

Reflection on 'A Treacherous Descent' " by Jeannie Ash

Once secularism is in power it devolves to the most base of human vices: greed, corruption, selfishness, hypocrisy and mortal sinning.

Unfortunately these undermine a government and make it weaker. The only thing that can take it down is an organized group with dedication and commitment to its cause.

In the world there are two main groups that are organized and committed: Islam and Catholicism. I do not say Christianity, even though obviously Catholicism is synonymous with Christianity, because Protestant Christianity is broken into tens of thousands of subsets and are no threat to an organized power.

As I have written to you, Father, Catholics are 1 billion strong and growing in the world. Islam is roughly the same, but as you have rightly pointed out repeatedly, the catechism of the last 60 years has yielded near illiteracy in Catholics understanding the wealth of their faith. The wealth promising televangelists and politically correct preachers and behind the scenes parish movers and shakers have all but robbed Catholics of their focus to be part of the world, while firmly focused on Heaven and our KNOWN purpose in being God's channels of light for souls.

I doubt if 10% think about, even infrequently, the fact that their every thought and word and deed IS being recorded and is adding up for us to have to answer for when we die and are called to face God. We are so totally of the world that we are more concerned with how we look to others or what others think of us, rather than the fact that Our God and Father is to be the #1 focus of our thoughts, our deeds, our remorse, our gratitude and our awe.

It would all seem quite hopeless were it not for the visible movement of our very young and of the priests coming from countries of persecution. In my church we have priests from South America and frequently see priests from Asia, Nigeria and Africa, not to mention Protestants who have accepted Pope Benedict's invitation to 'come home', while being allowed to bring some of their lovely and pious Anglican practices to enrich our Catholic experience.

Cradle Catholics are suddenly hearing homilies and awe filled praise of our insanely rich Catholic heritage. The reason for my hyperbole there is this magnificent infusion of joy that has been brought by the new eyes and ears and hearts of the young and on fire new Religious and by the returning 'home' Protestants, who have been discovering the riches of our sacraments and our tradition and saints and acting like kids in a candy store (non-cavity inducing and purely nutritional for souls), proclaiming their discovery of the majesty and awesome love of our faith without fear and with humble zeal.

I have long been remembering that the Israelites were allowed to suffer when they did not heed the warnings not to associate with those out of the faith. They endured slavery in Egypt and then 40 years in desert exile. A loving God allowed this because we are just that thick headed, that all matter of clear, succinct and no nonsense guidance for our souls we have viewed as 'optional' and gone along our merry way, easily forgetting that this brief life, this experiment of 'time' is just a teensy period of trial for us that God may discern if we are willing to spend eternity in a place that has allowance for not even the most venial of sins.

Heaven is akin to pristine snow, blinding in the sunlight and even the smallest darkness is a glaring and insupportable stain . So too is our sin against God's domain of pure love. That means that every thought, every aspect of existence in Heaven is touched by love and every misdeed, every transgression, every thought that is not of this pure love, is out of God's domain and into another.

If we are willing to 'get along' with people who have been led by The Enemy to turn their backs on God it is not to be forgotten that WE, having the scales of deception fallen from our eyes, will be held accountable for every soul who falls into Hell because we were complacent, thinking that our faith 'entitled' us not just to Heaven, but to a free pass here on earth to fall in with the crowd of the ignorant, feeling no compulsion to carry ourselves with humility, charity and unwavering truth.

WE know that it is the age of truth, but this age of rampant litigation, being used to destroy Christianity, is led by people so blinded by relativism because relativism and the sexual liberation have been a gold mine for The Enemy to pick off souls one by one. No truth and a culture of death.

We can enjoy the vampire bonanza and the goodwill of those who insist that judging wrong and right based upon some divine justice is passe.

We will, however, be held accountable for choosing mirth and materialism over martyrdom and unceasing witness of our faith to bring souls nearer to God.

And when I say that we are up against Islam it is not implying that Muslims need to be eradicated. There have been enough Muslim conversions, their martyrdom a sad but beautiful witness, that we know that the faithful witness of love and humility and courageous speaking of the truth is called for there. Unless God works a miracle among the last Christians in the Middle East will be annihilated through genocide and Islam will be united then in their goal to claim the world.

The secular world that preaches pacifism in all circumstances does, when irritated that it cannot get its way, use war as a tool. Unfortunately Islam allows that provoking others to war is not against their faith and is not by them an act of war. Once their provocation is answered by war THEN Islam rules that jihad may be set forth and the Middle East has been awaiting the call to jihad against the West. It is an incredibly precarious position when the west is so mired in secular self-interest that it is dropping all elements of protecting itself from hostile invasion.

These are the times that are beyond our power. These are the times when souls would logically be turning to God, but we have spent 60 years doing our utmost to teach, broadcast and govern God out of our children, with the result that the last 3 generations are looking to misled world tribunals and atheist and pagan environmentalists and relativist diplomats to solve this problem that is rooted not in human mistakes but in good and evil, the belief in the latter two being all but ignored by our age.

Coming in to work I was reminded of a song from "Godspell" based upon St. Francis prayer: The refrain: "Day by day. Day by day. Oh dear Lord, three things I pray, three things I pray: To see Thee more clearly. Love Thee more dearly. Follow Thee more nearly. Day by day." Seeing what I call "God beams" pouring out of the clouds made me remember the advice to pray as in the psalms: 1) first with awe; 2) second with humble petition; 3) third with thanksgiving. It was at the moment of the God beams that the song

came to me and I realized that I was given the 'awe' and followed with petition and thanksgiving.

And it was so natural..and yet it was a new habit, one that I had not been doing regularly through the course of my day, though I had wanted to implement that habit.

I realized that I truly did feel 'at home'. It fit. All my years of searching and trying and wondering and being defeated by attempts to find THE place for me. I watch the program 'Journey Home' and I would smile when I saw new converts talk about this feeling of immediately feeling that they'd come home to the Catholic church. As a cradle Catholic I'd 'sort of' felt that but not really profoundly.

This morning it hit me that MY unique talents and insight and input, that I was always searching to find the best fit for, were now all sitting in a perfect fit in the Catholic church. All my faults are gold standard tools that will bring me trials that will bring me lessons. That will bring me closer to God.

The problem with a secular world is that trials are now nothing to do with God but only a means to make people self-centered and narrowly focused on the immediate. Every trial that successfully undermines our faith is another punch in the gut to God.

And every time we sit and pretend that this has no effect upon us and needs no reaction from us...is a witness to our focus on THIS WORLD and not in God's home for us.

And all the souls who are misled by secular lies, who God entrusted to be in our presence in these times and in our daily lives, go without any message that can turn them from their course of absolutely certain peril.

We are not helpless at all on the course of this world and its intent on annihilating free recourse to Christ.

We are every bit as complicit in our downfall, through our daily unrepented thoughts and deeds and silence, as we are in Christ's crucifixion.

And all it takes is a war of humility and charity and speaking up for truth with God's peace and joy shining out of us.