

Reflections

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Heavenwards

From whence do we come and where are we going? This is one of the most essential questions of our human existence. Jesus wants to give us the answer: *“I go to the Father.”* And on another occasion, Jesus expands his answer further: *“I did come from the Father, and I came into the world; and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father”* (John 16:28).

God the Father is the starting point and likewise the goal of one’s life, but not only for Jesus, for all of us as well: *“I go to prepare a place for you. And when I have gone and have prepared a place for you, I will return and will take you with me.”*

Thus we are interwoven with the destiny of Christ. From whence did we come? Like Him, in Him and with Him we have come from the Father and we have come to this world. Where are we going? In Him and with Him we are returning to the Father. This is the great aim of our life.

But, do we truly believe this? Is our life a testimony to this faith? There is the impression that even Christians believe that this earthly life is the only life and that it is definite, that there is no life in the beyond. Others live it as if it would never end, as if death would not exist.

Then, logically, they cling with their whole being to the values and the things of this world: possessions and riches, satisfactions and pleasures, powers and powerful ones – the three idols: money, pleasure and power. And nobody thinks that all of this is passing, that everything that is worldly is temporary: we cannot take any of it with us, someday we have to leave it all behind.

We are pilgrims in this world. Well, where is our definite homeland? It is in the house of the Father, it is in the heart of God. God the Father has sent us, only for a brief time, to this earth. We are all foreign pilgrims in this world. And the few years we spend here below, are years lived in a foreign land.

There is nothing purely worldly which can fill and satiate our human heart. Our profound desire is too large for this world. Only God the Father is our home. Everything else is much too small for us. Our hunger for happiness will only be satiated in God and with Him.

Detach ourselves from ourselves. Only through Jesus and with Him do we come to the Father. His person is our mold, his life shows the way. And which is the way? According to his example, this is the way: to detach oneself from ourselves and from things and to surrender to God!

If God is our goal, if our hearts should belong to the Father, then we must detach ourselves from everything which does not please Him. Slowly we must free ourselves from everything which is selfish and sick in our interior life, free ourselves from all our attachments and inordinate desires. Only if we begin to detach ourselves from our pride and egotism, from our arrogant selfishness, only in this way will we be able to shelter ourselves in God and be able to surrender ourselves to Him.

I believe no greater thing exists in this world than surrendering ourselves without reserve to God, than giving ourselves totally to the Father. Our greatness does not consist in exterior feats. As it was in the life of Christ, our existence is only great if it carries the seal of the divine will. Then it is great, however hidden it may remain.

Dear brothers and sisters, the meaning of my life is: to journey toward the Father. He is my supreme goal. And when I die, death will only signify a profit for me. All earthly barriers will fall. In God, I will possess infinity, happiness, the fulfillment of all my desires... forever.

Questions for reflection

1. How attached am I to the goods of this world?
2. Do I place limits on my inordinate desires?
3. Do I consider myself an egotist?

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