

# THE DOKIMOS

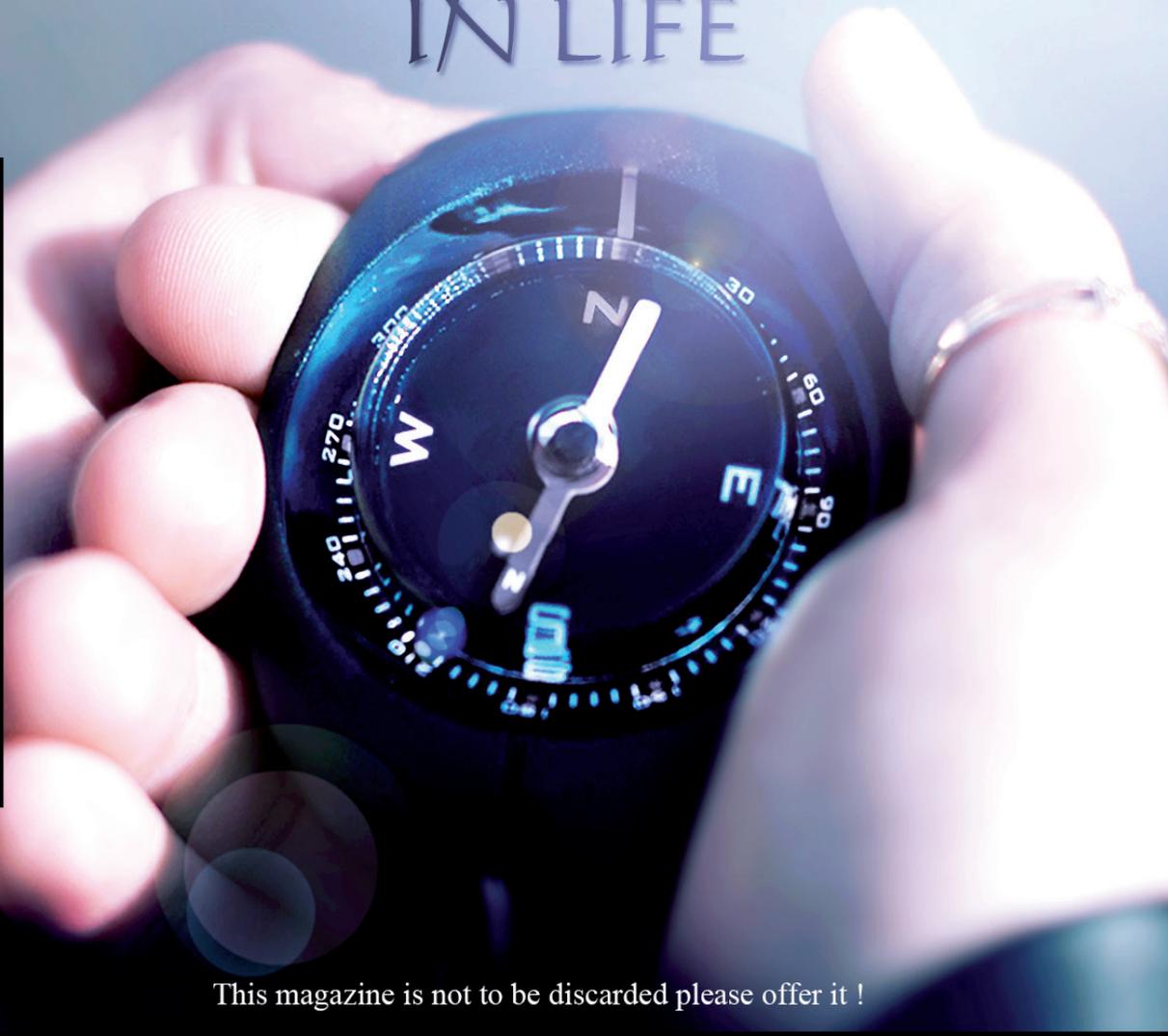


For we can do nothing against the truth, but only for the truth.

Legal Deposit April 2011 ISSN:2116-1906

## FINDING MEANING IN LIFE

FREE SPECIAL EDITION - August 2012



This magazine is not to be discarded please offer it !

Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities, all is vanity.

Ecclesiastes 1 : 2.

Although many people claim to be atheists, there is no denial that we all have faith in something: our family, a friend, or at least, in ourselves...

In his quest for happiness, Man, during his sojourn on earth, tries by all means to improve his life.

In a society of overconsumption, he tries to fill the void that is deep inside his heart. However, it does not matter whether we are rich or poor, graduated, famous or not, there is something we all have in common.

When our long sojourn on earth – which can last up to 80 years for the strongest – will come to an end, death will show no favouritism.

Have you ever wondered why you were on earth or regretted the day of your birth?

The hardships of life cause many of us to ask ourselves many questions.

This edition is addressed to those of you who are searching for a solution, those of you who are suffering. Whatever your age, origins, or your past, you should know that Jesus gave his life in sacrifice in order for you to be saved, and to give meaning to your life.

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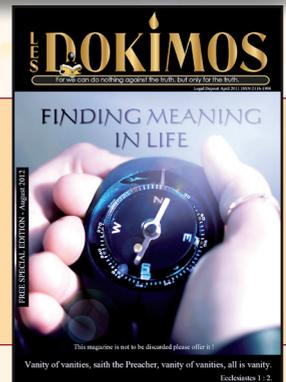
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**Subscription prices** (four issues per year): Mainland France EUR 20.00 (GBP 16.00, USD 25.50); French Overseas Departments and Europe EUR 23.00 (GBP 18.50, USD 29.00); Rest of the world EUR 26.00 (GBP 21.00; USD 33.00). You may purchase a support subscription for EUR 30.00 (GBP 24.00; USD 38.00).

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**“Vanity of vanities, said the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity” Ecclesiastes 1:2**

This statement was made by King Solomon who was globally known for his wisdom. Was he depressed when coming to this conclusion? Not so sure. He came to realise that his life had no meaning. What a strange statement for a king of his distinction.

Indeed, this is quite contradictory when we know he enjoyed an abundant life, full of wealth, encounters, glory and personal fulfilments. Some people dream of love, glory and beauty. Not only did Solomon enjoy it all, but he was also healthy and incredibly intelligent. All the world leaders would come to him to delight in the wisdom of his words.

He had an impressive number of love conquests: 700 princesses whom he had taken for wives, and 300 concubines. Enough to make Don Juan green with envy! What more could one want?

**“I said to myself, “Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good.” But that also proved to be meaningless. “Laughter,” I said, “is madness. And what does pleasure accomplish?” I tried cheering myself with wine, and embracing folly—my mind still guiding me with wisdom. I wanted to see what was good for people to do under the heavens during the few days of their lives. I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees. I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house. I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me. I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired male and female singers and a harem as well—the delights of a man’s heart. I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me.**

**I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my labour, and this was the reward for all my toil. Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.” Ecclesiastes 2/2-11**

Despite this abundance, Solomon was questioning the true meaning of life. As such, he started making investigations and experiences, hoping to find an answer. He came to realise that his life was futile and that all of his possessions would bring neither fulfilment nor peace of mind to him. The opulence in which he was living failed to calm the anguish of his soul.

We live in a society that idealises Solomon’s lifestyle and that pushes people for overconsumption of goods in order for them to reach an ideal that would supposedly

make them happier. Admittedly, men of the present day have reached a high level of knowledge, as the different technological and scientific prowesses implemented show. And yet, whether we are rich like Solomon and able to afford whatever we want or poor and struggle to make ends meet, the result is the same, we are never satisfied.

As a matter of fact, the consumer society keeps arousing people’s greed and lust, through media hype, so they might continually satisfy needs that have been engineered by society itself. We live in a world that offers all that is necessary to look good but fails to offer concrete solutions for the inner malaise in most people. Even the much worshipped celebrities to whom many people identify with fall into disgrace: numerous addictions, detox, depressions, suicides etc. To whom shall we go? Which model should we follow? Solomon was right when he said all is vanity.

In fact, he realised that life on earth was transient: **“I said in my heart concerning the condition of the sons of men, that God might reveal them, and that they might see that they themselves are beasts. For that which befalls the sons of men befalls beasts; the same thing befalls them: as the one dies, so dies the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man has no advantage over a beast: for all is vanity” (Ecclesiastes 3:18-19).**

Animals only care for their very own subsistence. They do not waste their time running after foolish things but settle for what’s most important.

The Bible says that Man is the only creature that has been made in God’s image, and therefore occupies a unique position in all creation. But because of sin, he drew away from God, when all God wanted was to provide him with perfect and pure happiness.

In his decadence, Man very often adopts a disgraceful behaviour, and becomes in that respect worse than animals.

**“Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions” (Ecclesiastes 7:29).**

Solomon therefore came to the conclusion that his wealth, glory, and even all the wisdom he had would never drag him away from the inescapable appointment with death and the judgment that comes right after it: **“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil” (Ecclesiastes 1a2:13).**

In that respect, Jesus asked a question that is worth contemplating: **“For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matthew 16:26).**

**“What sign are you?”** Who’s never been asked that question? Nowadays, astrology is almost omnipresent in our modern societies which, paradoxically, claim to be Cartesian. Indeed, many people acknowledge they often consult their horoscope, but claim not to believe in it. Strange, isn’t it?

Whether one believes in it or not, the reality is that people who often face day-to-day difficulties, and whose future is uncertain, need to reassure themselves in order to relieve their anxiety. The successive economic crises that are battering the world only contribute to increasing feelings of doubt and uncertainty, along with the fear of tomorrow.

As such, astrology is seen as a distraction that one takes more or less seriously, or else, as a way to anticipate the future in order to better face it.

This divinatory art has witnessed a significant expansion in our modern society. Though initially reserved to a restricted number of insiders, this “forbidden” practice has experienced a genuine boom, and has expanded to all social classes. Thanks to man’s frantic search for knowing their future, it has managed to linger on.

How then did astrology manage to become so substantially widespread in our societies? What is the basis for the astrologists’ predictions? Where does this continued quest for knowing what only God knows come from? This is what we will try to find out.

## **A BIT OF HISTORY**

Astrology is the combination of the Greek words “astron” and “logos”, which literally mean “account of the stars”. Also known as “astromancy”, it has consistently been through alternate periods of controversies and success, due to the divinatory, magical and satanic practices associated with it.

The first tracks of astrology date back 5000 years in Mesopotamia, where it had long been considered as a science reserved for an elite, and pertained to an exclusively religious framework.

The oldest known horoscopes originate from Babylon and date back to the 4th century before Jesus Christ. From Chaldea, it then spread over Greece after the conquests of Alexander the Great, and from there spread across the Greek empire, India, Egypt and Ancient Rome. By becoming less religious and more structured, it also gained in popularity.

It enjoyed a renewed interest under the Greek-Roman Empire and spread across the whole empire. Indeed, man was submitted to gods, and his destiny and future solely depended on their will.

In the Middle Ages, it became marginalised and even prohibited under the influence of the Roman Catholic Church. Only kings and their royal courts were allowed to practice it (see the Council of Toledo in AD 447). Kings such as Louis XI, Catherine of Medici, Louis XIII, to name but a few, resorted to it routinely.

It then came back in public life in the Renaissance period, notably through celebrities such as Nostradamus or Paracelsus. However, the latter quickly realised that astrology's development was very short-lived for, despite the support of influential and well-known people, it ran up against public opinion, and most particularly against the Catholic Church which regarded astrology as a "practice of the devil".

In France, under the pressure of the Jesuits, Colbert, who was a financial controller under Louis XIV, removed astrology from academic disciplines and prohibited its teaching in the Kingdom's universities in 1666.

During the Enlightenment, astrology was considered by thinkers as an example of popular superstition. From then on, magical, divinatory and satanic practices were deemed as illegal esoterism and reprovved.

Astrology came back in the scientific field through analytical psychology which originated from Jung (late 19th early 20th century).

Since the 20th century, it has reappeared thanks to the New Age movement which considerably made it popular at all levels of society: politics, music, advertising, economy, medicine, etc. It was made commonplace in almanacs, magazines and all kinds of TV programmes.

According to a survey from French market research company SOFRES, 58% of French

people think that astrology is a science, 46% believe in the personality descriptions made by Zodiac signs, while 29% trust in horoscopes. Even company bosses admit that they use it to take on new members of staff and to decide on the future of their company.

In 2009, the National institute of divinatory arts (INAD) claimed that there was between 700 and 1000 astrologers in France, not to mention the 40000 registered clairvoyants, mediums and fortune-tellers.

And yet, in 2012, during the presidential election, while some French polling institutes such as Ipsos or Ifop gave advantage to François Hollande, most French astrologers claimed that Mr Nicolas Sarkozy would win the presidential election, but we all know who won...

## THE SKY MAP

Astrology is based on two elements: a sky map and a calendar (Chinese calendar, solar calendar...).

The sky map is determined by various conglomerations of stars known as constellations. As such, western astrology uses zodiac signs which are made up of twelve constellations and to which the Greeks gave names, i.e. Sagittarius, Capricorn etc. Those names corresponded to regions of the sky crossed by the sun, and even by the moon within a year, a day... Zodiac signs are determined by the position of the sun on the



sky map at the time of birth. There are other conglomerations of constellations that can be useful depending on the calendar used.

To date, the sky map is very much controversial as, ever since the Babylonians discovered the various planets and developed astrology, it never changed.

And yet, this sky map established by the Babylonians harks back from several thousand years. Besides, technological progress brought about changes as far as sky observation is concerned. Indeed, scientists demonstrate that these maps are doomed to inaccuracy, as the sky map they use today is the same that the Babylonians used in ancient times.

We can therefore reasonably say that due to the fact that the position of the planets and the stars has changed, today's map is totally inaccurate, and that it inevitably gives erroneous results. It would thus be wise and interesting to find out why astrologers still use these 3000-year-old maps while with the technological means they have they can afford to use top of the range sky maps...

We can also note that all countries use the same solar calendar even though there are other calendars that could be added to the latter. If we take a closer look at the solar calendar, which used to be known as "Gregorian calendar", it is obvious how inaccurate it is.

## **THAT BEING SAID, CAN WE SERIOUSLY TRUST IN ASTROLOGY?**

Is astrology truly reliable? Who's never been disappointed by their horoscope when expected, long-awaited promises remained unfulfilled?

Many people regard astrology not as a science but as a divinatory art, and therefore as deceitful. For those who believe in it, let's look at it from a scientific point of view. It is said that "every long-range force in nature decay with distance". In other words, it is impossible for Mars or the moon to have a noticeable impact on man as they are too far away from each other.

Moreover, the sky map's inaccuracy shows us that astrologers' forecasts and other omens are erroneous for, as we saw earlier, the maps they use in 2012 date back approximately from 500 BC.

## **WHAT IS MAN'S REAL QUEST?**

The Ecclesiast said: "There is no new thing under the sun" (Ecclesiast 1, 9). History repeats itself continually, only actors change!

In the past, the earth's inhabitants were one and the same people. They went to settle in a city called Babel, in the country of Shinar.

Those men wanted to build a tower with a top that reaches to the heavens, with the sole aim being not to be spread all over the earth any longer. Why such a quest?

People remembered quite vividly how the flood submerged the earth, and were not willing to relive

such a disaster anymore (Genesis 11).

The flood was an expression of God's judgment on men who preferred to follow their heart's inclinations, thus denying the Creator of all souls.

By building this tower, the new inhabitants of Babel thought they would escape God's judgment in case another flood would occur. They thus thought they were safe at the top of this tower.

History repeats itself again as there is no new thing under the sun! Overall, astrology and divinatory arts are a replica of the tower of Babel.

And yet the Word of God clearly and explicitly denounces the practice of divinatory arts as they are lies that Satan commonly uses to mislead men.

*"When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch. Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer"* (Deuteronomy 18, 9-11).

In the above passage, the Lord unequivocally warns us against those ever so popular and widespread occult practices. People are not necessarily interested in astrology because they want to find out when they will become rich, or when the best time to invest will be, or else, when they will fall in love...In fact,

what they want to find out about deep down is when they will die.

*"He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end"* (Ecclesiastes 3, 11).

This interest for astrology and occult arts is based upon man's search and desire to break the mystery of death. By his willingness to find out about the day of his death, man wants by all means to avoid God's judgment.

*"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment"* (Hebrew 9, 27).

Indeed, nobody can avoid or run away from death. All men will die one day or another, whatever they do to escape it. Knowing that, just as the people at the time of Babel did, many people undertake mad ventures to defy death, and implicitly, avoid God's eternal judgment.

But it must be understood that although we will die, we will not be judged in the same way.

*"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life:*



and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20, 11: 15).

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil” (John 3, 16: 19).

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life” (John 5, 24).

“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent” (John 17, 3).

The Bible, which is the Word of God, tells us that in Jesus Christ, walking in newness of life, drawing a line under the past and escaping God’s judgment is possible (2 Corinthians 5, 17).

As a conclusion, God rejects astrology and occultism. So, why not surrendering your lives into the hands of this great God who created all things by the sole power of his Word?

Only Him is able to predict the future accurately and unmistakably. He perfectly knows the past, the present and the future of the universe and of every single human being. More than once, God showed that his Word is trustworthy.

“Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not” (Jeremiah 33, 3).

Most biblical prophesies have already been fulfilled, and are still being fulfilled before our eyes. This means that God is not a liar. Why putting your trust in charlatans, Satanists, men and women who call on evil spirits to predict the future, while it is in our best interest to believe and fully trust the God who loves us and has wonderful plans for us?

Dear readers, here is the story of the childhood, adolescence and adult life of a man who experienced the dark depths of Satanism. He testifies of the omnipotence of Jesus to deliver those who have been made captive by the enemy and responded honestly to our questions with his own words. Converted for 9 years, he raises the alarm bell and warns people about the danger of sin, notably that of occultism. He also calls for the Christians to wake up and come out of their lightness and ignorance in order to truly sanctify themselves.

**Dokimos: Can you tell us about your childhood and family?**

**X:** I am currently 38 years-old. I have two brothers and two sisters, and come from a family who practices Satanism. I used to be called «Legion of legions» and am not proud of saying it. It is a great shame to have been a hotel, not to say a puppet, for filthy demons. As far as I can remember, the family atmosphere was solely made of sadness, wickedness and trauma. However, it is wrong to believe that Satanists, sorcerers etc., are just victims. Indeed, although fooled by Satan, they made choices, “took oaths” and offered human sacrifices among other things. They are BOTH victims AND criminals. Satanists offer their children to Satan. As such, I was born possessed and bound by particular spirits which were related to my position in the world of darkness. But the worse thing was perhaps the education we received. We all were great perverts and filled with all kinds of unspeakable depravity. On the satanic side, each one of us had their own particular spirits. We also had masters guiding us.

I was mounting guard over attacks that could come from the outside. We were completely surrendered to Satan. We were werewolves. Although I was not the most powerful of all, I could still direct operations through cunning. This was my specialty. As I grew up, my parents, masters (who were demons) and other people mistreated me in many ways until

I reached total despair. Nowhere was safe for me and nobody protected me. In fact, it was quite the contrary. My parents offered me so I could be mistreated. It was always extremely violent and very long. For example, unlike in the physical world, in the spiritual world, you can have your heart cut out or your teeth broken several times. You don't even need to wait for a baby to be born to do these things.

Once hopeless and traumatised, I completely closed my heart and forever. In other words, I was dead in my inner self and was exclusively living through other people's lives. As a matter of fact, the first sacrifice I offered was myself, or rather someone who looked like me. It was a symbol of my death. I was ready to do whatever I was asked and that without mercy!

**Dokimos: Can you tell us what a typical day in a satanist family is like?**

**X:** We were many at home and all had specific roles. There was also a well-defined hierarchy. We were continually striving for power and dominion. No one could be trusted. We had to closely watch over everyone's move in order not to be ensnared.

From the outside we seemed to be a «good» family, a bit like great Catholic families. My dad was a worker and my mum was “raising us.”

It was a façade basically. We had to look “normal» when in fact we were completely dedicated to Satan. I was going to school, and had extra-curricular activities not too far from home, but I was still under the supervision of the demons. They didn't hesitate to punish me if I was disobeying. They themselves used to make mistakes, hate one another, betray one another or betray me. The only time I was able to breathe was when I was in class surrounded by other classmates. I was then able to relax a little bit. But sometimes, the demons took possession of my teacher, using different kind of abuse to bring me back to reality. Nothing happened in front of my classmates though. The golden rule was to be discreet. At a signal given by my mum, we would all leave our bodies and gather together. We had a specific

language which seemed all good at first sight, but which in fact had a double meaning. This is every Satanist's trademark, who would talk about things like «love» or «light beings» for instance.

As such, we pretended to live a normal life thereby aiming at gaining followers and influence without being detected, which was very easy because blindness was very high even among Christians. You should know that only the Holy Spirit can show you a sorcerer or a Satanist. They infiltrate our prayer meetings and are the most dynamic (they are not fought, it helps). They have great revelations and great gifts that may appear to be spiritual.

Dig a little bit and you'll realise that the reality is quite different. My mother, who was more powerful than I was (otherwise we would have killed her), was able to read our thoughts. Imagine what our everyday life was like. Not only were we punished for our actions, but we were also punished for our thoughts, which created an atmosphere of madness. Over time, as we grew older, we learned to prevent any intrusion into our thoughts.

I'm so sad to see so many Christians being so reckless about the price and danger of sin. I'm appalled by the phony theories they have about the world of darkness, theories that they went to seek from sorcerers or demons themselves. And yet, the Bible is very clear on that matter and all-sufficient for Christians. Lately, I heard that the «Illuminati» did not exist! How blind! The sad thing is our God is so powerful that we become oblivious despite the warnings of the Holy Spirit. Then, when we find ourselves in a critical situation, we blame God for it.

**Dokimos: Do you know how long your family has been practicing Satanism for?**

**X:** I'm not sure of the number of generations, but I would say nine. I saw it through a special experience. The good news is that Jesus came to destroy the works of darkness and caused the Christians to be made completely new creatures. There are two types of people in our family: Satanists or pastors. Strange as

it may seem, there has also been men of God. I would say it's God's humour. I love this God who comes and seek the worst, darkest, and most futureless creatures ever to turn them into His servants, transforming them to make them men and women who delight His holiness. I love God because He has His own way of doing things, as with Moses whom He placed in an evil family for him for the sake of training. When delivered the people of Israel, our God first humiliated the sorcerers. His method: He starts by putting Himself at the same level as them but still defeats them (snake, blood appearance, among others). Then He raises a little, which causes them to be overtaken and confused. This is when He deals with the chief demons of Egypt: the frogs, the night and the darkness (Ra, Isis and Osiris, and so on). Then God rises again to finish up with Satan (Pharaoh). And finally, He publicly humiliates all these people without even getting up from His throne. Oh yes! God is God. If He had completely arisen that day, it would have been the end of everything, the end of the universe and of all the heavens. God had to contain His power, His greatness and His glory to teach us. And He does it for every man or woman who give themselves to Him.

**Dokimos: What do satanic cults look like?**

**X:** We left Satanism at the cost of a lost memory. It is therefore difficult for me to be precise and to give a specific date. But Satan loves to mock God or to push men to commit blasphemous acts. We used to celebrate evil Eucharist with human flesh, and used to get together every week. There were special days, during pagan or Christian festivals, because behind Christian festivals there are many abominations hidden. Greater meetings were sometimes held with Satan himself. We also had our own daily workload.

**Dokimos: How are children involved in these cults?**

**X:** Those who are not sacrificed are offered before their birth to Satan and prepared for their mission. Once born, they are prepared to

be insensitive to everything, and with such hatred that they are capable of all kinds of abominations. We also had very strong demons in our family. One of them was supposed to stop bullets but I never tried.

**Dokimos: Occultism is omnipresent in our societies via clairvoyance and astrology for example. How related are these practices with hardcore Satanism?**

**X:** In fact, everything is related. Here's how I see things:

There are levels of occultism with their very own demons. They are increasingly large and powerful. Everyone is blinded by Satan even though those at the top of the pyramid are more aware than those who are at the bottom. In fact, many of those who are at the bottom of the pyramid believe that they serve God.

Occultism could be classified into many levels, but to sum things up, there are three main ones:

1.White magic where specific prayers are used for healing and to make things happen. It is called white magic because it is used to do good (at least, that is what they believe). There are no massive sacrifices because it always needs to look religious. The Catholics and some pastors love it. This is characterised by manifestations that seem to come God, along with stigmata, various signs and pastors who offer their sheep to fill their churches.

2.Black magic, whereby one offers small-to-large human sacrifices. They know what they do is evil and kill people voluntarily.

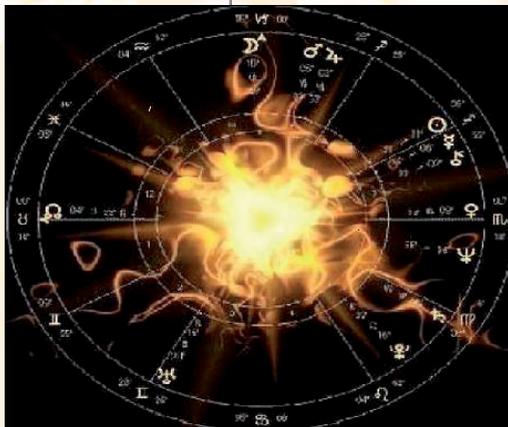
3.The Satanists worship Satan, offer a quota of human flesh, along with their children, and their lives. They fast and pray etc.... I find

the demons of this level different compared to those of witchcraft. Those demons can be bigger than the latter or the same but "darker» and filthier.

Every single occult science binds you to demons and enslaves you. Whether you meet your inner master or false external gods or magnetism, most therapies (i.e.: olotherapy, and other "xxx therapies"), or astral travels, the goal is the same: binding you so as to access your lives and kill you and your family. It also aims to use you as a human bomb to attract as many people as possible to hell.

In our world, every action, even those that seem insignificant, have spiritual consequences. Occultism may seem as good as the fruit Satan offered Eve, but it leads to death. This is really significant of how Satan deceives men. He gives them access to the spiritual world, and thus to knowledge. But the reality is much more miserable. You will, at best, have access to the second world, but

as far as glory is concerned, you won't have access to it. You are assigned a demon that enables you to do certain things but in the end its mission is to fill you as many demons as possible in order to destroy you or use you to destroy other lives, while Jesus gave us His own life so we might have life eternal. All He requires from us is to wait a little bit here on earth until He comes back. We will then be in His holy presence, have full knowledge of the spiritual world and be in total bliss.



**Dokimos: Let's get back to you then. What kind of child and teenager were you?**

**X:** I was very disturbed. It was easy to notice it, because I was "different". Let's say it was "demonic sanctification". I was not sinning openly. I looked religious, as if I was raised in a family with religious values.

Later on, we deserted Satanism. And soon after that, I threw myself headlong into the world. In just a few years, I found myself in youth crime, sexual depravity (except Satanism) and drugs. I started with hashish, then followed with XTC, speed, a little bit of coke and heroin.

I was constantly influenced by one demon or another. So just before Jesus came to seek me again – for, ever since I was a child, He'd already called me several times while in my wanderings – I was completely emotionally, physically and spiritually devastated. I had no personality per se or very little as the demons were taking too much space in my soul. I realised that Satan could do nothing for me – and neither could the world – because he is a liar. I was so empty and totally hopeless.

Only when I reached a certain age did I realise that people were living beings and not just dolls I could use as I wished. I remember that because one day I saw a child crying because I was hurting him and I said to myself: "hey', I didn't know this thing could cry???" How strange!" But it stuck with me.

**Dokimos: Have you ever wanted to break with the lifestyle you had?**

**X:** Yes, but this is impossible without Jesus, and people must be aware of it! Someone should announce it. My life was sad, filled with wickedness and deprived of the simple pleasures of life that God offers us; Satan defiles everything! Towards the end of the «Satanism» period, my parents decided to depart from it because everything was spiralling out of control at home: the fight for power had become never-ending. My brothers, sisters and I were trying to kill one another. My twin brother and I – who made a covenant for

"no blood shedding" – had attempted a coup to kill our mother. Fortunately it failed.

The cost of leaving Satanism is the loss of memory, along with many other things. It's a trap. The reality is that you never leave Satanism. Even though you do it unconsciously, you carry on practicing it. The only way to come out of it is when Jesus comes to seek us. We all had a split personality. One side was more or less normal, while the other was completely demonic. We did not really control the transfer from one personality to another, it was automatic. We realised the damage we caused though because fragments of memory were going from one personality to another.

My parents have sought to escape it all through different occult movements and sciences: the Rosicrucian's, the Circes, Catholicism and even the Jehovah's Witnesses. I myself was a member of the Rosycross and was a flag bearer. This is a very diabolical sect which claims to draw its origins from the Egyptians. You notably learn different initiations including astral travel (this consists in coming out of one's body).

They like to study esoterism and ancient Egypt. And just as some pastors, they go and bathe in the river Jordan. As the son of one of the great masters overthrew his father to take his place, the father and his most loyal «lieutenants» left and founded the CIRCES. The most influential section of the Rosycross is part of Martinism. And what of Catholicism and other religions where occultism is mixed with the Bible? I believe these are the worst because they use the name of Jesus. Or rather they defile His name with practices that are unworthy of Him.

**Dokimos: What kind of adult were you?**

**X:** I was a mess, totally desperate. I sampled everything but nothing really satisfied me. There is not much hope for the kind of man I was except Jesus. All I could dream of was simple things: love, peace, joy, happiness! All these things can only and truly be found in Jesus. Happiness can only be found in Jesus. I was living vicariously through others because I could not access my own heart. I

was feeding off of others and of their emotions, and was extremely sad.

**Dokimos: Some people think that God and Satan are a myth and that they are mere human inventions. What can you say about that?**

**X:** In my opinion, they do exist, but the Holy Spirit is the one who will convince them. I invite you to ask Jesus to come into your life and to manifest Himself to you. God is very powerful and He knows how to talk to you, you whom He wove into your mother's womb. But watch out, one day it will be too late.

**Dokimos: What was your opinion regarding each one of them?**

**X:** Well, I did not really know that there was a God. I mistakenly thought that Satan was the most powerful creature. But now I am gloating over the fact that Satan has to bow down every time the name of Jesus is pronounced. I was really wrong. That's the reason why Satan does not sleep you know, because if he was to he would certainly have nightmares. Even the least freshly converted Christian can make him bow down in the powerful name of Jesus Christ! Satan is a creature and Jesus is the Creator. He is so powerful that entities like the sun and the earth come to life at His command.

Indeed, wars have been lost, people have been ruined but Satan has lost everything! That's tough!!!! Hihih!

Who failed like Satan??? Who has been stripped and humiliated like he has? Jesus came to take away the record of debt that stood against us. Satan lost his power over all those who accepted Jesus. He was shamed publicly, and humiliated in front of his demons, fallen angels and before all men. Man is the only creature who fails to understand this. All the other creatures do understand it because they were there. God is almighty; He is good and is a lovely Daddy. He is fair and acts rightly with us. How comforting!

**Dokimos: In what circumstances did you end up turning to God?**

**X:** Well, in fact, I was not the one who made the first move. God is the One who truly came and took care of our family. One needs a great deal of faith to switch sides just like that. You need to be sure to move from the weaker side to the stronger! You know, unlike men, God is humble. Jesus called me to Him several times and never ceased to do so despite my blasphemies and the way I was treating His servants.

God simply came to visit me, full of love. He really is powerful because He poured out His love in my heart and nothing could stop it, neither the demons nor Satan, or me. It hurt a little bit but at the same time it felt so good.

**Dokimos: Why did you choose to turn to God?**

**X:** When there is really no hope, there is always Jesus. I read a book by TL Osborn which contained rather powerful testimonies about sorcerers who, although converted to Christ, did not die. I saw my mother make the move, then my brother. Something really changed in them. It gave me the strength to take the leap despite the fact that the demons were furious and threatened me. I ran to see a pastor and I urged him to witness me as I asked Jesus to come into my life in order for Satan not to be able to accuse me. The pastor did not understand my zeal. At that time, unfortunately I only accepted Jesus as my Saviour. I thought that there was no hope for me. I just wanted to die in Christ. I wanted Him to take my life back. I did not want Him to relieve my pain or to strip me of my power as I still wanted to be able to defend myself.

And yet, this is exactly what He did. I did not understand His language. Indeed, He was calling me a valiant warrior. He told me that He had called me, that He loved me and many other things.

I was wandering in the Christian world and nobody could help me. I heard about the power of the Holy Spirit and I started to run after Him (and yet He was in me). I did not understand anything about the Word. I took part in activities such as counselling but neither did I find God, nor did I find deliverance through it.

It was only a few years later, when I joined a congregation where the leaders truly walked in holiness – I thought such thing did not exist and that all Christians were hypocrites – that I decided to give up my luggage and bow down before Jesus my Lord. It's funny because I've always announced things before they happened. It bothered everyone because I knew things that I was not supposed to know. For example I said to my brother that I did not want to break-in with him because we were going to get caught. Still, he would go there and end up getting caught. I thought this thing was demonic but later on I came to realise that it was something that God had given me. It was He who created me to serve Him.

**Dokimos: What did you discover about Jesus Christ?**

**X:** I discovered that His sacrifice on the cross was not a failure but the greatest victory that the universe and all the worlds (visible and invisible) have ever known. Jesus defends His children, He is the shield and the foundation. There is PEACE in Him.

**Dokimos: What difficulties did you face when you decided to move on from the life you had before?**

**X:** In the beginning, things were very complicated because I was not reading the Bible enough. No one could see my inner state and no one could cast out demons in the congregation. They could see nothing at all. To be honest, I was very disappointed because I could see their spiritual state and what they were hiding. I was longing for something else, but I could see it anywhere. It was as if they did not know the Jesus who found me. They did not fear God. They only had the appearance of piety. In the end, trusting the brethren and opening up to them was also very difficult. Young people preferred to gather in order to flirt, watch films rather than praying or praising God. I was very naive at the time and very disappointed to see the intentions of ladies that were not so virtuous. I'm not very spiritual as

a person you know but I love Jesus. He is so meek.

The demons and Satan threatened us in many ways. The Satanists also attacked us and still do. But since I walk in sanctification, they stay away from me. They attack at their own risk. Even Satan, when he attacks makes sure to take a secret squadron with him in case he's cast out in the name of Jesus.

I also had to learn to get to know myself because I have been possessed ever since I was born. So I was not used to live alone in my own mind. I did not know who I was and what my personality was.

**Dokimos: Why did you persevere in the faith despite all the battles you had?**

**X:** Because Jesus is the only way. It's not a mere verse, but a great truth. I'm in a ship, that of Jesus. I feel safe and very good in it. There are crocodiles and sharks who are mighty upset at me in the water. And you are asking me why I do not want to get out of the boat?

**Dokimos: What do you have in the Lord that you didn't have when you were living in the darkness?**

**X:** Everything. You asking me this question means that you do not know anything about the world of darkness. This world is all about torment. Satan himself is made of torment and anger. All the occultists are tormented and devoured from the inside. It's unbearable. With the demons requesting blood, their bad temper and their never-ending quarrels, it's not easy to live. Life in Jesus is much different. There's no such thing as the peace that is in Jesus! There's no such thing as the safety and perfect love that is in our God. Happiness is in Jesus. God is not wicked. He allows us to take part in His life, His glory, His kingdom and many promises. God comforts us when we are saddened; He heals our wounds and uses us to demonstrate His glory. What a God! What a difference!

**Dokimos: In what way is the Christian life more satisfying?**

**X:** It's based upon God's righteousness and love. God loves us and is fair with us. He will not betray us nor forsake us. What assurance and what security! As far as human relationships are concerned, we have the Bible and we ought to meditate it because it is our guide and saves us from being fooled by men.

**Dokimos: When did you give your life to the Lord and what is your life like today?**

**X:** I made my first steps with the Lord 15 years ago (we're getting old!) but I truly gave up everything for Him 9 years ago. I let God strip me of everything. I was as helpless as a little strengthless grub. I was really pathetic. But He later on clothed me with a different outfit. I'm currently in training with the Lord. I'm married. I'm waiting for the Lord's go ahead to work in His field. Before coming to France (I'm from Belgium), I tried to serve God but He spoke to me in a dream saying that I was not entitled to do so. I'm therefore waiting for His permission. I'm really happy to know Jesus. I like sanctification. This may sound strange but I really like sanctification and the glory of God that's related to it sanctification.

**Dokimos: What can you tell us about sin in general and most particularly, about that of occultism?**

**X:** Sin should really afflict us. First because it brings a separation between us and God, which is so unpleasant, but also because it really is something that deeply saddens God. Jesus is our fiancé and we, the Church, are His beloved. Jesus is enamoured with us, He never ceases looking at us totally in love. It's as if I was with my fiancée and that she began to look at someone else and speak to him with love! How sad! But sin is worse, it is spiritual adultery. This very same fiancée would have sexual intercourse with other men while you sanctify yourself for her.

Occultism is an insult to God and is so mean. Considering yourselves as gods, while the true

God is giving us the air that we breathe, how pitiful. Let us learn to know God, experience holiness and a life without sin in the long term because that's what life with God is all about, and God honours us when we honour Him.

**Dokimos: If you had one message to give to people, what would it be?**

**X:** Jesus is coming soon, very soon. He comes to take a Church having no spot or wrinkle. He comes to take men and women who live in sanctification. He gave His life for you, He died on the cross to redeem you at a great price. Repent and live! Give up sin and live! Let go of the idols and live! He calls a new generation, Christians who live in sanctification. Christians with an exemplary simplicity, holiness, profoundness and with a message that has not yet been heard and seen before except in the Bible. Here is the message: Jesus is back! Prepare yourselves! Make this step today, now. Tomorrow will be too late. Jesus will change your lives.

*Marcos Ceara is a Brazilian professional football player. He notably strived as a right wingback in Parisian football club Paris Saint Germain from 2007 to 2012. This man, who introduces himself as a disciple of Jesus-Christ, accepted to speak about his faith with simplicity.*

**Dokimos:** How would you define the word “Christian”?

**Marcos:** In my opinion, being a Christian is both a grace and a privilege. A privilege because we are part of God’s family and will spend eternity with the Creator. A Christian is a person who moved from a state of sinner to being justified and is therefore saved.

**Dokimos:** Do you make a difference between the expressions “Christian” and “Disciple”?

**Marcos:** Well, it all depends on how one perceives both terms. For me, the term “Christian” means “little Christ”. In the 11th chapter of the Book of Acts, we see that the disciples were called Christians for the very first time for, according to those who named them this way, the disciples looked like Christ. But today, this word is used to describe various religious denominations – i.e., the Jehovah witnesses, the Catholics... – that call themselves Christians when they are not.

One can no longer tell the difference between true Christians and false ones. As far as I am concerned, I describe myself more as a disciple of Jesus-Christ, that is, one who moves forward and holds on to the Lord, and who, despite the persecutions and the difficulty of Christian life, remains steadfast in his faith and in his walk with God. A disciple is a persevering person.

**Dokimos:** You come from a devout Catholic family. When did you realise how important it was to be disciple of Christ?

**Marcos:** Yes I do come from a devout Catholic family. We used to live in the countryside, in a farm located in a poor province of the North-eastern Region of Brazil. A priest would come and celebrate the mass once a month.



This was an occasion not to be missed. A few years later, we moved to Sao Paulo. At the age of 18, I joined the Santos football club as an amateur football player. During that period was when I was invited to an evangelical church. And during the service was when I realized I really needed a relationship, a true intimacy with God. This is the day when I sincerely opened my heart to the Lord.

**Dokimos:** In what way did your religious practice change? And in what way was it different from Catholicism?

**Marcos:** Catholicism is a religion that presents a distant God. When we go to church, we do not go to know more of God but by fear of the judgment. At the time when I got born again, when I opened my heart to the Lord, I realised that God wanted me to share a father-and-son relationship with him.

**Dokimos: How did your family and friends react when you decided to become a true disciple of Christ?**

**Marcos:** After my conversion, the love of God pushed me to witness for him to those who were around me. I really wanted to share the Good News and what I was living with the Lord with them. I therefore started evangelising my teammates of the Santos football club. After ten months, I was summoned by the president of the club who threatened to kick me out if I kept on talking about the Lord. But in spite of these injunctions, I kept witnessing for Jesus and eventually got kicked out. It was really difficult. I had to go back to my village at my parent's. When I was in Santos, I would only make 400 euros per months. But there, I found myself with no income. My parents advised me to get a job.

I did not lose hope because deep down I knew that God had given me this ability for football and I knew I had to achieve something in this area. Two months later, God had mercy upon me, an agent offered me to play for the Brasilia football club. This was when my football career began.

**Dokimos: Could you give us a definition of the word "sin"?**

**Marcos:** Everybody has their own definition of sin depending on their own consciousness. For some people, betrayal or lying is not a sin. As far as I am concerned, sin simply consists of failing to do God's will, disobeying His commandments, missing the goal for which God created us.

**Dokimos: You have been playing for PSG since 2007. How do you do to evangelize your colleagues? Are they receptive to the message you pass on to them?**

**Marcos:** First of all, I tell them about the love of God which is characterised by the fact that He gave His son Jesus in sacrifice on the cross so they may be saved. I tell them about the joy and love He gives to those who accept him, things that the world cannot give them durably. I also try to touch them by my testimony, my lifestyle. I pay careful attention not to have a bad behaviour be it on the field or in my

everyday life. You know, many things can happen on a field: insults, kicks, tackle, and so on. I strive to have an exemplary behaviour.

I had the opportunity to know Pedro Pauleta with whom I played in PSG for a while. He is a true idol in his country. When I told him that I belonged to Christ, he said to me that he met many football players who called themselves evangelical Christians but who in fact were not living what they preached. He therefore started to keep an eye on me for a while and, after five to six months, he told me I was a true Christian. This was really encouraging to hear such a thing coming from somebody who does not necessarily follow the Lord. Apart from that, I give out bibles, some people accept them, some don't.

**Dokimos: Some people may have answered that they don't need Jesus because they have everything to be happy, haven't they?**

**Marcos:** Well, I generally answer that man naturally feels empty. Those who do not have Jesus in their hearts try to fill that void their way, notably via material things. To those of my teammates who make these statements, I ask this question of the Lord: "And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?"

(Matthew 16/26). Some think about it, others don't.

**Dokimos: Is it easy to live a life of sanctification considering how famous you are? You must be very much approached, especially by women...**

**Marcos:** There are obviously many temptations but I don't think I am more tempted than anyone else because each Christian has to face their own lot of temptations whatever the area in which they are in. We live in a time when everything is about seduction: TV, magazines, Internet with pornographic websites... I don't think celebrity is an excuse to be weaker against sin. To me caution is the solution. I flee from sin when it comes my way. Whenever I receive invitations to go to nightclubs, I choose not to go. I always go out with my family, i.e., my wife and my children. When I am away with the team, I lock myself in the hotel room in the presence of the Lord. I avoid having cocktails, debates or discussions that could go wrong.

**Dokimos: Could you tell us about your family life, your marriage for example?**

**Marcos:** In 2002, I challenged the Lord. I asked him to give me a wife because I wanted to live a life of sanctification. At the time, I had neither money nor house, but I still wanted to get married. Soon after, I met my wife. We quickly got engaged, and got married a few months later despite the financial difficulties. I had to get a loan in order to pay for our wedding. We furnished our house with second-hand furniture. I think God acknowledged my prayer because He is the One who created marriage and family. And today, we are the parents of three wonderful children.

**Dokimos: Could you tell us about a specific revelation that you received from God?**

**Marcos:** I am not really fond of prophecies. I ask God to reveal himself to me every day through His Word. God proved His love for me many times through concrete actions. I was twice miraculously healed of a hernia.

Once, while I was going through great financial difficulties, I received money on my bank account without knowing where it came from (another miracle). The love of God is a great revelation for me.

**Dokimos: What is the most beautiful thing God has ever given you?**

**Marcos:** The Lord requires us to be spiritual beings, so, I am going to start with spiritual things (laughter)... The most beautiful thing God has ever given me is first of all salvation. Then, there is my wife. Yes, my wife is a great present from heaven, and lastly my children.

**Dokimos: If God was to ask you to stop playing football, what would you do?**

**Marcos:** There is nothing holding me back to this world, I am ready to give up everything for Jesus. Nothing could be compared to the love He has manifested for me.

It is irreplaceable. My relationship with Him is all that matters to me.

**Dokimos: How would you picture your future at the end of your career as a football player?**

**Marcos:** Once my career over, I intend to serve the Lord full time. I don't know if I will be ministering as a pastor or evangelist, but what I do know is that I will be an ambassador of Christ wherever I go. The most important thing for me is to serve God and to do His will.

**Dokimos: Is Jesus coming back soon?**

**Marcos:** I strongly hope so and try to get ready for His return every day

There is a word that disturbs so much that it has almost disappeared from our modern vocabulary. People want to make it seem obsolete, old fashioned, out-dated, but the reality is that it inspires fear and rejection. Why? Because just like a mirror, it brings man face to face with his own shortcomings and invites him to question himself. Ignoring this word also comes down to denying the existence of a perfect Person, whose sole desire is our best interest, but about whom many people are definitely not keen to hear about. For, in the name of freedom of expression and with the liberalisation of morals, man cannot bear to be reproved, warned or told that the path he is embarked on puts him in danger. The word we are referring to is "sin", which consists in the conscious and voluntary transgression of God's law.

Sin! God! Many are those who, after reading or hearing these two words, will instantly turn a deaf ear and quickly move away, fearing that their conscience be twinged to the point of preventing them from doing what they want. And yet, questioning oneself about the consequences of sin is essential as our future in eternity is at stake. It is therefore well worthwhile taking a few minutes of reflection.

### THE FRUIT THAT GIVES KNOWLEDGE OF EVIL

The Bible says that God is the Creator of the universe, the heavens and the earth, and of all living creatures. Some people would rather believe that their existence is the result of a haphazard explosion that supposedly took place in the space, and the fruit of a slow evolution that is equally random. One may find the biblical account of creation far-fetched and naive, but it is no more than believing we are the product of chance.

Be that as it may, the Scriptures tell us that God created man and woman in his own image and that He placed them in a garden called Eden to till it and keep it (Genesis 2:15).

As clearly suggested by the name of the garden, which in Hebrew means "delights, Adam and Eve were in a heavenly environment. They lacked nothing and had all the necessary ingredients for

happiness. The only thing God prohibited them from was the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:27).

"The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to dress it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, of every tree of the garden you may freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat of it: for in the day that you eat thereof you shall surely die" (Genesis 2:15-17).

The biblical account then tells us that the devil got into the Garden of Eden and seduced the woman into eating the forbidden fruit. As a result, she gave in to temptation and so did her husband.

"The serpent was craftier than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. He told the woman: Did God really say, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden? The woman answered the serpent; we may eat fruit from the trees of the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God hath said, ye shall not eat it and neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said to the woman, ye shall not surely die; but God knows that the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. The woman saw that the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and it was desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; she gave also to her husband, who was with her, and he ate" (Genesis 3:1-6).

Let us consider this scene for a moment.

**Why did God place the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the garden if He did not want man to eat of it?**

First, you must know that God created us out of love (1 John 4:8). As a matter of fact, it is for the very same reason that human beings have children. Love is not selfish or self-centred, but is meant for sharing and fellowship. God created us to flood us with His love and for us to love Him in return.

"You shall love the Lord your God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy strength" (Deuteronomy 6: 5).

But His love for man also implies respect, notably



for his free will. **God did not make us robots programmed to obey Him.** He created us in His image and gave us the ability to choose to love and obey Him or hate and disobey Him. In that respect, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was a tool allowing the man to fully exercise his free will.

Likewise, when you decide to have children, you have them knowing that they could potentially disappoint you by rebelling against you. We all know that in a house, there are various objects that, although useful, can be harmful to children, and to which parents deny access. Just because parents bought these dangerous objects does not mean that they want to use them to harm their children.

Now let us take a closer look at this tree. The Bible calls it “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil”. Remember Adam and Eve were placed in a garden called “delights”, and that they were lacking nothing. **“How excellent is thy loving-kindness, O God! In the shadow of your wings the son of man seeks refuge”** (Psalms 36: 7 (or 8)).

As such, Adam and Eve, who were living in endless blessing and used to continuously see God’s face, already knew good. **In fact, what they wanted was to experience evil.** But God specifically warned them of the consequence of this choice: death.

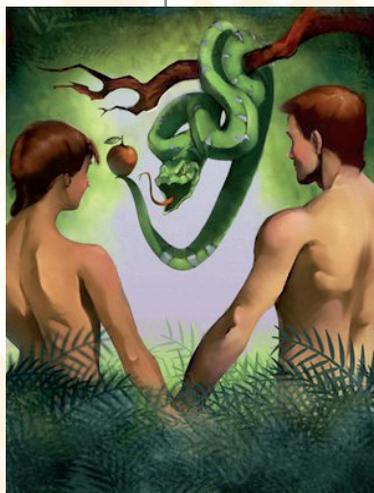
What tempting offer did they give in to? Satan told them that if they ate the forbidden fruit they would be like “gods” knowing good and evil. But the Bible says that Satan is the father of lies (John 8: 44). Indeed, God has never experienced evil. This is how the man and the woman preferred to listen to the enemy who had excited their pride and lust rather than staying faithful to God who had filled them with countless blessings.

#### **What were the results of this disobedience?**

In accordance with the warnings of the Lord, Adam and Eve opened the door to the reign of death. They first died spiritually, and were as such separated from the presence of God (Isaiah 59: 2).

They were no longer able to fellowship with God, which is why they hid themselves when God looked for them.

**“And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the evening, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called unto Adam, and said, where are you? He replied: I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I am naked and I hid”** (Genesis 3: 8-10).



This spiritual death became even heavier when Adam and Eve ended up being driven out of the Garden of Eden. Indeed, instead of asking **God to forgive them for their disobedience, they denied responsibility.** Adam even went so far as to accuse God, thus aggravating his situation. **“And the Lord God said: Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree that I commanded you not to eat?”**

The man said, the woman you put here with me gave me the tree and I ate. And the LORD God said unto the woman: **Why hast thou done this? The woman said, the serpent beguiled me, and I ate”** (Genesis 3:11-13).

Because the man was the head of creation, his fall also led to the decline of all that was under his responsibility, that is, the earth and everything thereof (Genesis 1:28-30; Genesis 3:17-18).

Lastly, the end result of spiritual death was physical death, whereby man had to return to the ground from which he came (Genesis 2: 7; Genesis 3:19). The worst thing is that all of mankind inherited from this sinful nature and still suffers the consequences.

#### **THE SAME STORY IS REPEATING ITSELF**

**“You shall have no other gods before me; Thou shalt make thee no graven image, or any likeness of things which are above the heavens, who are down on earth, and who are in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them,**

and you serve them [...] Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy [...] Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbour" (Exodus 20:3-17).

The Ten Commandments are a summary of the divine law. Far from being limited to ten precepts, it encompasses everything that has to do with morality. In Leviticus 18 for instance, we discover the laws regarding the prohibition of incest and sexual immorality. The whole Bible is a type of code of conduct that one is to follow to find eternal life. Every man knows it, even if they never read the Bible, because God took care to place his law in our conscience.

Which one of us never violated any of these commandments? We all did, and many times. **Sin has taken such proportions that we became slaves of it** (Jean 8:34).

**The problem is that many people are aware of it and love this slavery.** This is how what used to be considered as shameful and done in secret yesterday, is now openly assumed and valued. Man has reached such a state of perversion that the order established by God has been reversed. Just as Adam and Eve, man keeps on considering himself as a little god by wanting to make his own law and set his own rules.

"Woe unto them that call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for the light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" (Isaiah 5: 20).

Since the fall of man, God has always made the same observation about man. "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and all thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Genesis 6: 5).

"All are lost, all are perverted; There is none that doeth good, no, not one" (Psalms 14: 3).

Some will protest, saying "what about people who do good deeds?" The Bible says that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans

3: 23). You may therefore be generous and give away all your money to the poor, and yet be living in adultery. But before God, a sin is a sin and the consequence remains the same: death (Romans 6:23). **Charity without holiness is worthless because it does not save anyone.**

Sin has thrown the earth into chaos. Despite all the science and technology acquired by man over the centuries, things are far from improving. Every day, the news bombards us with a never-ending flow of negative news bulletin, while reporting unspeakable acts of violence and wickedness. Man has truly become wolf to man.

But just as Adam who made God responsible for his fall because He gave him Eve to wife, many men blame God for the misfortunes for which they are responsible.

If God exists why are there illnesses? Why rape? Why paedophilia? Why famines? Why war? Why does God not step in to put an end to this chaos? Let's be realistic. **Did God show anyone how to make a bomb?** If you want God to step in, are you really prepared to let Him act on his initiative and obey Him?

You must know that God has set a time for men to live their lives as they wish so they may see for themselves how disastrous it is to disobey Him. But He has also set a time to judge all those who knowingly and voluntarily lived in sin. The question is: Are you going to be found guilty or not guilty?

"I the LORD have spoken it: it shall come to pass, and I will do it; I will not go back, neither will I spare, neither will I relent; according to your ways, and according to your doings, shall they judge you, says the Lord GOD" (Ezekiel 24: 14).

### WHAT SHALL WE DO?

Have you ever wondered what the weight of your sins will be at the end of your life? Let us make a quick calculation. Just take for example lust, lie and blasphemy. Let's say that during a day you coveted 20 times, lied 8 times, and blasphemed 5 times. That makes 33 sins a day, 231 per week, and 12,012 per year. If you live for 85 years, it means you would have sinned 1,021,020 times! And we are only talking about of three types of sins here. I am sure you will agree that it would



take all eternity to serve such a sentence.

**French singer Michel Polnareff dared singing “We will all go to heaven”. If there is a matter on which one should avoid making risky statements, this is it. You must know that it is not what the Bible says.** Honestly, can you imagine that a righteous God would let the wicked go unpunished? Would He let the cruellest murderer cohabit with an innocent child?

As you will have understood, man is not able to pay his debt to God by himself. On judgment day, he will have difficulty finding arguments to defend himself. Men will flee from the presence of the God whose eyes are too pure to behold evil, just as Adam and Eve did before them (Habakkuk 1: 13).

“And said to the mountains and rocks, fall on us and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne [...]” (Revelation 6:16).

Fortunately, God was determined not to leave us to fate. He became man in the person of Jesus Christ, and came on earth to preach the Gospel, the Good News. He came to offer us reconciliation by simply inviting us to repentance.

“For God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them, and he committed to us the message of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5: 1-9).

Jesus Christ came to offer eternal life freely. All He asks is that we have faith in Him, trust Him and let Him be the ruler of our life. Should we let Him, He will be a good shepherd to us, one that will keep us from evil and lead us to a safe place (John 10:10-18).

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him” (John 3:16-17).

Moreover, Jesus Christ paid the debt of our sins by dying on the cross in our place.

“But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed” (Isaiah 53: 5).

“For while we were still powerless, Christ in due time, died for the ungodly. No sooner do we die for a righteous someone perhaps

he would die for a good man. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:6-8).

Jesus Christ, who rose again from the dead, also promises those who would place their trust in Him that they too shall rise again from the dead and have eternal life. This life is accessible to everyone regardless of their past, the number or seriousness of their sins.

“Jesus said: Whoever believes in me will live, even though he dies” (John 11: 25).

And that’s not all, all those who would have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour, will be sealed with the Holy Spirit and will thus be able to live a new, holy life in accordance with the moral law of God (Ephesians 1: 13; John 16: 13; 2 Corinthians 5: 17).

Isn’t it wonderful to know that God never stopped loving us? Would you be willing to grasp the hand offered by the Lord towards you? Then Again, it is a matter of choice for whoever wants to follow Christ must first decide to abandon sin.

“This day I call to witness against you the heaven and earth: I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing. Choose life, that thou mayest live, thou and thy seed to love the Lord your God, obeying his voice, and hold fast to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days [...]” (Deuteronomy 30:19-20).

The Bible teaches us that the soul will still exist after physical death and that there is nothing worse than dying without God (Matthew 13:41-43). Remember that you would need eternity to serve the sentence of your sins. Are you ready to face such a possibility?

Our prayer is that you choose life. Do not neglect the grace of God.

“Jesus said: I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but by me” (John 14: 6).

In an interview given to the French literary magazine "CLES", Brazilian author Paulo Coelho stated that achieving "the Personal Legend" comes down to reconciling the voice of reason with the voice of the heart, which expresses itself to us through our feelings and intuition. In his opinion, if we listen to our heart, we will know exactly what we are meant to achieve on earth. "When we were children, we all knew. But because we are afraid of being disappointed, and scared not to be able to fulfil our dream, we no longer listen to our heart. That being said, departing from our Personal Legend from time to time is normal. It is not a big deal, as life repeatedly gives us the opportunity to draw back to this ideal path".

All human beings have identical timeless questions: Who am I? Why was I born? What should I do with my life? Is life worth living? These questions unveil a search for the meaning of existence. We endeavour to answer them and feel that the answers will show us the way to happiness as, at the end of the day, this is what everyone longs for. Everybody is looking for a way to reach this happiness we so long for in order to feel this state of grace until the end of their lives, and even after life.

What is happiness? There are more than 6 billion people on earth and as many perceptions of happiness. Happiness is generally defined as a state resulting from the total fulfilment of our various aspirations, or by the fact of finding a balance in the harmonious development of our personality. We consider that it has been reached when we obtain what seems good to us, and when we have fully satisfied our desires. Unlike pleasure, happiness is linked with the concept of continuity and longstanding. Some people think that happiness can be obtained through material goods, while others through immaterial goods. It remains to be seen who is right and if there is an efficient and durable way to reach it.

### **I want happiness!**

Man has always had needs. Some are primary and need to be met if one is to live. Others, on the other hand, are secondary and are therefore not necessary for us to live. With the improvement of the standard of living, many people put their secondary needs first. In order to better grasp this concept let us take the Maslow Pyramid hierarchy of needs. Abraham Maslow (1908-

1970) tried to demonstrate that there are five stages to man's needs. Only when the previous needs are satisfied are we to be concerned with new needs. Stage one, which is at the bottom of the pyramid, relates to the physiological needs, which have a direct link with survival: air, drink, food, going to the toilet, sleep, warmth and so on.

Then come the safety needs, which consist in protecting oneself against the dangers that threaten us, our relatives and our goods. This protection is not only physical, but also moral and emotional.

Stage three relates to belongingness and love needs, which reveals the social dimension of the individual who needs to love and feel loved, and be accepted by the groups in which he evolves (family, work, charity...).

Stage four consists in the esteem needs, that is, the desire to be recognised and respected for what we are and what we do within the group(s) we belong to.

And stage five is that of self-actualisation. For some people, there would be a sixth stage: that of eternity and immortality.

### **Can happiness be found in material goods?**

In our consumer societies, tightening one's belt is increasingly unthinkable. Indeed, if the first two stages of needs can still readily be achieved, despite the difficult economic times that we are facing, few people are ready to be satisfied with what they have. In fact, this is quite the opposite, many people give in to consumer credits and allow themselves little treats, thinking that they will be able to brush off the general doom and gloom for a while and enjoy a little bit of blue sky.

Let us take a specific example. The behaviour you are about to read may seem surprising to you, but it is symptomatic of our purchase dependency, and most importantly, it shows how meaningful it is to us and of the emotional charge it produces in us. In mid-August 2011, the French were dismayed by a yearly study from the French National Office for Statistics (INSEE) on the evolution of the standard of living. One in 7 French live below the poverty threshold, i.e., 954 euros (approx. GBP750.00) per month for a single person! At the height of the controversy,

a man gave his testimony to a journalist from French radio station Europe 1 and explained that after paying his bills, he was left with 10 euros per day to live, and that he gave up the idea of going on holidays or going to the restaurant with his friends a long time ago. However, despite the low income he was left with, he still found a way to get a 500 euros (GBP 395.00) flat screen television, for which he had to get a 50 euros (GBP 39.50) per month credit to be paid off over 10 months. Why did he buy it? Because it gave him pleasure, and because this television was a source of happiness for him. **Many people rely on their credit cards to feel happy for a short while.** Some people treat themselves with small pleasures once in a while, while others become shopaholic as buying provides them as much pleasure as a glass of alcohol or a cigarette. As soon as they feel bad, upset or under the weather, they go internet or window-shopping searching for the material good that would soothe them or momentarily fill them with joy. Their priority is to feel good, even if this causes them to have great financial issues. **They do not live to possess anymore, they possess to live.**



### Can happiness be found in eternal youth?

“Kidulthood” is a new way of life for part of the Western population. The “kidults”, aged between 25 and 40 years old, are from the generation that was raised on “television” and, most particularly, on cartoons such as “Dragon Ball”, “Princess Sarah” or “Choudenshi Bioman”, and show a regressive behaviour in some areas of their lives. As soon as they can, they go back to what they call their period of happiness. They decide to stop growing up and to remain in this specific time frame for ever. Full generations now simply won't to grow up. Hence the fact that 35 year-old women proudly wear Hello Kitty or Mickey mouse T-shirts, and that SEOs are glued in front of their video games (outside working hours of course). Some mothers have even become their children's best friends. They would do anything

not to look their age: plastic surgery, tattoos, make-up, clothes, sports...

This conscious or unconscious refusal to grow up influences their physical appearance, which makes it difficult to guess their age. **And yet, this regressive behaviour conceals a certain malaise from adults who struggle to accept themselves and with the idea of their body going bad and getting older, and with the fact that one day they will die.** If you want to see to what extent this eternal youth is no longer a mere phenomenon, but have become quite usual, no need to look at celebrities for physical changes, just take a look at the politicians...

### Can happiness be found in intangible goods?

Some people reckon that no material good can provide as much wellness and happiness as love, family, knowledge and learning. Their happiness is free of charge and without consideration. They are not interested in being fashionable or trendy, looking 10 years older or in having the latest e-tablet. They can live in – what other people would consider – total deprivation. What matters to them is to be in love, fatherhood, motherhood, to live in harmony with nature or to do what they love from an intellectual point of view. They often are regarded as cranks for they do not seek to please people or fit the mould. Many under 25 young adults long for these things. Tired of seeing their eldest live like “overgrown teenagers”, they mature quicker and become “fogy”. In Japan, for instance, many young people, such as Kaori Nukui, a young PR worker who gave up her job in Tokyo to harvest shiitake mushrooms at her parents' farm, and Japanese Pop singer Shiho Fujita take over their ancestor's farms and learn agriculture.

The life of l'Abbé Pierre (1912-2007), founder of the Emmaus movement, is an example of these men and women who find happiness by devoting themselves to others. In the midst of winter 1954, he called for donations on



Radio-Luxembourg to help the poorly-housed and the homeless, as they were the main victims of the cold snap. He never ceased providing a strong voice for the homeless through his foundation until his death. This leads us to the following question...

### Can happiness be found in spirituality?

After the religious strictness of Catholicism, Protestantism, Judaism or Islam, here come religions and philosophies from the Eastern world. Their concepts are reshuffled and, most particularly, westernised. The rigorist and ascetic aspects are disposed of while the emphasis is placed on the inner "self". As such, thanks to the teachings of distinguished Yogi Masters, Buddhist and Shintoist monks, but most particularly, through the teachings of life coaches, the followers of this way of thinking get to know their inner self and become aware of their position in the cosmos. According to them, their psyche influences their physique and their relationships with others.

These movements look like waves crashing onto the beach. Subsequently, "celebrities" explain the merits of such and such school of thoughts. One of the most popular is Kabbalah, an esoteric tradition of Judaism often presented as "the concealed and oral" law that God gave Moses in Mount Sinai at the same time as the "written and public" law, the Torah. The term kabbalah comes from the Hebrew "qbl" which means "receive". In addition to its etymological origin, "receive" is key to understanding the Jewish mysticism. This movement offers responses to key questions about the origin of the universe, the role of man and his future. It is both a means for self-examination and a means to apprehend other thinking modes.

### Can happiness be found in pleasure?

Among the numerous existing concepts of happiness is that of pleasure. Many people search for happiness in sexual pleasure essentially. They are called Epicureans or Hedonists, but in fact it is just a title as they are far from portraying the initial meaning of these philosophical concepts. Initially, these movements consisted in pursuing pleasure and avoiding displeasure which, according to its founders, Epicure (342 – 270 BC) for Epicurism, and Aristippe of Cyrene (435 – 356

BC) for Hedonism, are the main goals of human existence. But few people know that originally, the followers of these thinking movements had a personal discipline which was akin to ascetism. According to the proponents of this lifestyle, pleasure could be found in friendship, tenderness, libertinism, gastronomy, talking, a healthy body, the noble soul, knowledge, science, reading, arts and exercising, social goods and so on. This philosophy was based on curiosity and a passion for life on the one hand, and on the freedom of thinking, knowledge and experiencing reality.

**True hedonism does not exist anymore. It has been replaced by a selfish hedonism. For today's followers of hedonism, all that matters is satisfying their pulsions. It does not matter how, where and who with. "Self" comes first. Leading a pretty little life is not an option; it is far too boring in their opinion.** Nothing can stop them. They look like drug addicts who are constantly looking for what will fill them with more pleasure. No experience is forbidden to them so much so that they end up committing barbaric acts.

A man, who is now a father, told me about part of the life he used to live in the past. He had his first sexual intercourse when he was 13, not because he was in love, but because it was a way to satisfy his curiosity and pulsions. Until he was 28, he never ceased satisfying his desires so much so that he had difficulty recognising the women with whom he had slept if he was ever to meet them in the street. And he was totally comfortable with wife-swap or "gang rape". He was not embarrassed by the fact that a woman could be used for three to four days by his friends as an object to satisfy their own pleasure. It was not an issue to him as long as the lady gave her consent. It is when he found out that he was going to be a father that he stopped this kind of practice. Thinking about it now, he feels guilty. When asked how he could have gone so far, he explained that he had been sexually educated by watching pornographic movies casting Rocco Siffredi since he was 9. This actor became a true role model to him as far as men-women relationships are concerned...

### What if I fail to find happiness?

Sometimes, despite their searches, some people do not manage to find happiness because, in their opinion, life is not a free ride. As such, they suffer from not being able to reach their idealised image



of institutionalised happiness.

**They might see a psychoanalyst, marabouts, telepathists, or knock themselves out with antidepressants, nothing works. Many of them opt for a radical and definitely not advisable solution: suicide.** This solution is not advisable as they live their families and relatives with an awful lot of questions and sufferings, and are not even sure that they have escaped unhappiness.

However, before reaching this extreme, many people embrace artificial pleasures. They become great consumers of more or less illegal products and end up being addicted to them. Their joie de vivre depends on how fast they will find what they could satisfy their craving with. Be it with alcohol, medications, natural or chemical drugs, the result remains the same: their euphoric state only lasts for a short period of time, and their distress goes worse. It is a vicious circle. This behaviour gradually drags them away from reality and from their relatives. They become more and more addicted and end up ostracized by society. This is a ticking suicide bomb. And yet everybody knows the damages caused by the consumption of drugs and alcohol and so forth.

The sad thing is it also affects children. Everyone watched these TV documentaries about these Indian or Russian children who are great consumer of solvents.

At just 4, they are already completely addicted to these highly toxic products. The reason why they take them is because they want to forget about something. But what do they that they want to forget about? They want to forget about the fact that they are lonely and parentless, and that they need to prostitute themselves in order to make a living. They want to forget about the fact that they are raped and that they mean nothing but scum to their country. They

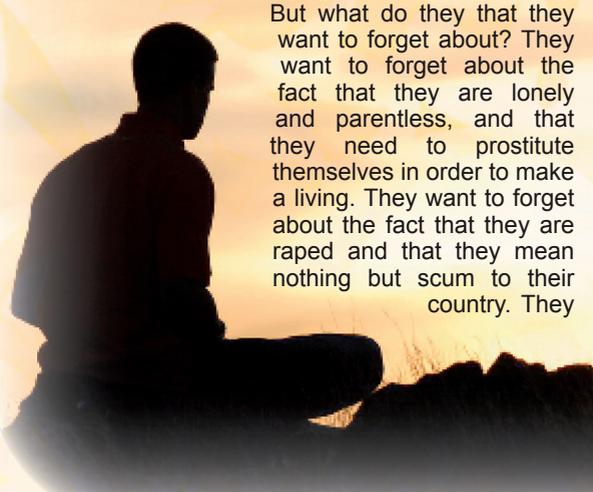
want to forget that they will never be entitled to enjoy happiness, the happiness and joy of living that they see on television, adverts or magazines.

What happened for the world to get to this point? Since when life has become so hard? There are many questions and many answers, but what is certain is that man is not ready to give up on his quest for happiness. In fact, it is quite this opposite as the more he suffers, the more he is incline to search for it intensely, be it through his family, his work, money, sex, drug and so on. Happiness has now taken a normative value. It is through it that we know whether or not we achieved success in life.

In these troubled economic times, the concept of happiness through material possessions has spread worldwide. In countries where most inhabitants live on less than 30 dollars a month, many people long for televisions, computers, the latest mobile phones etc. And to achieve their dream, they risk their lives to reach countries where milk, honey, and money flow abundantly. How disappointed they become when they discover the realities of Europe or the US: economic inequalities, anti-immigration laws, and so on. Their life condition may be better than the one they had in that country of origin, but they certainly did not expect that.

### Solomon: A counterexample of the previous examples

One of the best historical examples of a man who had everything and yet, at the end of his life, recognised that all was vanity was Solomon (970-931 BC), whose story can be found in the book of first Kings in the Bible. Solomon was the son of King David, and was established king over the kingdom of Israel before his father died. King David commissioned him to build the temple of Jerusalem. Everything was ready. All he had to do was to ensure the works would go smoothly. During the first years of his reign, King Solomon was partly busy building the temple. But when he had finished building it, emptiness took place. The man of wisdom gradually became a foolish man. He no longer found happiness doing God's will, but in satisfying his fleshly desires. He was no longer conforming to what his mother



and father taught him. Instead, he was following his own concepts and ideas. In order to make covenants, and to avoid conflicts, he formed marriage alliances with the daughters of kings from Israel neighbouring countries. This is how he married more than 700 wives and took more than 300 concubines. Through these numerous weddings, he brought in outrageous practices and customs from abroad (sacred prostitution, human sacrifices, among others) in Israel. While he asked God for wisdom, he gradually embraced a hypocritical human wisdom.

**At the end of his life, he made a bitter observation and realised that all he acquired or did during his life time failed to make him happy (see the book of Ecclesiasts). And yet, according the human criteria of today and yesterday, Solomon's life was enviable in many ways. He was immensely rich, exceptionally intelligent, had the most beautiful women in the world, and had a reputation that reached the most remote places in the world.**

All this however did not bring back what God gave him during his youth, the most precious of all treasures: wisdom. According to Solomon, this divine wisdom brings true youth, true life, true wealth and true peace. However, during the years he was lost, nothing managed to replace the peace he once enjoyed with God, a peace that made him serene in the face of death. This is how he came to the conclusion that all the things of this world are vanity.

### So what shall we do?

As mentioned above, there are as many conceptions of happiness as human beings on Earth, but undoubtedly, there is no magic bullet to obtain it, and most importantly, to keep it lastingly. Human beings desperately run to grab bribes of happiness, but the realities of life on earth caused many people to realise the same thing as Solomon: all is vanity.

Indeed, in a world where the number of suicides in children under 10 is constantly booming, can we say that happiness can be found in material possessions? French psychoanalyst Boris Cyrulnik ran a study that shows the opposite: many spoiled children kill themselves because they lack what is most important: emotional security. The immense emptiness

they experience deep inside cannot be satisfied with the latest video game or with fancy clothes. **If this distress is that big in children, one can imagine how much bigger it must be in the eldest. It is therefore not surprising that parents are not able to give their children what they failed to find for themselves.**

We all need to fill a void in us, but is it a good solution to fill it with material goods, pleasure or else, escaping reality?

What shall we do to reach long-lasting happiness? Where can we find it? It would be logical to go to the One who created man. He should certainly have the key ingredient to the happiness He created. Few people know it, and many less are willing to admit that we have been made by God, and according to His own image (Genesis 1:27).

And yet, failing to accept Him as our Father is denying part of who we are. French philosopher and mathematician Blaise Pascal (1623-1662) said that "There is a God shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, the Creator".

What does it cost us to go back to God? Yes, we will not be conformed to the social standards that surround us. But are these standards more valuable than true happiness that can be found in the presence of our Father and Creator?

Where can we find a God that seems so far away? The Bible says that **"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."** (Psalm 34 :18).

If a man walked on the moon, God walked on Earth through Jesus-Christ who said:

**"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour"** (Luke 4:18-19).

God reaches out to us everyday, but many people refuse to seize his hand. However, it is not too late to accept it today.



# > A PARABLE FOR MODERN DAYS:

Like every morning my alarm clock went off at 8 a.m.

*"I had such a good night's sleep!", I thought stretching out. This fat cat oil on my temples has been really beneficial to me!"*

My first reflex was to touch the little rabbit paw that was on my bedside table. My grandfather hunted it himself.

I put my right foot down, then the left. I then went to the kitchen to perform my morning ritual, eating garlic clove. Strange, you may think? There is nothing better to ward off bad luck!

I then went to the window and opened the blinds, still chewing this stinking clove. And there, I had the misfortune to see a black cat, about three hundred fifty meters away from me. In no time, I gathered an incredible amount of saliva and spat it back three times in a quick, firm shot.

*"Ha, ha! You wanted to get me didn't you?! That's too late! And don't you dare coming back!", I cried looking at the cat walking away phlegmatic and with a look of surprise on its face.*

Eventually, I sat down to have some breakfast. While buttering my toasted bread, the knife fell from my hands and wounded me lightly.

*"Quick! Quick! I must find a key! I must find a key! But where are they?", I wondered, as I felt my heart racing because of stress.*

I eventually found them in the right front pocket of my trousers.

*"Thank God, it's gonna be alright now. Thank you St. Peter for warding off the evil eye from me."*

I was putting on my shell beads when my phone rang. I drenched my finger in the small bowl of holy water that was near the handset and sprinkled it twice.

*"Yes Hello!", I said with a suspicious voice.*

*"Paul?" Alan speaking"*

*"Oh, it's only you!"*

*"Yes, don't worry! I've got a favour to ask you. I would like you to come home", he said with a sweet voice, but a bit too suspicious in my opinion.*

*"What? Are you crazy? Did you forget about our pact?"*

*"Yeah! Yeah! I know, we need to wait for one of us to go to hospital before coming out of our places".*

*"Exactly! Let me remind you that we agreed to leave our respective places as little as possible in order to avoid bad luck and make sure we live a long life. Therefore, don't count on me to come and see you".*

*"Please, Paul. It's a matter of life and death", he insisted.*

*"Alright...Alright... But it's only because you are my only friend in this rotten world. I'll get ready and be with you in about two hours".*

I took a piece of paper and started listing all the utensils that would be useful for my long journey as, although Alan only lives 15 minutes away, it will take me ages to go through this route set out with unexpected obstacles.

*"OK, let's have a look: a stake, a horseshoe, a crocodile tooth, a mandrake..."*

One hour later, I was ready to go. When out of my building, I put my gloves and my mask on. With my wooden crucifix around my neck, I felt almost invincible.

I couldn't understand why people were staring at me. Their gaze was so insistent, as if I was weird. But did they realise that the negative waves they were filled with could destroy me at any time?

*"Why are you wearing such an outfit Sir?" an old lady that seemed to have sprung from nowhere asked me.*

*"What?" I answered jumping out of my skin.*

*"Why are you wearing all those things?" You look like a second-hand shop, she repeated while I was looking at her dentures moving at every word she pronounced. Besides, I was wondering if this vision bide well...*

*"Because I'm Hexakosioihexekontahexaphobic!!!"*

*"Hexa... what? You youngsters are more and more difficult to understand when you speak!"*

*"666', does that ring a bell to you? I... am... afraid... to... fall ...on... this ... cursed... number?" I answered suffocating.*

Stricken by panic, I ran away hastily. Fortunately, I ran past a fountain. I therefore took the

opportunity to kiss my horseshoe, while throwing a coin over my right shoulder.

*“I hope I will arrive safe and sound at Alan’s place”, I wished for myself.*

And one hour later, I did.

*“Hurry up, sprinkle me with holy water so I can be purified!”*

But Alan looked at me, stony faced.

*“What are you doing, Alan? Hurry up! Alright, alright, I’ll do it myself then”*

I looked for the bowl of holy water that he too used to place near his phone but it wasn’t there anymore!

*“But... Hurry up! I’m going to die!” I cried, out of breath.*

Alan, whose face looked amazingly peaceful, jumped on me and snatched my stake, my crucifix and all my precious charms from me...

*“Stop it! I have palpitations! Please, spare my life! Help, I can’t breathe anymore, I’m gonna die”...*

Ten minutes later, after a battle that seemed to last for ages, I was stripped of all my fetishes. All that was left for me to do was dying,

*“I am a dead man. What a tragic end! Killed by my best friend!”*

*“Paul, you needed to face up to reality. Look at yourself! You’re not dead. And neither am I, and yet, I have thrown all my charms away”.*

*“It’s true! But how come...?” I asked wiping the sweat off my forehead.*

*“That’s because all these objects and ridiculous rituals can’t protect us from misfortune. Only the Almighty God who watches over us can because He loves us”.*

*“Really?”*

*“This God is Jesus. The Bible says that he carried our curses upon himself and died in our place to make propitiation for our faults so we could have peace and eternal life. He rose again and offers us daily protection provided that we trust in him”.*

*“I have to admit that I’m so fed up of having to live in fear... And you look so peaceful now. How is that possible?”*

*“Well, I gave my life to Jesus. You too can receive this peace. All you need to do is to repent from your sins and let Jesus work in your life”.*

*“Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins”*

(Colossians 1: 12 -14).

*“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14, 27).*

----- write to us-----

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Isaiah 55: 6-9

Seek the Lord while he may be found;  
call on him while he is near.

Let the wicked forsake their ways  
and the unrighteous their thoughts.  
Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways,”  
declares the Lord.

“As the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Hosea 6-3

Let us acknowledge the Lord;  
let us press on to acknowledge him.  
As surely as the sun rises,  
he will appear;  
he will come to us like the winter rains,  
like the spring rains that water the earth.”

Matthew: 11-28

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.