

Sacred Time and My Sacred Time

Lesson 7 and 8 continues to expand on the subject of 'the Sacred and Profane' with a necessary purpose to focus Christians perspective and the better understanding of our key belief of 'I' with 'Eternity'. The contents include discussions of "I in time"; "Jesus' Time; and Christian in time"

Though very deep in nature and rarely viewed by myself till now, I am grateful for this awakening and will attempt to enter into the discussions. Physicists define time as the progression of events from the past to the present to the future. There is no prove to date that time has reverse trend. Real time is 'existence' and 'time', they both have a before and after, and it is said to be cause and effect. The time can be intrinsic or innate, and extrinsic or external, that of the body, mind, or soul.

As a Chinese, I was raised by a culture where happy times are given when birth occurs. As we grow, time becomes precious and is used without wastage to study and learn and excel, and above all things, to learn and obey our elders to be an "appropriate person who can be of value to the family and the society at large. Time is also a good teacher and grants wisdom from experiences; like time waits for no one, once gone, cannot return, and achievements or failures do not predict the future. The gradual gaining of an ability to see through the past is formed, and we learn to live in the present and leave tomorrow for tomorrow. The Chinese normally do not talk much about eternity without praising the goodness of what one has done in his/her time for others. Time and eternity is awarded to a good human living a long life, so even when reaching death, remembering this being will not disappear. Bad human beings are believed to have a place in hell, hopefully not in the level of no return, so that if atonement is made, the rebirth of this soul can be granted in another lifetime.

When we talked about 'self & id' and 'ego and the self'; one question posed was that if life is like a blended cup or orange, do we drink it all or share some with another person; my answer is I would like to do both, hoping for a broader taste of life with more humans' participating, and anticipating a fuller and brighter life ahead by adding more new orange into the cup when empty. It is indeed sad that the western world began to depart from their full 'sacred times' spent in churches that were built with the heart and soul of the then faithful. With the gradual deterioration of church going, the profane expanded after the Middle Ages and the temple of God has been destroyed continually with men taking over their lives with their free will, shifting their belief into self. From the new thinkers and scientists introduced in that time, it is clear their wisdom is much admired. They helped to explore everything in the universe, which can change our lives in space and time. Man's consciousness and thinking views continue to change as it focuses on 'self'. These theories convinced many that the past views and beliefs which they so loyally attached to before, are now challenged and can be proven to be better and more relevant for the present and future of man's use of time.

For example, existentialist philosopher (1905-1980) Jean-Paul Satre quotes "In order to be, one must first not be, one must first be nothing. For Sartre, existentialism is a Humanism, he does

not completely deny the existence of God as a creator but that man must continuously create his own essence and assert himself as Sartre believes God does not have roles to play in people's lives anymore.

Another example is that if Christians believe there is a Kingdom of Heaven it will be in between the "done" time and "before it happens" time, so therefore it cannot be severed from the eternity of Heaven, though this is a worldly thought, it will bring up the question of "Eternity".

Jesus descended from Heaven to earth into man's time to fulfill the Salvation Plan of the Father Almighty. His lifetime here is about 33 earth years and everything from His ministry to His death He did for us. He not only saved mankind from eternal damnation but also gave us sinners Himself as the role model to follow. Jesus shares with love His eternal life by becoming Himself the Way, giving mankind a true Map to Heaven and eternal life. He came to earth to show us God's unconditional Love and his miracles and curing of the sick are the testimonies for us to see He is the one True God, and our belief is absolutely just and right. The Catholic Church, with the efforts of Christians, will continue the mission of Jesus by gathering all mankind into God's Love and Eternal Life when Jesus will come again.

When the Holy Spirit took Jesus into the wilderness for 40 days, fasting, and to be tempted by the devil, the devil used temptations of bread, power, and worldly recognition which the devil used on the first man and woman, Adam and Eve. It is the inducement to gluttony, to the concupiscence of the flesh, the temptation to pride, also giving ear to Satan's suggestion of eating the forbidden fruit that they will become godly and seeing all. We are many times tempted in the same way and Jesus showed us even at a weak and exhausted moment, we can use the scriptures to resist all such temptations and Jesus will help us conquer Satan. Even now resurrected and ascended into Heaven, Jesus still spends His time holding our hands and helping us in our needs in the sacred times He provides for us to enter into with Him, extending into that space also making it sacred.

Like Archbishop Stanislaus Lo Kuang (1911-2004) said, a person's self consciousness is their life, co-existing with self, it cannot be separated from the body, feelings, rationalization, spirit and soul. So as Christians, a pastor once told my friend that knowing the Bible does not emanate the sacred space and sacred time a Christian can give rise to a non religious person. Instead the pastor says true Christians should live as one like the Bible teaches. I believe that there are many ways to keep close to God like when we pray visibly at tables before a meal; looking forward to going to church to celebrate the mystery of Jesus in the Eucharist; visiting hospital patients and praying with them and talking about hope and eternal life with God, bringing His Love and comfort for the slowly dying..etc..or being taken by surprise to any other space and time that becomes sacred at that moment when someone makes you feel you are seeing Mother Teresa in action for God...

Before this course of profane and sacred, I had no knowledge that so much good can come out of keeping God at the center of me. I am thankful for the opportunity and look forward to the next class. Thank you Father Ha.

