

## O God! Where are you?

The Third World War broke out suddenly on the face of the earth. Every creature, living and non-living, such as human beings, birds, trees, stones, was in a terrible brawl and battle. It was not a war of violations or weapons, but of words, which incessantly flowed for a long time. Consequently, they lacked unity, universality, tranquility. The root cause of the sudden war was this, "Where is God?" Every one of them was claiming emphatically that God was only with them and not with anybody and anything else in the world. There was no visible sign apparently of resolving it or of it subsiding. No one could acknowledge and understand what others said. Therefore, in this awful situation, the unprecedented war of words reached its peak.

Struggling to resolve the argument for a long time, they unanimously approached the Sun, who was the first creation of God, and seemed a veteran and a resource to settle this problem. At once, a vast crowd of humanity, the animal kingdom, some fruits and trees gathered in the Sun's court. The Sun King took a prominent seat, followed by his senior officials, ministers, and eminent persons. The "so-called accusers" stood so tall in the midst. A deadly silence prevailed for a while. The massive crowd fixed their eyes on them, and anxiously waiting to see what the next step would be.

Then, motherhood, who was considered in the place of God, appealed first to the Sun, saying; "Only we have rights to claim, 'God is with us.'" In the Holy Bible, we see Yahweh, tenderly comforting his children as a mother, Is 66:13. In addition, the close resemblance of God to us is theologically articulated; so it is sure God is with us.

Objecting to motherhood's statement, a bunch of grapevines stood against them, explaining, the closely-knit relationship between God and them. They argued emotionally that Jesus himself had professed, "I am the true vine." Jn 15:1. They further added for their strong proof "As you know the Eucharistic wine is the pinnacle of greatness, because the juice of grapes which we believe is transformed into the blood of Jesus Christ. In this way, we, the grapevines are much more important in the Church. Hereafter we need not say a word, because it is obvious that God and we are intimate friends." As the bunch of grapevines ceased justification, an absolute silence prevailed in the court. Even the Sun, was speechless, as he kept listening.

At that time, a pile of stones calmly prostrated themselves in the Magistrates' court and paid the Sun homage in reverence, in order to please him. With these pious gestures, they drew everyone's attention and spoke to him sarcastically, "Your honor! What they fight for, is outrageous and unacceptable, as you know it; because, Jesus said in Lk 19:40 'I tell you, if my disciples were silent, the stones would shout out.' So we are privileged to sing the glory and praise of God along with the Church. Thus, we too become the true disciples of Jesus Christ. "

While the stones' argument was on, a sudden commotion rose up. An audience of millions was startled to see things strangely taking place. With a loud proclamation, a stream of water went straight to the Sun; as a part of western culture, they performed before him an

excellent dance. Then, they kissed his hands on purpose to get hold of him. They uttered in a mild voice, "Lord! Holding one proof, they all claim 'God is with us'; but here we are to share with you our God experience. Firstly, John baptized Jesus at the river Jordan Mk 1:9-11. The second event was very significant in Jn 2:1-11, that is to say 'The Wedding at Cana' the first miracle of Jesus. If we were not there, Jesus' power would not yet be revealed. Likewise, we are useful and meaningful not only at Jesus' time but also until right now. When a newborn baby is baptized, we are significant symbols in that sacrament. Lord! If you need further clarification, you may enquire of your Bible scholars, theology tutors those who are present here."

Before they could finish fatherhood interrupted them by enacting a creative play, focused on the Parable of the Prodigal Son according to our day-to-day life. Everybody was surprised to watch it. The witty grapevines teased them that the hero of the parable was the second son, not him; but in reply, fathers shut their mouth, "What you say is a shallow, superficial meaning, but the deeper meaning that you need to understand, is the unconditional forgiveness of the Father, who explicitly represents us." When they had finished their interpretations, again they started the war of words for a long time. No one stopped justifying themselves that they were right.

At last, the impatient Sun cried aloud to them to keep quiet. Everyone remained silent to hear the Sun's judgment. The Sun spent some time in prayer to handle the unprecedented case. Then, discerning with the Spirit, the veteran Sun told his ministers to distribute different varieties of sweets. "How is the sweet?" the Sun questioned them in order to teach them a lesson. They frowned and answered him that that was very sweet, delicious indeed. His additional enquiry was, "Is it really very sweet?" Without hesitating, they responded to him, "Yes, it is." Then the Sun, using the appropriate time, made them realize their narrow-mindedness, and selfishness by asking them "How is it possible? I provided you different varieties of sweets; but they taste only sweet, don't they?" They were shocked and puzzled; no one spoke a word in return. He went further quoting Mt 23:8, 'You have only one Father, who is in heaven; and all of you are brothers and sisters.' He differs because we are diverse in religion, caste, and language, rich, poor and so on. Yet, He dwells among us and strengthens us every day to remain in union of mind, body and heart. It is a little difficult to understand or accept, unless you get out of your comfort zones and think beyond your limitations and circumscriptions. He wants us to be one always."

After a deep realization, they were all entirely convinced of his diagnosis. Then there was no discrimination and misunderstanding after the diagnosis. Everyone felt remorse for the blindness that they had had. At last, the witty grapevines declared the universal mind "After the sacrament of reconciliation with one another, we will remain in unity, oneness, for that is what God wants us to be."

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