

Part IV

Chapter 10

Conclusion

A man who is truly the image of God must act in discernment of what is indispensable, just required and unnecessary, define and classify these appropriately and makes his own life dynamic accordingly. That is the characteristic of the image of God. To such people, wealth and the assets are not of any importance. Real wealth can only be assessed if we consider things that we possess materially and what we do not. Even those, whom we consider as having no worth, have rare qualities that we are not aware of. We must understand that. It could be self-control and discipline. He might also have holiness. For this very reason he could be the true image of God.

We know about the five elements of nature-Sky (Ether), Air, Fire, Water and Earth. The essence of these elements has been incorporated in us when God created us; meaning, we are connected to each one of these elements. It is our lack of understanding of the perception of the Creator- the creation itself, that has led to decline and loss. The sum total is that we are totally unaware of the intrinsic relationship between nature and man. In Genesis (3:17), it is said that the ground/earth is cursed because of man's sin. In Romans Chapter 8, verses 18 onwards, St. Paul says that *the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed and that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.*

God has created the five physical senses in us. They are all opened outwards. Our eyes, ears, nose, tongue and skin will all dissolve into dust at the end of our life. However, at the Second Coming of the Son, they will be glorified and resurrected. We may ask how something that had crumbled into dust can be resurrected. If we scatter iron dust into the soil, it may appear as if it has disappeared. But a magnet has the power to draw out these particles of iron. Should we not then believe that God who

created all this has the power to reunite and form our beautiful bodies that had crumbled into dust and shape them into a glorified arrangement?

After Adam was created, he became a living being only after God had breathed the breath of life into his nostrils. In this manner Adam came to possess this special breath (വിശ്വാസശ്വാസം). As the possessor of this special breath he came to have the special faith (വിശ്വാസം). Thus he also got five internal sense organs in addition to the five external sense organs. Only man has this unique possession. He has a body, soul and spirit whereas the rest of creation, excluding man have only a body and a soul. They have no spirit. Man has been created in the image of God. The inner five sense organs are: mind, intellect, understanding, the urge to seek the truth about things, and the sense of self. The sense of self here means the real knowledge of one's self. Who am I? The image of God, the House of the Holy Spirit, the Temple of God says St. Paul. Because he possesses the special breath of God he is also a believer in God. (വിശ്വാസശ്വാസം: വിശ്വാസം)

We must be able to share that faith to those around us through our lives.

It must be in the light of this special breath that has been given to us that we pour out goodness to others. The grace and mercy of God must flow into us and fill us up and overflow into others. Attractive advertisements control our society to a large extent. Today's culture is one that is totally unaware of with the spirit of things; only externalities are observed. Today, 'Event Managers' control most occasions, be it a wedding or a holiday voyage. This can also be observed in what is considered as worship. In order to escape this tendency, our inner eyes must be clear. We must also guide others in this matter. Let us preserve the breath of God in us and remain as truly faithful to God and through our lives, witness the True Faith to others. A believer is one who has received this special breath of God which was breathed into man at Eden. When the priest breathes on the person being baptised three times during the sacrament of Holy Baptism, this breath is being renewed. We must not forget this fact. Without this breath, we cannot be poured out to others; that is, without ourselves being lit up into a flame, we cannot light up others.

May God Bless You.

Psalm 91 & Psalm 121

Psalm 91

You, who sit in the shelter of the Most High, and abide in glory, in the shadow of God,

Say to the Lord; 'My trust and my refuge; the God in whom I confide';

For He will deliver you from the snare of stumbling and from idle talk;

He will keep you under His feathers, and by His wings, you will be covered; and His truth shall encompass you like an armour.

You will not fear from the terror by night, and from the arrow that flies by the day;

And from the voices that travels in the darkness and from the devastating wind in the noon.

A thousand shall fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right side.

They shall not come near to you, but with your eyes you shall see only; you shall see the retribution of the wicked.

(Since you have said), 'You are the Lord, my trust, who has placed your abode in the heights';

No evil shall come near to you; neither shall any plague draw near to your dwelling place,

For He will give His angels command concerning you, who shall protect you in all your ways.

And they shall bear you up in their hands, lest your foot stumble.

You shall tread upon the adder and the basilisk; and you shall trample down the lion and the dragon.

(For the Lord has said): 'Since he has sought me, I will deliver him and strengthen him';

'Since he has known my name, he will call upon me, and I will answer him and be with him in affliction'.

I will strengthen him and honour him. With long life, will I satisfy him, and show him my salvation.

Psalm 121

I will lift up my eyes to the mountain, from where comes my helper.

My help is from before the Lord, who has made the heaven and the earth.

He will not suffer your foot to tremble; your keeper shall not slumber.

For neither slumbers nor sleeps the keeper of Israel: the Lord is your keeper.

The Lord shall overshadow you with His right hand. The sun shall not smite you by day; nor the moon by night.

The Lord shall take care of you from all evil; The Lord shall take care of your life.

He will watch over your exit and your entrance, henceforth for ever.

b) Lyrics

Memra of Mar Aprem (Of Penitence)

Ennudayone! neeyenne

Kanmanipolkaaththeedaname

Nin chirakaalemarachchuparee-

kshayilninnennekaakkaname.

Olivaaynokkeedaathente

Kannukale nee kaakkaname

Vanjchanakel_kkaathadiyante

Kaathukaleyumkaakkanamè

Ennadharangalkkennum nee

Kaavalathaayumniikkaaname

Ennullildoshamchey~vaan

Ullavichaaramudikkaruthe

Kar_ththaave, nallavivekam

Var_ddhippikkanamennill nee

Saurabhyaththaalninneyeni-

kkimpappeduththaanidavarane

Aihikanettaththinupakaram

Ninnesampaadippaanum

Ninnesnehichcheelokam

Nirasippaanumkrupacheyka

Enneththannesannidhiyil

Kaazhchayanappaanumnaathaa

Enneninakkusugandhamathaay

Arppippaanumkrupacheyka

En naathhaaninthirumumpil
Aathmasareeramanassukale'
Shobhakalarnnavilakkukalaay~
Njaankaththippaaraakaname.

Aathmasareeramanassukalaam
Ennudethirumul_kkaazhchakale
Thaathasuthaasvaasapradane
Anpodukaikkondeedaname

Svar_ggasthapithaave! ennil
Maanasashuddhivaruththaname
Daivasuthaa! Nee en aathmaa-
vinuvishuddhivaruththaname.

Aashvaasapradanaakunna
Parishuddhaathmaave! ente
Dehamasheshamkrupayaale
Paripaavanamaakkeedaname

Anthyadinaththilnaathhaa! nee
Santhoshippikkanamenne
Aathmashareeramanassukalnin
Sthuthipaadunnukaniyaname.

Verses to be memorized.

1:1 In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil.

5:17 Blessed is the one whom God corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty.

16:19 Even now my witness is in heaven; my advocate is on high.

19:25 I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth.

23:10 But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold.

28:28 "The fear of the Lord—that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding."

32:8 But it is the spirit in a person, the breath of the Almighty, that gives them understanding.

36:21 Beware of turning to evil, which you seem to prefer to affliction.

38:41 Who provides food for the raven when its young cry out to God and wander about for lack of food?

42:5 My ears had heard of you, but now my eyes have seen you.

(New International Version)