

A photograph of a pond filled with green lily pads and blue lotus flowers. The water is dark, and the lily pads are densely packed. The blue flowers are scattered throughout the scene, some in the foreground and some in the background. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

Igor Bondar

Thoughts

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Thoughts, stories



“Zolotoye sechenie”

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A collection of the author's reflections on various significant issues. Today the world is changing incredibly fast, but what can be changed in it, and what is important to keep unchanged? What makes people successful and what makes them happy? The author attempts to dive into these and other issues from the standpoint of religion, philosophy and history.

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Flash

Sometimes, our lives may seem to be very long for us. But, actually, it is not so. Scientists often study the processes that took place on Earth millions of years ago and from the point of view of such a "timeline" our life is just a short flash.

It really seems to us that life is very long but in this world everything is relative. The life of a moth who lives for only one day probably seems incredibly long to it too. However, for people living on Earth for several decades its life is a very short period of time.

The duration of our human life for the eternally-living inhabitants of Heaven looks approximately the same. It is also just a flash for them.

However, this flash is more than enough time for all sincere and kind people to find the right and wonderful path in their lives during it and walk along it. There, where life no longer ends...

The Spirit of God

The Lord spoke many times about The Spirit of God, about Light during His time on Earth. What is it and what does it have to do with us now? What can it be compared with and what influence can it have on us?

In fact, this unusual question is much more easily understood by people today than by our distant predecessors. Nowadays, the modern world is literally permeated with thousands of different radio waves and the all-encompassing Internet. We have no more doubts that this is the reality because now with the correct setup anyone can connect their phone or computer to some transmission network and receive actual information like messages, sounds, video.

In addition, this wave world exists regardless of whether we use it or not. People have gotten used to this fact for a while and no one doubts it. However, thousands of radio waves, the Internet is far from all that exists in the world, which is invisible to us yet. This world is also permeated with The Spirit of God, Light. And with the correct "setup" people are able to "connect" to it. The manifestation of a well-known intuition is just one example of such a connection.

How can a man of Earth connect to this Spirit of God, Light? The most correct adjustment of a person to the “wave of Light” occurs when one begins to observe the commandments left by God to people. As a result of such efforts, the human soul gains purity and gets the opportunity to “hear” much more. Further, such a person gradually begins to acquire knowledge and a correct vision of our world from the highest source.

Gradually with due persistence, such a person can become a conduit of Light or as God said, “a spring of water welling up to eternal life”. There are many prime and vivid examples of this in Christianity, saints. The main thing is that a person should be firm on the chosen path and always sincerely protect his soul from sin.

The spirit of the world

The spirit of the world exists in every living being on Earth and it was given to them by God. Any animal or person must live, feed oneself, protect from dangers, reproduce and much more. Therefore, a set of instincts, reflexes or in other words 'different programs' from the Creator is present in every living being.

In actuality, the spirit of the world could be figuratively compared with a computer program. Neither a computer without programs, nor a program without a computer is worth much. However, together they are very useful. The case with living beings and their set of instincts and reflexes is approximately the same.

In addition to reflexes and instincts, a person also has a soul that initially strives for the Light, and free will. Moreover, a human has the strongest mind on Earth as well as logic and common sense. He can learn and develop in various directions. God, society, parents, friends, the Internet and many other things suggest these directions to a person. A human can even come up with his own life path and the Lord usually does not interfere with it, as long as it does not affect other people negatively.

In the case with animals, the spirit of the world has quite a simple character which can be briefly formulated as "a set of programs for life on Earth", the situation with humans is much more complicated. Here, it presents more diverse needs, much greater opportunities and that means that there will also be

incommensurably more types of manifestations of the spirit of the world.

In regard to a human being, to a significant extent the spirit of the world is the spirit of the materiality and there is nothing wrong with that within reasonable limits. However, if the desire for material things takes possession of a person completely, then it becomes a trap that will hold a person until the end of his life and deprive him of the opportunity to develop spiritually

The Light often uses the spirit of the world so that each person can live a normal life in accordance with one's Earthly needs. However, the spirit of the world never leads to Light because it is destructive for him - the Light always illuminates the illusory and temporal nature of everything material on Earth.

A person who is in the Light cannot be absolutely serious about the material world which means that it loses power over him. Like an adult, that person can look into the materiality from time to time, like into a playground and even play there for fun. However, he can no longer seriously get too carried away with local games and toys.

The spirit of the world is temporary and leads nowhere. It disappears with every person and will once disappear forever with the Earthly world. Nobody needs it beyond its borders. There, only the God rules and will always rule - beautiful, noble, loving and eternal. And, His Spirit gladly makes all the people eternal as well, provided that they lived on Earth according to the high principles of Light.

Disbelieving world

When believers have problems, they often look at the sky in search of the answer to the question, “why did this happen?” Disbelievers do not do this.

A long time ago, the inhabitants of the ancient town of Nineveh lived very sinfully. As punishment for that, God prepared an unenviable fate for them. However, when they found out about this, the inhabitants of the city had repented of their sins sincerely and had promised God to live righteously. He forgave them and the punishment did not happen.

This story from the life of our distant ancestors as well as many other similar ones sound almost like a fairy tale in today's super-technological world. The whole reality of modern people takes place mainly on computers, televisions and smartphones. There is no time to reflect on the meaning of life, there is no time to think about what will happen after death, there is no time to deal with various information about God. There is no time and no desire because it seems that everything in the world is quite normal.

Sometimes, it even seems that the people of the Earth perceive their seventy-eighty years of life as a kind of endless reality. No one really wants to think about the day when the curtain of his Earthly life will be drawn.

However, no one will be able to escape these topics anyway. Voluntarily or not, each of us will have to return to this issue.

Several decades is not an eternity at all but a quite short period of time.

After Earthly life, not a single question of those that seems important to us today will matter, not even by a little bit, to any person. Meanwhile, those questions that we often had no time to think about during our lifetime will turn out to be important.

Now, Earthly humanity in some places on the path of disbelief and sin has gone, perhaps, even further than the inhabitants of ancient Nineveh once did. Those red lines that God left for people in the form of Commandments are painted over, broken or simply forgotten today. Is it any wonder that the Lord's response to this is manifested on Earth?

The question today is whether humanity is still capable of realizing the true cause of the problems and repent of sins at least a little or not? Will it try somehow to remember its history and God or will it continue to live according to up-to-the-minute sinful rules without paying attention to the Creator at all?

We will definitely know the answer. However, today it seems that no matter how God tries to enlighten humankind that has broken all the reasonable limits, it does not want to see all this, to understand and even to think in the right direction.

Apostasy and disbelief

The Lord once said that people who commit sin consciously and the ones who commit it out of ignorance are punished by God

in different ways. Why is it so? Why does God unequally charge the sins of the ones who know His Commandments and deliberately violate them and people who did not believe in Him from the very beginning?

Actually, to the Lord the difference in these categories of people is huge. Those who do not believe in Him may have many different reasons for it. For example, a person may have grown up in places where another religion or philosophy is predominant and thus, he was closer to it from childhood. Or, for example, people who tried to tell him about God did not do it very well, or they may not have seemed to be the best example to follow.

However, if such a person involuntarily reaches out for kindness, morality, honesty in his life, then over time and under certain circumstances he may well come to faith in God. Even if he does not come to faith as in the parable of the good Samaritan the abundance of good and kind deeds on Earth can make this person a “neighbor” to God. Then, a very pleasant surprise may await him in the future.

Well, and as for kindness, morality and honesty, apart from God, many good and sincere people as well as books and films by excellent authors can lead a person to them. Nowadays, they really help a lot of people to take root in the territory of goodness and truth. Then, after Earthly life, the person who lived this way will be interested to know that in fact he was much closer to God than he thought.

However, as for a person or nations who knew God and His Commandments and then abandoned them and turned to sin, such people fall into a completely different category for the Lord. The

word 'betrayal' is already quite applicable here. That is, these people, despite possessing all the available information, departed from the high rules of God voluntarily and therefore, He can no longer trust them.

No one loves traitors and God is not an exception here. Betrayal is one of the lowest possible deeds of man. That is why the Lord in the Gospel said that the person who knew the will of God and violated it 'shall be beaten with many stripes'. And, the more ugly and sinful the behavior of that person or nation becomes in the future, the more severe punishment from God will await them inevitably.

But to His faithful and reliable followers on Earth, the Lord said completely different words: 'You are my friends if you do what I command'.

Movies about Paradise

There are many movies on Earth in which their authors try to describe Heaven that exists beyond the edge of the Earthly world. The result can often make us smile. Moreover, quite often many people want to stay away from such "paradises" after watching these movies. However, in reality everything looks very different.

In fact, a person first needs to feel Heaven at least a little in his heart in order to describe it. And to feel Paradise in one's heart, one needs to take a long and not-so-simple route shown by the

Lord. We must live by trying to keep His commandments and strive for everything that is high, light, moral and good.

Without this work, it is impossible to gain the purity of heart that allows you to hear the sounds of Heaven, even a little. In this case, the description of Paradise by some authors will somewhat resemble the performance of songs by people who do not have an ear for music. Only people who also do not have an ear for music can listen to these songs. For everyone else such singing will be sheer torture.

A person who lives a sinful life (in our age of all kinds of freedoms, there are numerous examples of this) will always consider sin as a normal thing. This means that he will inevitably bring these views into his idea of Heaven. However, the real Paradise has nothing to do with sin.

In Heaven, there are only the purest and brightest feelings, love and high aspirations that bring joy and happiness to all the inhabitants of Paradise. People on Earth sometimes try to portray such life as rather boring. But have those who make such opinions tried to live like this? If not, then these thoughts are no more accurate than ‘the reasoning of moor frogs about the feelings of sky birds during their flight’.

A conscious life without sin gives rise to a joyful and happy state in a person's soul and one begins to experience feelings that are not comparable to any sinful versions of existence. But to feel it, one has to live like this. It is impossible to understand with the head what a person can only feel with his heart. The head and heart (or, in other words, the soul) are completely different centers

of perception in a person. However, it is the heart that is responsible for our state of happiness.

Therefore, the true essence of Heaven is not based on any external manifestations, although they are also present there at the highest level. The true essence of Heaven lies in the height of feelings of all its inhabitants. This is the world of purest kindness, love and happiness. By the way, many people on Earth who have been between life and death in the hospitals sometimes could feel the atmosphere of lightness and joy of that world for a very short time.

Trying to describe Heaven without understanding its inner content is like forming an opinion about an orchestra based on a photograph of its members. Music should be listened to.

Human control

It is no secret that there are many forces on Earth today that aim to influence people and even try to control them. A large number of such specialists around the world deal with this issue almost constantly. They usually use lies, fragmentation of facts, playing on people's feelings and similar means as their tools.

These manipulators determine the spheres of interests of different human groups, look for ways to influence their views and study methods of awakening thoughts and actions they need in them. At the same time, the whole spectrum of a person's life

from buying some goods to voting and various forms of social behavior is already affected.

A person that can be easily motivated towards anything becomes the most demanded product these days. The possibility of affecting him and even better controlling him opens enormous opportunities for various manipulators. The experience of the first successes in the world, in this area clearly showed everyone that any efforts spent in this direction will pay off many times over.

This, in turn, gives rise to a desire in the manipulators to keep on developing such a highly profitable business. It is unlikely that something will make modern mind hunters abandon their plans today. But, Someone can do it.

From time to time, He does it effectively and originally, as a rule. This Someone is God who actually created all the people of the Earth including the manipulators themselves. Moreover, He created them not for any experiments but for the cultivation of beautiful and kind personalities within them. And for no other reason.

The Lord never manipulates His people but only teaches and prompts them carefully. Showing trust and respect towards them, He gave them complete free will from the very beginning. God patiently leads us to our highest and most beautiful life on Earth and, moreover, to the most beautiful continuation after it for many centuries. That is what God does.

Once, He himself came into the world of his children very simply and modestly only “as a servant”. Not as our Creator or as

the Owner and Ruler of the whole world but as a caring and loving father.

Those who think that God for some reason will allow various manipulators today to turn His children into a kind of controlled machines are naive in their childishness. These people should better look away from their screens for a minute and look very carefully around. And think all this over afterwards. Because nowadays, there is already something to see in the world and there is something to seriously think about.

If some of these people are not yet completely blind, then they may understand that it is better not to interfere with the plans of God on His Earth – for their own good. It was not empty words when God said: “If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea”.

However, if these manipulators do not understand anything, then their actions will strongly resemble an attempt by mosquitoes to somehow influence the flight path of a huge airliner. Not the best idea...

Energy thieves

The concept of "energy vampirism" (or, in other words, the theft of vital energy by people) is not so rare. Does this process

really exist? And if so, how does it look in terms that we can understand?

We all very well know who vampires are from various fairy tales and horror films. However, these stories are just fiction as there are no vampires in real life. Only mosquitoes and midges drink blood from humans. And everyone knows how to stop this process with one slap of the palm.

Since there are no vampires in real life, the definition of "energy vampirism" itself is therefore inaccurate. Moreover, the authors of fairy tales often try to portray vampires with a note of nobility and intelligence. Storytellers have every right to do so. However, in real life those who are called "energy vampires" are inherently much closer in essence to ordinary thieves. Using rather simple means, they steal a part of vital energy from other people. Let's take a closer look at this.

It is a well-known fact that there is Light and darkness, God and passions in our world. They have opposite qualities and manifestations. Life for people of light is love, kindness, honesty, morality, happiness, concern for others and many other similar things. A person who carries these qualities is always in the territory of Light and receives the highest energy from the Lord.

A completely different energy exists in the dark world and it is determined there by the passions living in specific people and other local creatures. These passions include: resentment, anger, envy, jealousy, lies, lust and much more. If a person often makes a choice towards these qualities, then he will inevitably be filled with the same passions over time and will become one with them. And this is no longer the person who needs light for his soul. This

is the one who needs something completely different for his new dark inner inhabitants.

The behavior of such a person also changes - these people already have a need to get angry, take revenge, mock, threaten, take offense, swear, lie and so on. All the energy around them is usually dark but their owners like it.

By the way, this is the basis for a very good way to check whether dark forces live within us or not. If we get at least some pleasure or fulfillment after scandal, anger or resentment then we definitely have them. This is a sure sign that the passions living within us and feeding only on negative emotions have recently “eaten” well.

Now, about the process of energy theft itself: if some people with darkness manage to provoke another person – especially a brighter person – into anger, resentment or other negativity, they receive a certain portion of vital energy from him. The dark ones cannot consume light energy but if it is transformed into dark energy in the carrier, then it turns into the desirable food for them.

As a result of such a process, a dark person who provoked another to be negative receives his "food" and gets filled with energy. And the one who was dragged into this scandal feels devastated after it and needs time to recover.

In order not to fall for such tricks of the dark forces, a person should always try to avoid self-manifestations of such qualities as irritation, anger, resentment and condemnation. Therefore, faith in God and observance of His Commandment: “do not judge, or you too will be judged”, is the best protection against any energy

thieves. Besides, a very good method of testing our inner state is a smile. If we are able to smile kindly, then we are exactly on a bright territory at that moment.

Well, if a person fails to stay on the territory of calmness, and he shows negative emotions in response, then there will be a loss of energy within him. This is because in this case, he leaves the territory of light which had always given him strength and joy. And he then enters the territory of darkness where no one gives anything to anyone just like that. Here, they only steal and take everything away.

People-gods

Recently, it is not so rare to find cases when people that are engaged in various spiritual practices suddenly begin to consider themselves as gods or equal to God. They usually refer to the Creator's phrase from the Bible: "I say, you are gods" without paying special attention to dozens of other words of the Lord that clarify this statement.

What can be said about this? In general, a person can begin to consider himself equal to God for several reasons: childishness, for example, ignorance or pride. Let's consider these options in more detail.

It is well known that children love to impersonate the characters of their favorite books or films. They may temporarily pretend to be a spider-man, a star warrior or for example, a pirate,

and there is nothing wrong with that. Literal understanding of the phrase of God without reading other words of the Lord on this topic also resembles childishness. Why does one not pretend to be God as well?

In reality, everything looks much more complicated. By saying this phrase, God actually meant only the maximum possible potential of people. What a person can come to if he complete a difficult and long enough path indicated by the Lord. If he will always try to keep Commandments of the Lord in his life. And there is no other way for a person to realize his high potential.

Speaking figuratively from the Creator's point of view, a person is a big mountain of wonderful bricks. You can build a large and beautiful temple out of it, or you can make some low and unsightly buildings. It is obvious that it is a hundred times more difficult and much longer to build a beautiful temple.

A person's belief that they are equal to God due to ignorance also has many different reasons. Today, so many philosophies and esoteric teachings try to simplify the meaning of the concept of God and talk about Him based on their own vision. Unfortunately, it is not a rare thing for these philosophers to find followers. At the same time, the entire teaching of the Lord himself is usually not offered there and the need for people to observe God's Commandments is not mentioned. As a rule, there is only a selection of convenient quotes and then the personal opinion of the author himself.

It is unbelievable how very intelligent people who strive for rather complex things sometimes lose simple logic. Who else can

know more about God than His Son, Who came to people right from His home? That is why Jesus' words about the Father are the most accurate words about God on Earth. And if in some philosophies there is a deviation from even some part of them, then what kind of reliability of such teachings can we talk about? This is fantasy and fiction not based on reality at all.

Also, people believe that they are equal to God because of pride. Such states can be caused by spiritual pride, vanity. These are very subtle and therefore very insidious types of passions. This usually happens due to the fact that after passing a certain spiritual path, a person begins to feel the reality of the presence of God in his life for real. But after that, he must become even more attentive and critical of his behavior. Otherwise, spiritual pride can quickly lead such a person off the right path and distort his spiritual vision. Unfortunately, there are many examples of it.

In fact, a person who begins to compare himself with God does not even come close to understanding what he is talking about at all. A mosquito that considers itself an airplane is much more realistic in its comparison. A person who understands even a tiny part about the height and scale of God will never even think of comparing himself to Him.

Not a single saint, righteous person or just a good Christian has ever done this in Christianity. Not because God is against it, but because it is simply unwise. If even the brightest flashlight on Earth suddenly begins to consider itself equal to the Sun, then it will always look stupid.

A person who knows God even a little will never begin to compare himself to Him. He experiences completely different

feelings: like a child, he simply rejoices that such beauty and height exists in the world. He is happy that he can go to Him, learn from Him, be in awe of the scale of what he sees. One kind glance from God is dearer to him than any Earthly reward. Immeasurable trust, endless gratitude, boundless happiness and joy that he has anything to do with it – these are his feelings.

Information and traces

Any external information leaves its mark in a person. For example, after watching the news thoughts around some plots from the program would be swirling in our heads for some time. Human communication through social networks, telephone conversations and other correspondence on the phone also usually leave their "traces" in the form of subsequent reflections and memories. And, depending on the importance of a particular topic to us these reflections can sometimes be very long-lasting.

It is no secret that in our age of universal “smartphonization” and computerization many people are spending almost all their time in various sources of information and stop only for sleep time. A significant part of their free time, as we can observe, is strongly filled with those very traces of previous interests. Earlier in history, humanity was very far from such things. Our ancestors had more free time and many times lower information load.

All this would probably not have a great importance to us, if God and the main reality were not beyond the bounds of our world, and which every single person will inevitably face one of these days. Therefore, all reflections concerning this reality, the search for the right paths to it, and thoughts about the meaning of life on Earth are extremely important for a person.

And that is exactly why we need a calm head and free time. How can a person who does not have time for such reflections understand the importance of spiritual life and not too great of a significance of a material life? That is why the constant presence of a person on different broadcast sources has the most direct and mostly negative impact on his spirituality. It is not a secret that the new computerized generation of people thinks much less about God.

Life after death, God, Paradise, Commandments, high moral principles, kindness, honesty – reflections on these topics also leave their marks in us. These "traces" are most useful and necessary for a person. The only sad thing is that such an important part of our life today is usually in the very "tail" of human interests.

However, if we do not find the time and place in life to think well about all of this, then we will have no one to blame but ourselves for the fact that we were not interested in the most important things for ourselves. The most important thing in the interval of time that exceeds our short Earthly life.

Philosophy of lies

It is not a secret that in recent years faith in God has become less and less popular among the people on the planet. Regardless of it, people are created in such a way that they always have to believe in something. If they begin to believe less in something, that means that they begin to believe more in some new opinions and theories. This is how the “flow of faith” from one to another occurs. It is natural for human consciousness to not remove opinions but to change them.

So, what philosophies, beliefs or convictions are replacing the once very popular Christianity on Earth today? In fact, there are a lot of them and it makes no sense to list them all. However, there is one common feature that is present in all these philosophies. This common feature described in one word is called a *lie*. It is actually not so difficult to understand the reason for this assessment. Here are a couple of examples for clarification.

As we have said, humanity is losing faith in God. However, faith in God is based on many thousands of facts and evidence of His presence. All of them are known, described and have not disappeared. But, many people today choose neither to study these facts nor to even get to know them properly. Instead, they simply begin to rely on some other opinions that exist in the world. However, opinions that do not take into account the facts and evidence of history cannot be true. Then, what are they if not a lie?

By the way, similar processes are taking place today on Earth with interpretations of the history of mankind as a whole. There is already a tendency in the world to rewrite and to correct history. Many people are engaged in this. But then again, this is always done contrary to the available evidence and facts, regardless of the goals. So, it is always a lie as well.

Here is another example. Today, through many screens people are told about thousands of different goals and interests that should allegedly be most important to them. However, all these "benchmarks" will turn to dust at the moment of a person's departure from life. And after death, such a person suddenly discovers that he is a sinful bankrupt before God, who has gone in the wrong direction in his life. So, what is it if not the broadcasters' lies about the values of life?

There are many things that can be said today in the context of this topic, for example, about many dishonest information campaigns on Earth. Or about new "teachers of life" who do not get their knowledge from God or the great sages of mankind, but from false sources. Due to such information morality in society is falling, the basis of humanity - the family - is destroyed, and much more. This is also the consequence of lies.

Therefore, a person who loses faith in God today does not actually stop believing. He just begins to believe in other, not the most truthful theories. And the fact that they are well designed and the lies are well obscured in them, in fact, does not change anything. God always is just truth and honesty. It is also not that difficult to find the main liar on Earth. Well after that, the choice is ours.

Whirlpool

A large whirlpool in the ocean may not even be noticed from afar. The curvature of the water along its edge is almost invisible and only a small circular current in this place indicates the presence of this natural phenomenon. However, as you approach the center, the slope of the water begins to appear, its speed increases and the serious sea element becomes more and more notable. Even closer to the middle, the speed of the water increases many times and its movement already goes downward perpendicular to the surface of the sea. And everything from the surface of this area begins to be drawn into the depths of the ocean.

The events that have been taking place in the spiritual sphere of the planet in recent decades also strongly resemble a whirlpool in some ways. People on Earth that had been sticking to the calm and reliable rules for many centuries left to them by the Lord, suddenly found themselves dragged away from them somewhere. It is difficult to say what caused it. Maybe it is the increasing dominance of science over spirituality in people's lives, maybe the emergence of various newfangled freedoms and the complete openness of the information field to sinful ideas or maybe it is something else. But the fact remains - people began to move away from their previous way of life towards a direction not recommended by the Creator.

At first, it was almost unnoticeable and then it was increasing more and more. And, the surface of the “spiritual ocean” left to people by God began to bend a little. This process grew; new

sinful views and concepts which have never entered anyone's head before, appeared in humanity. However, after some time they became an objective reality for many people of the world.

Furthermore. The deviations continued to deepen and in some places even acquired features that people used to always find absurd. However, now almost no one calls them absurd. On the contrary, at this point of the spiritual whirlpool more and more people are already looking with suspicion at those who, in spite of everything, keep the old, traditional way of life.

Meanwhile, the speed of change continues to grow and the deviation of people's behavior from the commandments of the Lord continues to increase. What happens next - will be revealed only by time and God who now looks at this "whirlpool" with great sadness.

Karma

Karma is a fairly popular concept among many people. There is no such term in Christianity but it is present in some Eastern or ancient Indian philosophies as well as some modern esoteric teachings. Since this word is very popular, it makes sense to talk a little about it in light of Christian views.

By definition, karma is the law of reward or punishment of a person for his good or bad life, which leads to good or negative events in his later life. This is similar to Christian morality which

speaks about the sad fate of all sinners and the good fate of the righteous.

The teachings of karma also often contain the concept of a person's "past lives". On the basis of this, those conditions and circumstances in which we are in this life as well as many gifts or misfortunes of fate alleged to be "karmic lessons" from our past incarnations. What can be said about all this?

In general, all the "pedagogy" of God in relation to people is aimed at making them better – kinder, more honest, more moral and so on. Is it necessary to try to look for clues (it is not at all clear, by the way, how) into our possible "past lives", searching for the answers when we have more than enough information and evidence about how and what a person on this Earth should do in their current life? Considering the level of education of modern mankind as well as his love for tangible facts, this question is rather rhetorical.

Therefore, Christianity never touches the concept of "past life". From the standpoint of people living on Earth, this topic is absolutely unverifiable and the practical benefits of it for the cultivation of a beautiful personality equals to zero. The Lord's commandments are enough for these purposes.

The Lord left His commandments to us as the rules of life, a model of human behavior that people should come to. Observance of the Commandments - undoubtedly the correct and beautiful norms of human existence - is the most workable and effective way for any person to improve his real life or karma.

However, our motivation for keeping the commandments of the Lord is worth paying special attention to. For example, if a person forbids himself to sin because he is afraid of the punishment from God, but he has such desires in his soul, then he has not advanced much on the spiritual path yet. Sometimes, our desires are no less significant than deeds and therefore the karma of such a person, of course, will improve due to his faith in God and discipline, but not too much.

So, if a person understands that God's commandments are the greatest gift to people, and that only they can make a human to be human in the highest sense of the word, then over time his karma is overcome. The Commandments or rather honesty, sincerity, kindness, forgiveness, love, morality for these people become the only possible behavior. As a result, these people begin to live according to the rules of Heaven already on the Earth. Well, in Heaven, karma is not needed.

The year that changes the world

Usually, significant periods of time are required for humanity to comprehend some important things. Formation of different beliefs and convictions, reassessment of former values lasted tens and even hundreds of years on Earth. More or less visible processes of evolution on the planet took centuries as well.

However, sometimes there are events that occur on Earth that can radically change people's lives in much shorter periods of time – in literally months or just a few years. Unfortunately, such events almost always look negative to people.

After the end of such unpleasant events countries, nations and different groups of people, of course, draw their own conclusions. There is no use talking about it in detail but their general focus is to be more prepared for that situation next time.

Nevertheless, at all times there has been a fraction of people who draw completely different conclusions in these cases. These are believers that violated the commandments of God on Earth for various reasons. And their feelings are always remorse for what they have done.

Sincere believers assume that serious misfortunes on the planet do not happen for no reason. It is always God's punishment for human sins. And there is no use trying to completely hide from them. Even if it works out for some time on Earth, the punishment will inevitably find every sinner after his death.

Therefore, it seems much wiser for believers not to hide from the punishments but to live in such a way to avoid these punishments. That is, to live as God commanded people.

There is absolutely no point in arguing about whose approach to this issue is more correct – the approach of believers or materialists. The disputes between them have not stopped for two thousand years and these still have not led to anything. Of course, these will not lead to anything either.

For the sake of justice, I still would like to say that each of us will find the correct answer to this question in any case whether we want or not so much. One will find it at the end of his Earthly journey.

The times of consumerism

I was lucky I grew up with great books and many living examples of people who spared no effort trying to do something good for their country or other people. Sometimes, they worked hard for it or reliably defended their motherland and other times, they performed wonderful and lofty deeds. There were many romantics during those years on Earth who happily followed the previous generations of romantics.

Back then, people with beautiful dreams and warm hearts were not so rare. Some of them discovered or developed new lands, some descended into unknown depths of the sea, others built wings to rise into the sky. Of course, those people also needed funds but money for sure did not determine the meaning of their lives.

Dreams of the important things, enthusiasm, romanticism, craving for the beautiful and the high things took precedence for them. In fact, they brought a fairy tale to Earth. I am grateful that I happened to witness these people because that was the time of many examples of big hearts and burning eyes. Frequently, the light from them was so bright that it was impossible not to be ignited by being around.

All the sadder against this background is our world today in which the main interests of a person have long sunk to the level of their pocket. Well, or they went in search of accessible fame, prominence, recognition. However, on the paths of "collecting likes and subscribers", there is often a subtle substitution. Even these seemingly eternal concepts as the sea, the mountains, the sky can gradually change into: *I* and the sea, *I* and the mountains, *I* and the sky. A person often begins to see the whole world through the prism of his own "I" which is a manifestation of vanity.

Today, the news almost constantly come out about how less and less men and women in the world are beginning to trust each other. However this, in fact, already affects the basis of our civilization. It seems that the wonderful union of hearts based on love and trust of spouses to one another is slowly but surely becoming a thing of the past. And instead, more and more often there are detailed, florid, multi-page agreements between two individuals on the rules and procedure for their joint residence.

To be honest, in our times it is even difficult to reproach young people themselves for not striving for something high and beautiful in their lives. After all, no one is teaching it to them anymore. Modern school curriculums are created primarily by consumers and they only produce new consumers. Probably all this is being done for the main giants of consumerism in the world to become even richer as a result. Their owners and founders today, by the way, are often idols for the modern youth.

This is why there is no place for the heart in this financial-food chain anymore. And here, for sure, no one needs the burning eyes.

Today's gurus of consumerism are trying to present the values of the former world as stupid, naive, irrational remnants of the past. However, the commandments of God and everything that is close to Him cannot be a relic of the past. But the common sense of people seems can to be.

The naive creators of the world of consumerism are similar to the greedy and cunning ancient colonialists who fraudulently took real wealth from people leaving them with cheap glass beads in return. However, the "beads" of such views can never bring happiness to people. They will only bring depression, emptiness, loss of meaning in life. A person without a heart can exist but nothing more. And it will become obvious over time.

Well, I'm just glad that I happened to live in a time and place where everything was completely different, where a lot of people around were sincerely drawn to everything good, beautiful, high. And it was very important for them. Now, in a period of scarcity of all this, those times are remembered as especially warm.

The laws

The human being is an interesting creature. Even though he is called a Homo sapiens (reasonable man), he often shows his reason and logic only when he wants to. In this case, the character of a person is much more visible than his mind.

Let's take human compliance with the laws on our planet, for example. It is unlikely that for some reason, a person will not comply with the physical laws of the Earth. Thus, for example, the consequence of non-observance of the "law of gravity" will immediately result in bruises and even fractures. Therefore, we will never hear that people suddenly refused to comply with this law.

However, a completely different situation is developing in regards to the moral laws of God in the world. Though, there is no difference here; after all, God created the Earth and all the laws on it including the physical "law of gravity." Nevertheless, the laws of the Lord in the form of Commandments that He gave to people, for some reason, do not cause the same desire to be complied with. Sometimes, a person does not believe in the inevitability of the punishment for the failure to fulfill them.

People's mistake is that different laws of God have different pace for manifestation of their consequences and this relaxes them a little. For example, injury from non-compliance with the law of gravity comes immediately. However, the punishment for non-observance of the Commandments comes over time and often in different forms. It would seem that a great opportunity is hidden here for a person to show his reason and logic, in order to establish and study this connection. However, almost nobody does it this way. For some reason, people are not particularly enthusiastic about studying the moral laws of God.

It is also well known that God resists proud people and gives His grace to the humble ones. Therefore, obedient, disciplined and responsible people are under His protection to a much greater

extent than the ones that are harmful, proud and those who listen to no one but themselves. Well, nowadays is such a time when we can clearly see how this law operates on Earth in different parts of the world. And it would be good for us not to close our eyes and not turn off the logic this time.

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Igor N. **Bondar**

Thoughts

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