

Self-mortification Vs Divine Grace

---Rev. John Mark (Wahab).

Who can punctuate the mighty God? Who can command Him? Is there any one among humanity to counsel the sagacious God? Is He not Omnipotent, Omnipresent and Omniscient Holy One? How dare the tiny man to traffic Him?

God does stand above all natural influences and solar systems:

None needs to follow the lunar or solar system to find Him out. He is eternal, unchangeable, and ever ready to the call of His devotees. He did not introduce ritual to adore Him and adoring that way is ridiculous.

Role of the commercial dealers in handling commodities:

Honey is collected from the honeycomb, and then it is taken to the consumers. But several hands handle it to pass on to the consumers at the end. Only consumers get benefited of the honey but not the traders who deal with it but do not consume for self benefit. The salesman of the Truth is like the traders, just pass on, seldom appropriate for them. God seeks the consumers of His Truth, but not the salesman of it.

Means to an end:

Religious rituals and festivities mostly cause confusion for them who have shallow knowledge in it (John 4:24). All of the divine Words are for education, rectification and edify the devotees to remain identical with the Holy and Righteous God. The religious people under the prophet hood of Moses had been sufferings by the poisonous snakes at sojourn. The situation went beyond the human control. Moses asked an immediate remedy and protection from that curse at the end of the miraculous God. The merciful God instructed Moses to make a giant snake with bronze and hang that at the center of the camp. The reason of that divine plan was, if any bitten person would have or could have looked at the giant snake, immediately would be healed from venom. Number 21:9 So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived.

The core meaning of those incidents was the restoration of blessed life the merciful God did grant them at the time of creation:

It signifies Jesus Christ who atoned for the sinners for redemption. The misinterpretation of that instruction is that, following few days, people started worshipping the snake instead of the Holy and Mighty God. 2 Kings 18:4 He removed the high places smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. He broke into pieces the bronze snake Moses had made, for up to that time the Israelites had been burning incense to it. (It was called Nehushtan.)

We must not worship the Sun or Moon or kiss any stone for attaining divine bliss. Our Lord is Holy and the Spiritual Being. We must worship Him in spirit and in truth. ^{John 4:24} God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth." And John 15:1-8 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. ^{JN 15:5} "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and

burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

None can earn righteousness, nor become holy or regenerated. To become righteous, regenerated and reconciled back to the Holy God must be done at the end of the compassionate Lord. To enjoy fellowship with the Holy and Righteous God, the polluted and carnal man must become sanctified by the atonement of his sin. Jesus Christ is the sinless Lamb of God, unblemished, is sent to exonerate the sin of the world. He did pay the price of the sin of the world at the cost of His sinless life that is perfect and acceptable atonement for the sin of the world. ^{LK 18:1-} Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

All the sinners have two distinct options: either eternal condemnation in them or eternal life by the free divine grace of God through the slaughtered Lamb of God – Jesus Christ.

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2Corinthians 5:17-20)