FRAGMENTS OF VIRTUES AND FRACTIONS OF TRUTH ARE A LIFE-GENERATING CREATIVE FORCE

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ALBERT J. NORADUNKIAN
ARMENIAN CHRISTIAN

2006

KNOWLEDGE

IS ACCUMULATION OF INFORMATION.

WISDOM
IS THE ABILITY TO USE THAT KNOWLEDGE

THROUGH THE REVELATION
OF DIVINE POWER

themselves from heavenly qualifications and faculties. Thus, when

Consequently, sexuality has become a means for a purpose instead of an end for self-conscious persons who are made in God's own image. Therefore, in human society, sexuality has been transformed and raised from instinctive sensations to a spiritual relationship. Through this supernatural and sacred relationship, humankind participates intellectually and spiritually. At the very moment when humanity received the Divine image, sexual sensations were transformed into conscious and moral acts.

The human being lives in a continuous physical and spiritual reformation. Spiritual and moral improvements stem from the divine seed which God implanted while making humanity.

The tasteless dark-coloured earth which covers the surface of the planet can produce only the physical and mechanical aspects of men and women. Our spiritual and transcending moral source is God whose sacred and benevolent will bestowed a speck of conscience and a rational spark upon us.

The Indian philosopher, Sir Rabindranath Tagore, has said,
"Free love is very sweet, but honour and dignity are supreme."

In the political and religious past, extramarital sexual relation ships were permissible but not within the law. For example, Julius Caesar used to live with Queen Cleopatra of Egypt in the presence of his lawful wife. Caesar and Cleopatra even had a son. However, if one of the company of virgins who kept the Holy Roman Fire ever had an affair with a male, the court would weave a brick wall around the couple and will let them die of starvation and thirst.

In Middle Eastern temples, sexuality was a religious act. In the temples of Corinth, there were over a thousand women who served men sexually to sanctify their fertility. Their priests had to be castrated.

In the civilized and law-abiding Roman Empire, sexuality was rampant and permissible. However, the so called "barbarians" and "savages" of the North European countries had a family tradition which was "one man and one wife." The North Europeans who were called "savages," used to vow absolute faithfulness to one another.

Polygamy was licensed in the Mosaic Law, although some people went to the extreme. Adultery was condemned by stoning.

Within the Christian Churches there are also inconsistencies. Why call matrimony "holy" if the conducting priest is not allowed to marry? If marriage is sinful, why call it a "Holy Sacrament?"

From a religious perspective, sexual unfaithfulness is considered one of the deadly sins by the Mosaic Law.

Should not Christians today follow their Lord Jesus Christ? Even the disciples of Moses, the Pharisees, inquired of Jesus what

"I do not condemn you either," are words which would shake all of us even today! How much we enjoy judging and condemning, not for justice, but because we love to slander. Let us be aware of Jesus' commands and attitudes if we do not want to be called a "hypocritical Pharisee."

Why did Jesus not condemn the woman who was caught in the act of that particular sin?

The apostle Paul who had the inspiration and blessing of the Holy Spirit writes in the book of Hebrews 13:4,

God will judge and punish the unchaste
(i.e: all those guilty of sexual vice) **and the adulterous.**

In the first part of this article, I stated that sexual impulse is Divine and also natural. It is an inherent from mother nature. Sexual forces were granted only through the grace of God. The most restrictive impulse in humanity is the repression of sexual passion. However, we do need spiritual discipline. This was the reason Jesus added a command. He said to the woman,

"I also do not condemn you, **Go on your way,**
and from now on sin no more."

To the Pharisees and hypocritical scribes Jesus said,

"You blind guides, which strain at a gnat and swallow a camel. You serpents, you generation of vipers, how can you escape the damnation of hell?"
--Matt. 23:24.

How surprising and marvelous seem the judgment and con demnation of Jesus toward the adulterous woman compared to our human prejudices and those of the religious scribes and Pharisees!

Through the perspective of Jesus, the greatest sins are those which are centred on hypocrisy. We should not forget that hypocrisy, falsehood and deceit are the imitation of reality and truth which belong to God, The Absolute. The hypocrite is a person who acts always behind a mask and whose identity we can never know or see.

Hypocrisy is not created within a person. It is a mask which is acquired by the individual's free will to deceive others for his or her own glory and advancement. A hypocrite will even try to deceive his or her Creator God, whereas humans usually just deceive themselves.

According to Jesus Christ and according to the revelation from the Divine Gospel, the greatest sin is the sin of **HYPOCRISY** because it can be practised **alone.**

February 2, 1990

THE MYSTERY OF THE
THE TRANSFIGURATION

When Jesus began climbing the mountain with His three closest disciples, Peter, James and John. It was another occasion for them to feel important that they had been chosen from among the twelve to be leaders and closest to the Master.

What is important for us to consider is why Jesus was transfigured and why was it done in the presence of these three disciples?

1. Was it to show Jesus' magical powers? Was it to impress his disciples?

2. Why did Moses and Elijah appear? Why did the disciples have to recognize these two greatest prophets of the Old Testament?

3. Were these prophets communication satellites between God and Jesus? Couldn't Jesus receive the message from his Father without these two men?

4. Or did Jesus want to teach something mystical to his three disciples who would later carry on His message? If so, what was the message?

Two important phrases which an average reader sometimes overlooks are:

"Were heavy with sleep" and "Not knowing what he said."--
Luke 9:32.

Since the disciples were heavy with sleep and did not know what they were speaking, how in heavens could they understand the conversation which was taking place between Jesus, Moses, and Elijah? Was there any conversation between these three at all?

My humble opinion is that Jesus took these three leading disciples to show them his mystical relationship with the Father which was far above and much more important than God's relationship with any of the previous prophets, even Moses and Elijah. The disciples heard the voice of God which said "You <u>listen to Him"</u> and, after hearing the voice, they looked and saw only one of the glorified figures and that was their Master, Jesus Christ.

This transfiguration experience was a lesson to the disciples to teach them that their Master was not an equal among the O. T. prophets, but someone much greater than the greatest of them all. Moses and Elijah were prophets, but to this person, to their Master, was given the name of "My beloved Son." In fear and trembling, when they opened their

THE MYSTERY OF CHRISTMAS

Christmas may be called the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, but this is only partly true.

The birth of Jesus was the incarnation of the Son of God and the manifestation of the invisible and unapproachable deity.

God is both outside and within the cosmic universe. As human beings, it is simply impossible to apprehend God. This is why the Old Testament prophets and gentile poets could not understand Him. God is transcendent to His creation--outside of created things, be it the universe or man. Only His emanations--His manifestations or energies--are apprehensible and humanly grasped in the cosmic universe.

As man cannot see the sun, but only its rays and energies, or as man cannot direct his eyes at the radiation from the hydrogen bomb and live, so man cannot see God and live.

Man can see hydrogen and atomic explosions only through photography--only ***in the image.*** So the true incarnate image of God is Jesus. The historic poets and prophets only assumed what God was like. Their ideas were sometimes logical and sometimes contradictory. They propagated a God which was both good and evil, jealous, wrathful and loving. However, they could not give us the true perspective or dimension of who God was or what He was like.

The birth (incarnation) of Jesus is grasped within this framework.

We should never look upon Christmas as being simply the birthday of a baby or of the child Jesus. Christmas is the Incarnation of the Divine Transcendence or the Divine Presence or the distinguished Personality which ***"was made flesh."*** When the Magis of the East came to Jerusalem, they did not ask for the child which was born a king. They asked for the opposite, the King which was born. In other words, they were seeking the King, the Spirit, the Greatness, the Boundless made finite.

Christmas is not about the birth of a child, but about the transformation of the divine into a human being--*the Word made flesh*. The hope of historic man was realized in the person of Jesus Christ. He alone could unravel and reveal the God un-known to the intellect of man because He alone is the all-living revelation of Him who is beyond human comprehension. This is why Jesus said,"I am the Truth." Therefore the Gospel of John says,

"For the Law was given by Moses
but Truth and grace came by Jesus."

Laws could be given by Moses, Hammurabi, Socrates, Pharaohs and other philosophers and legislators but only Jesus could reveal the mystery of Divine Truth and Grace. He was the Energy (the actual exertion of power

THE DEATH PENALTY--
IS IT MURDER OR EXECUTION?
IS IT JUSTIFIED?

MURDER OR EXECUTION? This is the question. Will mankind live in a jungle or within the bounds of civilization? Man not only created the confines of civilization, but also the laws, regulations and legislation for peaceful coexistence.

The judicial decisions to be enforced are not only between good and evil, but also between evil and *lesser* evil. This is because man is not living in a Paradise but in a world which is in the process of being transformed from a jungle into a city.

Natural laws also are not perfect: there are tornadoes, cyclones, floods and hurricanes. Still humanity depends on the laws of nature for survival. What would happen if the natural law turned into lawlessness? The answer would be cosmic ge- nocide.

Capital punishment in this evil world, has been one of those lesser evil laws to keep murderers and assassins at bay.

Who are those murderers and savages? What is their image? When do they make their appearance public? Can we have the video tape of the slaughter of innocent victims who are beheaded and bathed in their own blood? Or do we see the murderers in a courthouse dressed up in three-piece suits to cover up their cruelty and to be seen as gentlemen? Yes, at a county seat they look like polite men of good breeding but their personality is comparable to being a wolf in sheepskin. They only look like truth and reality. In essence, they may seem like hyenas. These perverted brutes kill for sport...for *wilding*.

How executing these perverts should be considered murder, when they themselves have already killed their humanity, nobility and compassion which characterizes man and gives him the Divine Image. In the courthouses where money rules and capital is god, powerful, greedy, harmful and ambitious lawyers compete for the destruction of truth and authenticity.

They present inhuman well-dressed criminals with make- up to the public as misguided childish persons who accidentally happened to kill their victims with no intention or preme-ditation. On other occasions, devil-worshipping attorneys will argue that the criminal is innocent because he comes from a foster home where he was assaulted and abused or was raised as a poor orphan, presenting the crime as the reaction of the criminal's youth.

Why should the criminal be represented as a respectable person in the courthouse, and nothing shown of the victims? Does not the moral intellect demand to also see the victim? If it is not possible physically, why not in a dummy form? Why isn't the victim's lawyer permitted to show the

THE JUSTICE OF GOD

I have attempted to reflect about the love of God and the self-denial of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. There will be many who will also be pleased to see the justice and the righteousness of God in relationship to His love and mercy in world affairs.

Justice is not a concrete matter to be properly analyzed in a lab. Justice is not something that a person can learn. It is a quality of spiritual insight for morality and righteousness which is implanted in a person's inner consciousness. It is not acquired by human effort. The sense of justice and righteousness cannot be silenced. The individual can close the door and ignore its voice but he or she cannot destroy it. The concept of justice is the Presence of God in each person which raises him or her from the animal dimension to the spiritual realm.

Justice cannot be acquired by one's own efforts but has to be given by God. Therefore, how can we human beings ever discuss it? God is the giver of justice to mankind and only He knows how to use it. We understand justice from a human perspective and not from the divine perspective.

At the present, because of our human insufficiency, we can see the divine justice only partly but there will come a day, when we shall see God's justice together with His mercy.

At present, the prisons of the nations are full. The governments want to parole and show mercy even to repentant criminals, even to murderers. But whatever the so-called psychologists do, they cannot see if the repentant criminal is sincere in his behaviour or if he is a hypocrite. Sometimes paroled criminals are arrested a second time for a similar crime.

God is not a professor of psychology. God is the Creator of mankind. He is the loving Father of all of us. A sinner even a murderer, is still a loveable person to God no matter how bad he has behaved. In Christian discipleship, a believer should never lose this perspective of God. Psychologists can never see why a criminal (sinner) behaves this or that way. Psychologists are human also, but God is the Architect of mankind. He alone can discover a real penitent or hypocrite. Jesus did not say to all adulterers, "Your sins are forgiven." Why? Because He knew each person's heart. His justice is always right because He is the Architect of mankind.

When we read about Christ's parable of the Pharisee and the Publican who went to the temple to pray, Jesus penetrated into both person's hearts, that is into their deep down private selves. There, He saw the hypocrisy of the Pharisee and the sincerity of the Publican. There, in that very moment, He administered the true judgment, saying,

***"I tell you, this man* (the publican) *went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."*--Luke 18:14.**

OUR LOVED ONES PASS BY. THEY DO NOT PASS AWAY!

Today we are witnessing the victory of arrogant death, who proudly is challenging the hope of mankind by saying, "I am the end of all life, I am the annihilation of all essence. Even the ancient gods were not immune to me, the old heroes - Achilles and Hector became victims to my authority and command." Those haughty words and proud challenges were also made at the Crucifiction of our Lord Jesus Christ. But the life of the Life-Giver did not end at the crossroad of death. Death could not swallow up Life. Life will never turn to tragedy. Life represents the **positive** dimension of the cosmos when it is ingrained with **love.**

At every tolling bell there stands the life-giving Jesus Christ saying with certainty, "I am the **Resurrection** and I am the **Life.** I have **overcome** death". This is not a theoretical statement. It is a historical fact whose living proof is the living Church for the last 20 centuries. There is no any other organization in this world which has lasted 20 centuries with so many heroic martyrs, except the Church of Jesus Christ to testify for the **fact** of the triumphant **Resurrection.**

Humanity will rise again not because it is righteous, good and holy, but because **God loves mankind.** Humanity is God's children. God cannot foresake mankind. He cannot abandon it. Humans are His highest creation made in His image. Mankind may become prodigal and may even deny the Lord like St. Peter. But mankind belongs to God, He loves all men and women. God's love and mercy are inexhaustible. God is not covetous or stingy. Rather His lovingkindness, generosity, and mercy are inexhaustible. Humans can endure injustice, pain and misery but there are things which humans can not tolerate and allow, such as hypocrisy, dishonour and death. Death is the adversary, the treason and the violation of life.

Today, God is calling each one of us to believe, to hope, to love and to wait for the **day of the Resurrection.** Today, mortal man walks with a pain and a sorrow in his heart. But tomorrow, on the day of Resurrection, he will **march** with a victorious torch of life in hand to his Redeemer and God.

1994--Toronto, Canada

"Ye have heard that it hath been said, 'an eye for an eye, and a tooth for tooth:'(Leviticus 24:20) But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also."

4. The supreme forgiveness of Jesus the Son of God:

And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left--**Luke 23:33-34.**

Then said Jesus,

"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

5. The new and the only commandment of Jesus:

"A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another. As I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."--**John 13: 34-35.**

"Ye have heard that it hath been said, 'Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.' But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you. That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven; for He maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust"--**Matthew 5:43-45.**

The Good Samaritan is the finest example of neighbourly love--**Luke 10:29-37.**

This parable explains what loving "another as thyself" means. The Samaritan cared for the man who fell among thieves as he would for his own life.

December 30, 1996
Toronto