

DANGEROUS SADNESS
Follow Christ
Banská Štiavnica, 29th November 2020

<p>רוח אדני יהוה עלי זען משה יהוה אתי לבשר ענוים שלחני לחפש לנשפרי ללב לקרא לשבויים דרוור ולאסורים פקדוקות: 2 לקרא שנת רצון ליהוה ויום נקם לאלהינו לנחם כל אבלים: 3 לשום ללבלי ציון לתת להם פאר תחת אפר שמן ששון תחת אכל מעטה תהלה תחת רוח כהה וקרא להם אילי הצדק מטע יהוה להתפאר:</p>	<p>Is 61:1-3 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³ to grant to those who mourn in Zion - to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.</p>
<p>ואלתעצבו כיהרות יהוה היא מעוזכם</p>	<p>Neh 8:10 And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.</p>
<p>מהתשתותחי נפשי ומהתהמי עלי הוחילי לאלהים כיעוד אודנו ישועת פני ואלהי</p>	<p>Psalm 42:11(12) Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God</p>

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0. INTRODUCTION

0.1. JOY AND SADNESS

- Joy and sadness in the life of the Christian.
- **Ecc 7:2-4** It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for this is the end of all mankind, and the living will lay it to heart. ³ Sorrow is better than laughter, for by sadness of face the heart is made glad (לב ייטב לב). ⁴ The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.
- **Mt 5:4** "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted

0.2. WORLDLY GRIEF

- **2 Cor 7:10** For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

- *ennui* →

[HUYSMANS *Cathedral*] One day *ennui* (nuda, mrzutost', trápenie) made him its prey, the black possession which would allow him neither to work, nor to read, nor to pray; so overwhelming that he knew not whither to turn nor what to do. (l'*ennui noir* qui ne permet ni de travailler, ni de lire, ni de prier, qui vous accable à ne plus savoir ni que devenir, ni que faire.)

Jedného dňa sa ho zmocnila čierna mrzutost', ktorá mu nedovolila ani pracovať, ani čítať ani modliť sa. Opanovala ho natoľko, že nevedel, ani čím byť ani čo robiť.

- final emancipation and salvation from the eternal thralldom of (1) birth, (2) life, (3) suffering, (4) death, and (5) rebirth.

[SENAUCOUR] I am alone. The energies of my heart have no outlet, they react upon themselves ; they wait and wait. Here I am, wandering and solitary in the earth, amid a crowd which to me is nothing, like a man long since by accident deprived of hearing. His eager eye is fixed on all the silent beings who pass and bustle before him ; he sees everything, and everything is denied him ; he imagines the sounds he loves, he listens for them, and hears them not ; he endures the silence of all things amid a world of noise. Everything presents itself to his gaze but he cannot grasp it; an all-pervading melody is in external things, it is in his imagination, but no longer in his heart; he is cut off from the universe of life, there is no longer any point of contact between them; everything exists before him in vain, he lives alone, he is an alien in the living world. ... ecstasy of melancholy, this mystic charm ... gives him life through its sorrows and self-contentment even in the consciousness of its decay?

Som sám. Sily môjho srdca nemajú spoločníka, reagujú len v ňom samom; čakajú a čakajú. Tu som, putujem osamelo na zemi, uprostred zástupu, ktorý pre mňa nič neznamená, ako človek, ktorý je už dávno zbavený sluchu. Jeho túžobný pohľad je upretý na tie mlčiace bytosti, ktoré kráčajú a naháňajú sa pred jeho čami. Všetko vidí a nič z toho nemá. Predstavuje si zvuky, ktoré miluje, načúva, ale ich nepočuje. Trpí mlčaním všetkých vecí uprostred sveta hluku. Všetko má pred očami, ale nemôže to uchopiť, všetko prenikajúcu melódiu vo vonkajších veciach, tá je v jeho imaginácii, ale už nie je v jeho srdci. Je odrezaný od sveta živých, nemá už s nimi žiadny kontakt. Všetko, čo existuje, je márne, je neprítomným vo svete živých ... *cette volupté de la mélancolie, ce charme plein de secrets* ... qui le fait vivre de ses douleurs

- [ROUSSEAU *Confessions*] I was fated to become by degrees an example of human misery. It was as if Providence, who summoned me to these great trials, with its own hand removed every obstacle which might have prevented me from encountering them.

- Byron about Rousseau:

Here the self-torturing sophist, wild Rousseau, / The apostle of affliction, he who threw
Enchantment over passion, and from woe / Wrung overwhelming eloquence, first drew
The breath which made him wretched; yet he knew / How to make madness beautiful, and cast
O'er erring deeds and thoughts a heavenly hue / Of words, like sunbeams, dazzling as they
pass'd

The eyes, which o'er them shed tears feelingly and fast.

- [MACAULAY] Byron was 'the beginning, the middle and the end of all his own poetry.'
- BERLIOZ *Symphonie Fantastique* → a fate of a romantic hero

1. SOURCES OF SADNESS

1.1. POISONED WATERS

1.1.1. DAILY LIFE PROBLEMS

- [GORDON Bob *Master Builders*] (1) Competition, (2) Criticism, (3) Vanity, (4) Ambition, (5) Pride, (6) Failure, (7) Success, (8) Jealousy, (9) Indispensability, (10) Inferiority and Loneliness, (11) Guilt, (12) Fear, (13) Doubt and Pessimism, (14) Laziness and Complacency, (15) Indifference and Indecision

1.1.2. PHILOSOPHY / WORLDVIEW

[SPRINTZEN *Critique*] ...those belief systems that have given expression to a cosmic faith and a transcendent purpose for civilization are made increasingly implausible by the developments of the modern world—and most clearly by the achievements of natural science.

- [CAMUS *Sisyphus*] “There is but one truly serious philosophical problem and that is suicide.”

1.1.3. ARTS / ENTERTAINMENT

1.1.3.1. "HIGH" CULTURE

- [CAMUS *The Rebel*] "No artist tolerates reality," says Nietzsche ... The aim of great literature seems to be to create a closed universe or a perfect type (de créer des univers **clos** ou des types **achevés**). The West, in its great creative works, does not limit itself to retracing the steps of its daily life. It ceaselessly presents magnificently conceived images which inflame its imagination (qui l'enfièvent) and sets off, hot foot, in pursuit of them (et se jette à leur poursuite).

1.1.3.2. POPULAR CULTURE

[GABLER *Life the Movie*] Goethe expressed it in a letter to Schiller as early as 1797, "Nonsense placed before the eyes / Has a magical right. Because it fetters the senses / The mind remains a vassal." ... In fact, it was entertainment, and not, as Marx declared, religion, that was the real opiate of the masses. ... Entertainment—movies, rock music, pulp novels, comic books, television, computer games—sinks its talons into us and pulls us in, holding us captive, taking us both deeper into the work itself and deeper into ourselves, or at least into our own emotions and senses, before releasing us.

1.2. BIBLICAL ANALYSIS

1.2.1. SELF-PITY

- **Job 10:12-13** You have granted me life and steadfast love, and your care has preserved my spirit. ¹³ Yet these things you hid in your heart; I know that this was your purpose (בְּלִבְךָ יְדַעְתִּי כִּי־זָמַת עִמָּךְ (וְאֵלֶּה צִפַּנְתָּ))
- **1 Samuel 23:19-21** Then the Ziphites went up to Saul at Gibeah, saying, "Is not David hiding among us in the strongholds at Horesh, on the hill of Hachilah, which is south of Jeshimon? ²⁰ Now come down, O king, according to all your heart's desire to come down, and our part shall be to surrender him into the king's hand." ²¹ And Saul said, "May you be blessed by the LORD, for you have had compassion on me."

1.2.2. UNATTAINABLE DESIRES

- dreaming → apotheosis (Lucifer → Satan); Goethe: Faust;
- **Num 16:2-3** And they rose up before Moses, with a number of the people of Israel, 250 chiefs of the congregation, chosen from the assembly, well-known men. ³ They assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron and said to them, "You have gone too far! For all in the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?"
- **Eze 28:2** Son of man, say to the prince of Tyre, Thus says the Lord GOD: "Because your heart is proud, and you have said, 'I am a god, I sit in the seat of the gods, in the heart of the seas,' yet you are but a man, and no god, though you make your heart like the heart of a god..."

1.2.3. GRUMBLING

- **Num 11:4-6** Oh that we had meat to eat! ⁵ We remember the fish we ate in Egypt that cost nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic. ⁶ But now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at."
- **Ex 14:11** They said to Moses, "Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt?"

2. CONSEQUENCES

2.1. SICKNESS

- **Pro 17:22** A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones. (Veselé srdce slúži na zdravie, zronený duch však kosti vysúša) [לֵב שִׂמְחָה יִיטֵב גֵּהָה וְרוּחַ נִכְאָה תִיבֶשׂ-גֵּרָם]
- psycho-somatic illnesses

2.2. SPIRITUAL WEAKNESS

- **Pro 18:14** A man's spirit will endure sickness, but a crushed spirit who can bear? (Mužný duch znáša svoju chorobu, no myseľ zronenú kto môže zniesť?) [רוּחַ־אִישׁ יִכְלֵכֵל מִחֲלָהוּ וְרוּחַ נִכְאָה מִי יִשְׁאַנֶּה]

2.3. DEPRESSION

- **Pro 15:13** A glad heart makes a cheerful face, but by sorrow of heart the spirit is crushed. (Veselé srdce rozjasňuje tvář, bolest' srdca však zdrvuje ducha) [לב שמח ייטב פנים ובעצבת לב רוח נכאף] [SPRINTZEN] Martin Luther's poignant observation that "there must be a God, otherwise everyone would be alone."

3. HEALING

- [CHAMBERS] The greatest blessing spiritually is the knowledge that we are destitute; until we get there Our Lord is powerless.

3.1. TRUTH

3.1.1. THE REAL REPENTANCE

[FORSYTH *Preaching of Jesus*] To Christian faith the pain of our case is not merely the misery of moral impotence, nor the chagrin of perpetual failure. These still leave us with a feeling more like mortification than repentance—mortification in the presence of our ideal self rather than repentance in the sight of God, a loss of self-respect rather than of sonship. We suffer in our moral self-esteem, not because of our wound to the Holy. But to Christian faith the sting in sin is its wound to God, its stain to holiness.

3.1.2. THE REAL KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

- **1Cor 15:32-34** ...If the dead are not raised, "Let us **eat and drink**, for tomorrow we die." ³³ Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals (φθείρουσιν ἢθη χρηστὰ ὀμιλίαι κακαί)." ³⁴ Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God (ἀγνοσίαν γὰρ θεοῦ τινες ἔχουσιν, πρὸς ἐντροπήν ὑμῖν λαλῶ). I say this to your shame

3.2. THE DISCIPLINE OF THE MIND

- **Phil 4:8** Finally, brothers, whatever is true (ἀληθῆ), whatever is honorable (σεμνά), whatever is just (δίκαια), whatever is pure (ἀγνά), whatever is lovely (προσφιλή), whatever is commendable (εὐφημα), if there is any excellence (ἀρετή), if there is anything worthy of praise (ἔπαινος), think about these things.
- **Rom 5:2-3** ...we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings,
- **Rom 12:12** Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

3.3. PRAISE

- **Psa 13:1-6** How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? ² How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me? ³ Consider and answer me, O LORD my God; light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death, ⁴ lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him," lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken. ⁵ But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. ⁶ I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me.

3.4. ABIDING IN JESUS

- **John 15:11** These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. (Ταῦτα λελάληκα ὑμῖν ἵνα ἡ χαρὰ ἡ ἐμὴ ἐν ὑμῖν ἦ καὶ ἡ χαρὰ ὑμῶν πληρωθῆ)
- **Dt 28:47-48** Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joyfulness and gladness of heart, because of the abundance of all things, ⁴⁸ therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger and thirst, in nakedness, and lacking everything

4. TO REMEMBER

- Sadness may be dangerous, even deadly, to our spiritual well-being.
- We have to learn to discipline our mind to think more of the great hope we have in Jesus than of the negatives we witness daily.
- The vital spiritual connection with Jesus gives us experience of his joy in the midst of troubles.