

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

*Delivered by Tau Phosphoros
to the Parish of St. Ambelain
on Sunday, June 12, 2016*

YEAR C - PROPER 6

Hello everyone. Before we begin looking at our readings for the day, I want to acknowledge the terrible tragedy that has befallen the young men and women attacked in Orlando last night. This is an unfathomable act of hatred, and we grieve with the survivors and all the friends and family of the deceased. This is the face of true evil. How often do we talk about Love. It is the one and only commandment given to us by the Master Jesus. Love is the one thing that can save humanity from the entropic forces working constantly against it, and which are not at all natural to humanity, but which have been imposed upon it by forces of evil that wish for nothing more than for us to tear one another down and ultimately destroy ourselves.

It is perhaps ironic, though unfortunately not surprising, that the very worst of human cruelties are committed in the name of God. This is eerily echoed in our first reading from the Gospel of Philip, wherein we read that the archons "took the names of the good and assigned them to what is not good...For they wished to take free people and enslave them forever." This is precisely what occurs within the fundamentalist sects, not only of Islam, but of Christianity as well, in fact, within every faith. Now, the Christian fundamentalist typically satisfies himself with hateful speech or with the introduction of unjust and discriminatory legislation. But these things seem, dare I say, almost tolerable when compared with the absolute disregard for human life that could only come from an ideology so thoroughly hateful that the term "Satanic" cannot even do it justice. Such forces as have infiltrated so much of Islam today - and I am of course excepting the Sufi sects with whom we feel a kinship - can only be described as having their origin in the most corrupt of archontic forces. Even the term "archon" implies order. The forces at work within fundamentalist Islam are of such a chaotic and anti-human nature that they must surely be seen as originating from orders of magnitude below even the Demiurge and his rulers.

It is, however, the Demiurgic imperfection that is responsible for these demonic forces. They are the natural and logical result of following the Demiurgic Law to its conclusion. It pains me to say that Christian fundamentalism would come to similar results were it not for our slightly more evolved culture. We know this is true because it happened in the past, with the suppression and outright wholesale slaughter of so-called heretics. And we know it to be true because of the hatred and intolerance that is preached today from so many pulpits across America.

But let us try not to dwell upon this hatred. It is true that we must speak out and confront hatred, bigotry and intolerance wherever it may be found. But let us also redouble our efforts to spread the true message of Christ, which is Love. You might not be able to change the world, but through Love you can change someone's world. Each of us influence the world around us, our immediate environment. So let us concentrate our efforts on making that small world a little more peaceful, and not merely tolerant but encouraging and nurturing; building up rather than tearing down or doing nothing.

Let us take, then, just a few moments to enter into silent prayer and meditation, uniting our hearts and minds with those so terribly affected today...