more details about how it will work or how

much it will cost, we can nevertheless hope that this process will be successful and that it will be adopted, because Fionn is right when he says that we already consume a lot of plastic through our food and the water we drink. Some NGOs have expressed reservations about clean-up projects, describing them as "false good ideas" and claiming that it is more urgent to combat the production of plastic.

We are delighted by this young man's enthusiasm and effort to repair the damage done to nature. For us, it is part of the great Restoration of All Things that has been foretold for a long time and that will be accomplished in the Kingdom of God, according to the Lord's will. The Almighty gave his beloved Son to redeem sinful humankind and enable them to regain their destiny of children of God. Every effort made in this direction will receive its reward.

According to divine promises, the whole world will be restored. No more harm or damage will be done. All people will learn to love each other and to exist for each other's good, according to the Universal Law, established by God Himself. All people will be benefactors to each other and will thus be able to live forever.

Another dolphin feat

We've already had several opportunities to highlight interesting stories in which dolphins were the heroes. It seems that these mammals are really gifted with intelligent abilities and understanding in all sorts of areas.

In the European magazine *L'Echo de la Mode*, and reported by Georges Langelaan, we read about the incredible exploits of "Pelorus Jack", the name given to a dolphin. Here is the gist of the story:

We are just beginning to talk about dolphins, these animals that "reason", reservedly says the author of a very interesting book about these "friends of humans", just like so many other animals. But half a century ago, one of my uncles — nicknamed "Pirate" because he loved the sea and was always at sea (and also for another reason that was whispered around after sending the children off to play somewhere else) — told me the story of Pelorus Jack, a dolphin that, for 24 years, acted as a volunteer pilot for hundreds of ships, of all sizes, using Pelorus Sound and French Pass, which separates D'Urville Island from the South Island of New Zealand.

Pelorus Jack began his extraordinary career in heavy weather, one morning, in 1888 by managing to make himself understood to the crew of the schooner Brindle, which had entered a strait dotted with reefs and

eddies, where more than one ship had already sunk. As the schooner moved slowly forward, the lookout man spotted a...whale, apparently playing, in front of the ship Brindle. The captain, worried by the heavy rain that was hampering visibility, paid little attention to it, but a little later, his helmsman told him that the animal was following the deep-water channel, and that it might be a good idea to follow it. And that way, the Brindle arrived safely in Tasman Bay.

The surprising story of this dolphin, so large that it was firstly mistaken for a whale, soon spread to the ports of Wellington, Nelson and Christchurch, and soon, other ships were being piloted, in this way, by this mysterious animal that the sailors named Pelorus Jack.

Pelorus Jack used to wait for the ships in the strait and came leaping out of the water to meet them. Sailors and passengers, now awaiting his appearance, used to respond to his greeting with cheers. Then, the same manoeuvre would take place. Pelorus Jack would move to port and accompany the boat as far as the entrance to the channel, where he would dive, to reappear a few minutes later, straight ahead of the ship and always far enough away to be in sight of the helmsman, whose work he seemed to understand. After that, all you had to do was follow him. Once the dangerous pass had been negotiated, he would return to circle the ship and, after a few antics, disappear!

From the early 1900s to 1912, Pelorus Jack piloted, with one exception, all the ships entering the strait. The only one he never piloted again was the SS Penguin, from which a "highly intelligent" passenger had amused himself by shooting at him. This was the indirect cause of the sinking of the SS Penguin, which, for lack of a pilot, later crashed into the rocks.

Now famous, Pelorus Jack attracted a whole group of scientists who made the trip half a dozen times, and definitively identified him as a Risso's dolphin. In 1912, Pelorus Jack disappeared, and no one knew what had become of him. My uncle said that, like so many real sailors, he must have died on the job.

This story is extremely interesting. Once again, we see a manifestation of the bonds that unite all living beings in creation, when they are under a beneficial influence. Humankind were destined to be the royalty of the earthly creation. But they turned their back on this role, becoming the enemy, not only of God, but of all the beings they call "inferior"! There is no need to dwell on this situation. Anyone thinking in a sane way is bound to agree that poor human creatures have degraded themselves to such an extent that many animals teach them very significant lessons.

So then, the peasant lad took his suitcase down from the rack and opened it on the seat beside him. It was a poor little suitcase in which Suzanne and Ruth observed him rummaging among pyjamas, a worn exercise book and an old textbook. Suddenly, with a look of triumph, he brought out a paper bag. It was a fancy bag, such as confectioners use for Christmas and birthdays. It surely was something he had received for Easter. Probably the only one. Then timidly, seemingly overcome by the audacity of what he was doing, he handed it to the lady.

"It's for him," he said, with his eyes on the little darling.

The bag, as yet unopened, passed into the lady's hand, and then into that of her darling. The child's eyes lit up, but in no manner that could compare with the light shining in the eyes of the lad who had just given away what was doubtless the very best he possessed.

The darling, dragged from his indifference, began to conscientiously inspect this treasure, as was his custom, for he did not appear to have done much sharing in the course of his short life. The train was slowing down, and the peasant lad, whose quality of smile remained unspoilt, held on to his suitcase, which now must have been much lighter.

"Darling, ask him to have a cake," mother suggested, as with a loud shriek of the brakes, the train came to a stop.

And so, the unknown lad left them. Suzanne and Ruth followed his receding form with tenderness in their eyes, for he had inspired, in both of them, a sentiment which drew them strongly to him.

With what he had done, he had illustrated the Spirit of the Kingdom of God, for which they were also going to give their best, something which the lost human race was in great need of. Such an action came from afar and from high up, for God Himself gave the best He had, so that the unfortunate may hope, so that the blind may see, and so that the dead may rise again in his wonderful Kingdom.

News in brief of the Reign of Justice

From the 13th to the 15th of July, the dear Family of Faith, in Italy, had the joy of gathering at a congress to receive instructions from the dear Messenger. On the Saturday, the meeting began with this *Heavenly Dew* Bible text: "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted" (Matthew 5: 4), which the dear Messenger commented on as follows:

"If humankind would let themselves be comforted by the Lord, there would soon be no more unhappy people on Earth. ... But they do not want to. Yet they are all unhappy in one way or another, in this world of misery and sadness. ...

That seems to be an extremely unfortunate situation. But it's not. Our dear Saviour said, with good reason: 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.' Indeed, this is true. Because when we have clearly felt and understood that there is nothing, absolutely nothing, to be found in the world... we find it much easier to completely turn to the Lord. ...

Indeed, the Lord is close to those who suffer and who are broken-hearted and dejected. ... But we must want to be comforted. And to be comforted, we must not want to hold on to what makes us suffer. We must not cling to what prevents us from being happy. ...

If we are sad, it is because we have been thinking about ourselves and pursued a selfish feeling. Then, we are no longer under the divine anointing. Therefore, we have to find the point and overcome it with divine help. ... If the divine programme does not have the power to make us completely happy, nothing else will. ...

What a wonderful grace it is when we can understand and, above all, feel that all the debts we owe have been paid! We must be able to feel this deep in our hearts.

So, let us do what is necessary to be a constant source of joy and comfort. ... We must

be able to flood the Earth with the supreme consolation of the Kingdom of God."

On the Sunday, the *Heavenly Dew* Bible text was this exclamation from Apostle Paul: "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1: 27). Here are some extracts from the presentation by the Faithful and Wise Servant:

"It is an ineffable assurance that the Apostle Paul gives us in our text: 'Christ in you, the hope of glory.' For this, we must be able to benefit from the anointing of divine grace, which requires conditions to be fulfilled. The Apostle John shows us how to do this. He tells us: 'Little children, keep yourselves from idols,' (1 John 5: 21) and: 'Beloved, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love' (1 John 4: 7 and 8). 'Therefore, just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to walk in him.' Colossians 2: 6.

Honesty is a wonderful power of attraction for God's Spirit. ...

What is absolutely necessary if we want to reach the complete anointing that gives us the total and definitive victory, is the constant and uninterrupted practice of faithfulness, down to the smallest details. This is of utmost importance. ...

The divine anointing imparts assurance, energy and power to those who receive it. Apostle Paul said to Timothy: 'God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and of love.' ...

We must become the exact reflection of the Lord's character. It is therefore quite obvious that there can be no more fear, pride, timidity, discontent, animosity, jealousy, etc. found in us. ... We must therefore work on our heart until all of this has disappeared, overcoming these points as trials expose them. This requires honesty and energy from us. ..."

On the Monday, the congress concluded with a presentation by the Faithful and Wise Servant on the following assertion of our dear Saviour: "By your patient endurance, you will

possess your souls," (Luke 21: 19) of which we provide a brief summary here:

"Patience is an essential part of altruistic love. So, whoever practises divine love, automatically practises patience and endurance. On the other hand, those who practise egotistical love are extremely restless and impatient. ...

When a trial reaches us, let us say: 'It is excellent!' 'The old creature' is silenced, and the new one has the upper hand. In this way, we visibly change. This is a real healing process. But how many people think like this? It is the method of those who want to possess their soul through patient endurance. ...

As soon as we spot a flaw or a shortcoming, we have to fight against it, with perseverance, until we have eradicated it from our heart. This is how we become victorious and do not always remain defeated. ... But we must absolutely put all of our strength into the fight. ... In any case, we can no longer continue at the current pace, otherwise we will never last in the days to come. ...

Let us always remember the kindness that our dear Saviour showed to his dear disciples! ... He had faith, not only the faith that his Father would make his Work succeed in every detail, but also faith in his disciples. ... The Lord overlooked the weakness and unfaithfulness of his disciples. He continued his Work and revealed himself to them with patient endurance. Regardless of their excuses, he poured out God's Spirit on them as a gift, through a continuous flow of kindness, consolation and love. This is a wonderful example. ... Let us therefore treat our fellow person as the Lord treats us, so kindly and nobly!"

We thank the dear Family of Faith from Turin and the surrounding areas, who put all of their heart into organizing this meeting, and we wish everyone the Lord's help in the great Fight of Faith.

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