

THE SACRED BOOKS AND 20TH CENTURY MAN'S SPIRITUAL BACKWARDNESS

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" Enter ye in at the strait gate :
for wide is the gate and broad
is the way, that leadeth
to destruction, and many there
be which go in thereat :
Because strait is the gate
and narrow is the way, which
leadeth into life, and few there
be that find it " .
New testament (Matthew 7 - 3)

" Man prays for evil
as fervently
as he prays for good
For man is given to haste".
Qur-an Surat 17 Ayat 11

Man constitutes the basic subject of the sacred books. They say that man is God's representative on earth, man has unlimited abilities as to the material and mental development and at the same time he is not a perfect being, he is dualist in spirit bearing in himself unpredictable risks of cosmic proportions. The only outlet to avoid this, according to them, is the use of the best part of the human spirit, of the possibilities it offers, which should be known and ruled parallelly and at the same proportions with his mental and material activity. It is not enough to be good in spirit, but the most important thing is to know how to use it for a good purpose. It is only this that might protect and provide the balance of the human society, making it live in peace and harmony, against the diabolic part of his spirit, which is very active to put under its command the technological achievements and which is very difficult to be controlled and withhold .

Although God has repeated time and again this message through his prophets Abraham, Moses, Jesus Christ and Mohammed, dozens of philosophers, sociologists, economists and so on have created various theories, the majority against the Sacred Books with the aim of finding out the causes of misfortunes that have accompanied the human society and the paths to lead it towards human peace, wellbeing and earthly harmony. The majority of them see evil as a consequence of the superpopulation and material inequality among men. This attitude reaches its highest expression in the marxist philosophy, which was applied on almost 1/3 of the globe. The failure of such tremendous experiment beginning with the 90s constitutes an historic event, a major turning point for contemplation .

Let us dwell on it :

Hence there are two diametrically opposite stands. The Sacred Books see the evil, its source inside man and the relations he establishes with the material world (the material - metaphysic balance), whereas the materialist philosophers and theoreticians mainly outside him .

What does the 20th century teach us ?

From the 4000 year period down to where human memory extends to, we inherit social violence and wars constituting the most painful phenomena of our history. Not only they have not been avoided with the increase of the material goods and their more rational distribution, but on the contrary they have become more massive, more sophisticated and destructive. New potential and aggressive differences are emerging in the world. After 20 - 30 years we shall have other major clashes which threaten seriously the existence of human society. Practically, currently fire has been set to the Globe. Its flames are being witnessed every where. People should become aware of their danger before they are transformed into scorching flames, which would involve all of us .

Then the question arises :

Is war an organic and indispensable phenomenon of the human society or an incident as a result of known and unknown reasons which might be avoided?!

Let us consider things one by one :

In the first glance superpopulation seems an indisputable cause of the human misfortunes. It is true that, if we see man in the framework of comparative logic, he constitutes an exclusion not only as the single representative of conscience, universal metaphysics on earth, but also as a being that stands outside the law of " biological balance " , that functions through the struggle between the species and natural selection amongst them. While nothing hampers man in his numerical multiplication, theoretically he is potentially ready to populate the universe. For this it is sufficient to mention that in the 15th century China had only 36 million people, whereas today it counts over 1.2 billions. Mankind embarked on the 20th century with 1.5 billion people and is concluding it with threefold, while all the other beings are or remain always in the same ratios with one another. Any violation of these ratios causes disturbances, which are self-avoided with a new equilibrium .

Hence nature is always in equilibrium .

But does our unlimited multiplication breach such equilibrium ? !

In the first view it seems as if it breaches it. And precisely for this many renowned philosophers and sociologists, in the name of this equilibrium, have justified the wars, epidemics and natural calamities, ... etc, such as the case of the English priest Malthus (1756-1834), who created the theory of disproportions between multiplication of man in geometrical progression and of food in mathematical progression. Hence indirectly he opens the gates to the justification of many conscious actions in restricting the augmentation of the population .

It is common knowledge that since antiquity different tribes and peoples, from the most barbarous in order to limit the number of people practiced the strangling of unhealthy children by the Spartans, girls by the Arabs, of the old aged in some African tribes and so on. But the worst thing is that such a tradition continues even nowadays, but utilizing more sophisticated methods such as sterilization, used by the Nazis during World War Two and proposed by the Jap-

anese in 1948 in Parliament as legal measure ... etc. But the most exterminating way today is abortion, killing of children in the mothers' womb, a method which is no less barbarous than the actions of the ancient peoples and going beyond the moral and social philosophy of the Sacred Books, which condemn such a thing without exception. In the Ancient Testament the Renewed Law (11) provides advice how to ensure abundant food, but the Sacred Qu-ran 1400 years ago, precisely in S.17, Ayet 31 advises, promises and reproaches as follows :

" Kill not you children
For fear of want : we shall
Provide sustenance for them
As well as for you .
Verily the killing of them
Is a great sin " .

How sublime and humane sounds this ayet and what a strong moral slap is it to the 20th century people, who call themselves modern !

But left-wing philosophies, marxism in particular, goes even beyond. They claim that if the number of people is restricted, wars become inevitable in societies divided in classes, where material goods are unjustly distributed.

From the 60 - 70s this argument was held as an indisputable truth, although after World War II, its foundations were shaken posing a question mark to one of the most authoritative and aggressive philosophies of all centuries. By this I do not mean that it has lost ground .

Over the last 500 years mankind has attained a fantastic progress from the material point of view. But the 20th century realized what once was considered science fiction. It is suffice to mention that today we have accumulated so much atomic energy that we might bring the globe to pieces several times; or when we can meet all the needs of the human society minimally for a century; when we have discovered so sophisticated technologies in agriculture that a Danish farmer might meet the needs of 120 people. Hence to feed 6 billion people that are populating the globe today, no more than 70 - 100 million people would be

needed to work in farming. With these achievements man might solve his problems within 1 - 2 decades. And this is not the end. It has been scientifically proven that the yields of plants and animals are practically not limited. Only the Us space might feed 2 - 3 fold of the population living on the globe nowadays. If these achievements were not credible to us 100 years ago, the Sacred Books have predicted such a thing thousands of years ago. Let's see what Qu-ran used to say in S . 5 Ayet 66

" If only they had sood fast
by Torah, the Gospel
And all the revelation that was sent
To them from their Lord
They would have eaten
Both from above them
And from below their feet

And continues S . 22 A . 65

" Seest thou not that Allah
Has made subject to You men
All that is on earth ... ? "

Then the question arises :

Why then do we feel hungry, why are there wars and calamities even in the countries where material problems have been overcome ?

Because we are spiritually backward !

Let us go back to Denmark again. It ensures 3 fold of the food needs and over 30.000 USD per capita, but nonetheless it occupies one of the first places in the world for suicide. Hence economic welfare is not sufficient. It does not provide solutions to the subjective problems. Sometimes it alleviates them, but sometime it makes them sharper. Hence without the equality of each individual on the subjective plane human society remains always unbalanced, irrespective of the material equality. From this point of view let us make an analysis of the general characteristics, for the period after arrival of Jesus Christ .

The history of mankind over the last 2000 years provides a chronicle of events that should be carefully studied, because they are very symbolic and clearly speak of many problems which demand a solution, but particularly for the negative effects of the physical - metaphysic disequilibrium over the destiny of mankind .

After a long domination at the end of its existence the Roman Empire had caused a profound social, material and spiritual disequilibrium, which deepened the crisis with each passing day. Then, Jesus Christ appeared as rescuer. The peoples of this gigantic empire absorbed his teachings, considering it as the sole path to heavenly rescue of mankind. The New Testament was a " colossal " power with a slow effect, which first divided in two and later on in dozens of independent principalities and states this historic giant. For the first time mankind touched its existence as a spirit. But the disciples of Jesus Christ proclaimed that the kingdom of God was expected but had not arrived. Not wanting they counterpoised to the inherited material inclination the spiritual one. They suspended the bridges with reality. At the beginning Saint Paul, the great reformer and founder of the church structures of Christianity comes to the conclusion at the end of the first epistle of Paul the apostle to the Corinthians (The New Testament 13 - 13) .

" And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three ;
but the greatest of these is charity " .

Later on Saint Agostin (354 - 430) launched the idea " In interiori habitas veritas " (the truth is inside man). " The sin pertains to the individual and that the church cannot be mistaken " . " Faith is contrary to the doubt " . " To believe means to think in conciliation " ... etc .

Hence, ignorance began to be considered as a virtue. In the year 390 the bishop Theophile eliminated a great part of the library of Alexandria, whereas in 415 a group of fanatic believers urged by the patriarch Qirilli split into pieces Hipoty, the last mathematician of Alexandria. Europe and broader was slowly plunged in the Middle Ages. Mankind was embarked on a new disequilibrium which lasted for almost 1200 years, till the European Renaissance. Much pray-

ing, asceticism, few creative opinions and discussions in service of the truth, which as time went by degenerated into hypocrisy .

Sacred Qu-ran came about to correct this mistake, aiming particularly and clearly to establish equality among the individuals on the subjective plane, alongside material " equality " as compared with the abilities of each individual. It considers the mechanic material equality as inequality, a dangerous, provocative act and a source of social tensions (as proven 13 centuries later by the communist order). While in the subjective plane absolute equality is probable and indispensable and on this The Old Testament, The New Testament and Holy Qu-ran were persistent. This redimensioning of the relations of the individual on the material part of the society and the spiritual one bring forth lots of human energies. From nothing the prophet Mohammed, the first in the history of mankind, created the state of God on earth, which extended as a beautiful rainbow from India down to the Pyrenees .

Qu-ran comprehended man in other dimensions within and outside himself. It urged man to enjoy life on earth, because God had created everything for him ..., but alongside with working, raising spiritual capital for the other world. For it man was not a perfect being .

" Man prays for evil
as fervently
as he prays for good
For man is given to haste " ...
S . 17 A . 11

Qur-an S . 18 A . 54 "
But man is in most things,
contentious " .

S . 17 A . 67 " Most ungrateful
is man " .

S . 17 A . 100 "
Them : for man
Is (ever) niggardly " .

S . 13 A . 19 " Is then one who doth know ?
That that which hath been ?
Revealed unto thee
From thy Lord is the Truth
Like one who is blind ?
It is those who are
Endued with understanding
That receive admonition "

Hence the Holy Qu-ran surrenders the human society to the scholars. It appeals to view everything carefully, because arguments exist for everything, hence it appeals for scientific development. Here is what S . 2 A . 164 says :

" Behold ! In the creation
Of the heavens and the earth
In the alternation
Of the Night and the Day
In the sailing of the ships
Through the ocean
For the profit of mankind
In the rain which Allah
Sends down from the skies
And the life which He gives
therewith
To an earth that is dead
In the beasts of all kinds
That He scatters, through the earth
In the change of the winds
And the clouds which they
Trail like their slaves
Between the sky and the earth
(Here) indeed are signs
For a people that are wise "

But after 1300 years, just like the Roman Empire, this state, too, was disintegrated. What had happened ?

Since the 13th century with Thomas Aquinas (1225 - 1274) and his formula " there is no need that reason is presided by faith " Europe began to breathe and feel that the religious tendency was the source of medieval backwardness, but not realizing the essence of the mistake. This long dark period was closed with the burning of Giordano Bruno in 1600. Europe did not manage to study the Islamic state and its priorities. Hence to correct such a mistake which lasted 13 - 14 centuries another mistake with no less consequences was committed .

Little by little Europe grew distant from faith , Christianity was accompanied by profound schisms as a consequence of major national, social tensions, which emerged with the coming to power of the capitalist system. Alongside the great scholars and philosophers such as Galileo Galilei, Newton, Descartes, Copernicus and so on with scientific arguments the falsity of some of its stands were proven. The English revolution and later on the French one finally separated state from religion. Finally, the laic state triumphed in Europe, which means a state based on human reason. This act was expressed with an unprecedented material progress, a progress, which continues even today and which erroneously or purposely is called christian civilization. Europe is in need Christian, but not its renaissance. This is what its encyclopedist Didier Julia has said : " . . . since the end of the antiquity to the Renaissance, from Saint Agostin (4th century AD) to Averroes (12th century) and Ibn Khaldini (14th - 15th centuries) the Arab philosophy has profoundly influenced the West. On the whole it has striven to attain a rational synthesis of the Greek antiquity (Platon particularly Aristotle) and the Moslem or Christian religion. The Arab philosophy, deed of the physicians, jurists, mathematicians, erudites ... etc, has a very large diversity and testifies to a profoundly humanist culture. Renaissance was Arab before it became European (Larousse - social sciences p. 27 - Albanian publication) .

But in essence this progress was material. It was a tendency towards the material side. Europe was committing a mistake for the second time. Because

any inclination brings about its defects. Little by little the world was plunged into world wars, unprecedented in history, having the Christian peoples as protagonists. The Islamic world under the influence of such progress and its inner contrarities was distanced from the norms of its faith. But if for the Christian world distancing from faith resulted in material progress and spiritual regress, for the Islamic one it marked regress on both sides. This is a major lesson to mankind.

If we put it in a figurative way, particularly over the last 2000 years, mankind resembles a man, whose one leg grows continuously, whereas the other has been atrophied. Hence according to the sacred books, we have to do with a cosmic lame, who from one moment to the other is expected to fall down .

In the 20th century this lameness has assumed frightening proportions. Neron burnt down Rome, a head of state of an atomic superpower is capable of putting an end to the existence of mankind. The ideas of the 16th - 19th centuries, not denying the major values and services paid to mankind, are those which distanced man from faith and considering science as the only rescuer, and this is where the evil of nowadays begins. Nowadays mankind has only one salvation alternative, return to Sacred Books, in the philosophy and their social doctrines, which should prevail the 21st century, opening the path towards the epoch of physical - metaphysical equilibrium. This is something, which is not attained by the sciences. Peace, social harmony seen from worldwide proportions is an idea of the Sacred Books - and it is high time it becomes their real deed .

We should return to them but not in the traditional framework, but in a modern one, conserving the essence of their logic towards man. We should accept our spiritual backwardness but not only in relation to the material development of our time, but also with the ancient peoples. In our conscience we kill, hate, take revenge, lie at large worldly proportions. If 1000 - 2000 years ago these were weapons to survive, today mankind has the possibilities to solve every problem, of whatever proportion and in time. But this is not achieved and seems a utopia, because we do not have a developed spiritual kindness, or more accurately, we are prevailed by evil .

Far from phraseologies it should be understood that the presence of sacred books in the education of modern men is an emergency .

The social messages they convey, in struggle against the spiritual pseudo-progress covering the world today : the televisive nakedness, breach of family, lack of respect towards the oldaged, parents, neighbours, wellwishers; the egocentric individualism and finding of spiritual tranquility is suicide, alcohol, the drugs, sex ... etc. This is not an easy job. Mankind has managed to successfully launch dozens of space shuttles, but none towards the spiritual universe of man. The New Testament says (Mathew 7-3) :

" Enter ye in at the strait gate : for wide
is the gate and broad is the way, that leadeth
to destruction, and many there be which go in
thereat :
Because strait is the gate and narrow
is the way, which leadeth into life, and
few there be that find it " .

Whereas the Holy Qu-ran provides details on the problem of the spirit and difficulties of its treatment when it says :

" . . . They ask thee concerning
The Spirit
Say : " The spirit is of the Command of My Lord
Of knowledge it is only
A little that is communicated
To You (Amen !) " .

S . 17 A . 85
QU-RAN

Hence it hides great secrets. In this respect not only the religions, which in general suffer from the archaic burden of the time which suffocate the lively spirit of the beliefs, but the sciences, too, should work hard. The first should suit to the requirements of the modern times whereas the second ones (the sciences) should realize that without the metaphysic evolution in the direction of spiritual

goodness the material progress is of no value. The supremacy of the second leads towards catastrophe .

It would be an unacceptable, repugnant ignorance, if someone would hear us and comprehend that we are people, who wish to go back to the backwardness of the past centuries and who are against technological progress. No ! What we are in need of are the divine messages conveyed onto us by the sacred books. It should be understood that the ship sails, if the law of Archimedes is observed and not the ancient method of ship building .

Let us build ships according to the modern methods, but the principle of their sailing be that of Abraham, Moses, Jesus Christ and Mohammed, if we wish that our joint vessel does not sink .

It is high time to review the whole system of education. It is here that we should show what we are in conformity with the age we are living in. The example of Mother Teresa, the great Albanian woman should serve as a source of inspiration.

If we act like this God will be with us and on our side. Otherwise, we shall be held responsible for this spiritual backwardness, such as the responsibility towards the Creator, which has been enjoyed by many peoples and civilisation before us, already extinguished .