

FAITH AND REASON

A Spirit of Wisdom: Anything so well ordered and perfectly created as our earth and universe must have a maker, a master designer. Anything so orderly so perfect, so precisely balanced as this creation, can only be the product of a divine idea. There must be a maker, there can be no other way. (Dr Werner Von Braun - Father of the US Space program).

This order is present throughout the universe governed by the laws of mathematics and physics.

This order is present in plant life.

This order is present in the life of birds, in their daily life and in migration.

This order is present in "inner space" under the microscope.

This order is present in the human body..... But not in the human person.

The human person when first discovered was called "Homo Sapiens". Literally this means "Wise Man". It really means "man endowed with reason" ... Intelligence. The person endowed with the power of reason is also endowed with free will... He can choose to do right or wrong, evil or good, whatever floats his boat. He can decide to go up or down the Suwanee with or without a paddle. In other words, not to put too fine a point on it, intelligent, free man is the only discordant note in the entire universe. He is the only creature out of kilter in the universe, because of the reason and the ability to choose the direction of his or her life.

You do not have a soul..... You are a soul. You are a spirit endowed with reason and free will. The soul - the principle of life - gives life to the entire mind and body. An organ - the brain, cannot think, you think. The eye cannot see, you see. The voice box, the muscles cannot speak or sing, you speak or sing. The human brain has recently been described by the scientific world as "the greatest wonder in the universe". The use we make of the brain will determine the entire course of our lives. The brain must be fed with knowledge, ideas, that will enrich it and keep it open and flexible. The brain must be exposed to all that is good, true, beautiful, mysterious. Challenges will then be accepted as occasions of growth and the path to progress.

A healthy life is the goal of most people. When did you last hear of someone speaking of a healthy brain? The brain can be polluted, contaminated, and that is quite common in our world. The abuse of prescriptive drugs, illegal drugs, alcohol abuse, the abuse of which has serious consequences for mind and body. Inevitably, flawed attitudes to self, to others, to life, to failure, to God arise. If we eat contaminated food, the body will remind you of this very quickly. The proper medications are available to deal with such situations. But, if we contaminate the brain, what are the consequences? Experts have declared that whatever we put into the brain stays there forever. If we eat contaminated food, there are a variety of medications we can take. There is nothing we can take to rid the brain of that information that should not be there in the first place.

King Solomon sought wisdom "Lord you have made me your servant king to succeed my father David; but I am a mere youth, not knowing at all how to act... give your servant therefore an understanding to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong" (I Kings 3). The wisdom of Solomon was so great that even to this day people speak of the Wisdom of Solomon. Yet Solomon became foolish: he violated the Covenants in every way you can imagine. How could he so wise overlook the fact that integrity and wisdom are inseparable: that "wisdom cannot abide in a heart ruled by sin"?

"The modern world has undreamt of knowledge at its fingertips. Yet it is obviously incapable of putting it all together. The social, political, economic, moral disorders are ominous signs of this. Can we now hope that the world has reached the point of accepting that it is through wisdom and wisdom alone, that we are enabled to make proper use of our intellectual knowledge. Have not the great geniuses confessed that after years of study they are still ignorant of truth, and that they seemed to stand merely on the shore of truth with its infinite expanse stretched out before them. How often study in old age corrects the prejudices of youth, and how often those who came to mock remained to pray"(Bishop Fulton Sheen) ... **Fr. William C. Mooney**

The Voice of Christ: My child, do not trust in your present feeling, for it will soon give way to another. As long as you live you will be subject to changeableness in spite of yourself. You will become merry at one time and sad at another, now peaceful but again disturbed, at one moment devout and the next indevout, sometimes diligent while at other times lazy, now grave and again flippant. But the man who is wise and whose spirit is well instructed stands superior to these changes. He pays no attention to what he feels in himself or from what quarter the wind of fickleness blows, so long as the whole intention of his mind is conducive to his proper and desired end." ... **Thomas à Kempis, The Imitation of Christ**

Searching for Someone: We are asking: "Where do I find standards to live by, what are the criteria that govern responsible cooperation in building the present and the future of the world? On whom can I rely? To whom shall I entrust myself? Where is the One who can offer me the response capable of satisfying my heart's deepest desires"?... The fact that we ask questions like these means that we realize that our journey is not over until we meet the One who has the power to establish that universal kingdom of justice and peace to which all people aspire, but which they are unable to build by themselves. Asking these questions also means searching for Someone who can neither deceive nor be deceived, and who therefore can offer a certainty so solid that we can live by it, and if need be, even die for it.

Dear friends, when questions like these appear on the horizon of life, we must be able to make the necessary choices. It is like finding ourselves at a crossroads: which direction do we take? The one prompted by the passions or the one indicated by the star which shines in your conscience? The Magi heard the answer: In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the Prophet and enlightened by these words, they chose to press forward to the very end. From Jerusalem they went to Bethlehem. In other words, they went from the word which showed them where to find the King of the Jews whom they were seeking, all the way to the end, to an encounter with the King who was at the same time the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. These words are also spoken for us ... **Pope Benedict XVI**

A Thought For the Day

Sunday	Give me courage to resist, patience to endure, constancy to persevere.
Monday	Who struggles more than those who strive to overcome themselves?
Tuesday	The Lord bestows his blessings there, where he finds the vessels empty.
Wednesday	Let temporal things be in the use, eternal things in the desire.
Thursday	Be mindful. Be grateful. Be positive. Be true. Be kind.
Friday	Good comes out of evil.
Saturday	You will never find peace unless you are united with Christ in the very depths of your heart.

Reflection: To see and to believe is not difficult. However, believing without seeing is only possible when one is deeply convinced of the existence of an omnipotent God. Thus, faith becomes the heroic part of our life.... Do I have this faith?

I am the temple of God. This means not only great dignity, a fullness of grace and blessing, but also a fullness of responsibility. If I am the temple of the living God, nothing profane must be in me. What things, therefore, should I put away from my heart that God may dwell in me?

To Give of Self: I wonder why some of us are so frightened of Holy Communion, because we still cling to the world of sense. It is certain that Catholics are most apt to neglect Communion, just when they most need it, in the springtime of life, when the blood is hot, and the passions strong, and ambitions dominate us. Why is that, unless we are more wedded, when we are young, to the desires that perish? It is perhaps because, all the time, we are shrinking from the act of confidence which would throw the whole burden of our lives on Our Lord; do not want Holy Communion to have its proper effect in us, which is to make the joys and distractions have less meaning and less appeal for us? We must not expect Him to work the marvels of grace in us, if we oppose its actions with the stubbornness of our own wills, still clinging to the self and to the sense... **Msgr Ronald Knox**

A Healing of Memories: The truth is that we cannot remain prisoners of the past; people need a sort of "healing of memories" so that the past evils will not come back again. This does not mean forgetting past events; it means re-examining them with a new attitude and learning precisely from the experience of suffering that only love can build upwards, whereas hatred produces only devastation and ruin. The value of being human: Considering that God planned the universe, not even one leaf on a tree is wasteful, it is not possible that any human being be without importance... **St John Paul II**

In His Will is Our Peace
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