

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

*Delivered by Tau Phosphoros
to the Parish of St. Ambelain
on Sunday, March 20, 2016*

YEAR C - PALM SUNDAY

O God, make speed to save me; O Lord, make haste to help me. Greetings, and welcome my brethren on this sixth and final Sunday in Lent - Palm Sunday. Our first reading today completes our study of the Hymn of the Soul. We see here the restoration of our travelling protagonist to his former state of glory & splendor, and his reintegration into the heavenly court. This is the magnificent aim towards which all of our works are directed. Whether it be our intellectual study or the thoughtful contemplation of it; quiet, meditative, mystical attunement, or acts of theurgical prayer; or the High Magic of the Mass itself; they are all but means to one glorious end of the restoration of the Pleroma and the obtaining of eternal life.

Now, this restoration of the Pleroma is not just some far-off, ultimate fate of the universe and objective reality. We do, of course, believe in a final reintegration, but first there must be a personal regeneration and reintegration. This is the goal that we actually seek in our lives. This restoration at the individual level is the discovery of one's True Will and moreover, the doing of that Will. This is also what we mean when we talk about doing God's Will.

This concept frightens some people, or turns them off because they envision the abandonment of the personal will, of the personality, of the self, to some external, foreign intelligence or collective. But this is not really the case. Now, is there a sacrifice to be made? To be sure! Several of them, most likely. But you are never asked or expected to sacrifice what is truly yours; your birthright; your true Self. In fact, the things that we're asked to sacrifice are those false and superficial aspects of the outer personality that - regardless of how fond we have become of them - are the very things preventing us from coming into our true inheritance.

The God to whom we sacrifice is not some strange, far-off deity, it is the God of our very heart. Divinity is already a part of us, at our very core. It is the part of the self that is true, real, and actual. Much of what we think of as our "self" are not really aspects of the true self at all. They are layers and filters of insubstantial transience that serve only to obscure the discovery of the true will, the true self, the true Godhood within.

So, when we make sacrifices, when we surrender to the Will of God, we are only shedding those extraneous elements that keep our True Will hidden from us. There is nothing to fear in such a sacrifice. There is nothing to fear in giving yourself over to the Will of God, for it is your own True Will that you are embracing, and your own inner divinity to whom you surrender. There is no loss there, there is only gain. The only things lost are the ephemeral whims and other aspects of the falsely constructed identity that hold us back from our potential.

The masks that we wear can be useful, but only when we realize that we are wearing a mask. The mastery of self allows us to wear a number of different masks appropriate to the various functions and roles we serve among family, friends, work, & in society at large. But the mask is not the self, it is a projection. Sometimes we wear a mask for so long and so well that we come to wholly identify with the persona. And it is indeed useful to be able to fully identify with a persona, but only when it is at will - as an act of True Will. Once the True Will, or True Identity is discovered, all the lesser, insubstantial parts can be subdued and made to serve the good of the whole Being, so that by relinquishing all, one gains all.