

~~GOD'S IMAGE~~ ^{LIVING} IN THE FOURTH DIMENSION

What is man!!!-----

From the dawn of time the human race has has been greatly populated by those of a decadent nature- the "living dead".

Such is not unreal or confined ^{to} the morbid mind, but rather it is existent at all times and is accepted as commonplace.

The "living dead" are those persons living within the confines of their three natural dimensions- depth, breadth, and height.

This is not the authentic nature of man.....

The Psalmist sang that "thou hast made man a little lower than the angels and hast crowned him with glory and honour"- "thou hast given him dominions over the works of thy hands."

WHAT IS MAN that being such an infinitesimal part of such a magnanimous universe he would dare lay claim to the special favor of God. The universe as we know it reaches far beyond one's imagination- even to such an extent that our own sun, which for centuries was presumed to be the center of the universe, is only a small planet comparatively to the bright star Vega toward which our sun is ^{*}hurling through space at a terrific rate of speed- yet this star is so far away that its light does not reach our planet, therefore cannot be seen. Astronomers claim that there are myriads of stars far larger than our own sun which lie without the realm of the probing eye of man, and only the keenest imagination could approach that which lies beyond the reaches of the most powerful telescopes.....we, as man, live on one of the smaller planets at a remote corner of space. The magnitude of it all.....the insignificance of a man.....

Ah, but.....

Out of clay the hand of God formed an image as an artist might carve a dummy to sit upon the ventriliquist's knee and be subjected to the movements resulting from the pulling of strings by the dextrous hands of the artist, and the words emitting from its mouth merely relayed from the throat of the ventriliquist. A dummy in the image of man but with no will of its own.

God did not stop there- into this clay image was exhaled the breath of God and the clay form became a living being- (such an illustration is not meant as a theory of specific evolution but rather an example of the true nature of man), and out of such a beginning evolved the three dimensional man.

All creation is three dimensional- the heavens, the earth's vegetation, the animals roaming ^{upon} ~~on~~ the land, the fishes of the sea, the fowls of the air, - and the secular-minded man. If all things had ~~remained~~ confined to these dimensions it would be as a puppet show or a marionette show with God as the puppeteer.

But out of God's plan evolved a breath-taking miracle - God said, "I shall create man in my own image---"

Dare we presume to make such a claim....

There lived a man of eighteenth century England who was confined to the basic sphere of creation and who found its fruits to be discontent and unrest. He sought to find a divinely inspired life by observing the ends of a divine nature without first observing the means to such an end. After many failures and disheartening experiences John Wesley destroyed all barriers and became a living example- his life becoming an inspiration to Christians of all denominations.

His life took on a new dimension!!!

What then is the fourth dimension which was exemplified in the life of John Wesley- this dimension which is limited to man alone!

It is the nature of God in man-----

Contemporary secular life thrives upon man's own selfishness and greed. The contempt of such a society is manifest today in wars, famine, fear, and unbrotherliness.

Conversely, we have men of high stature in the integrated spiritual and physical realms. Such a life is according to the nature of man through his creation. Man was not conceived in ignorance and through his own efforts fell upon a plan of salvation- rather, man was created in such a relationship and through his own blunders and inadequacies fell from divine grace.

But hope is real- for the fourth dimensional realm is accessible to all who would seek it.

It is easy to lose the significance of such a life by making it a theological problem with intricate ^{endeavors} solutions and missing its simplicity which is 'the subjection of the three dimensional man to the fourth dimension.

At random out of the case histories of man's experiences in partnership with God comes that of Asa G. Candler, Jr., nephew of Bishop Candler of the Methodist Church and son of the founder of the Coca Cola soft drink enterprise and who is often known as the builder of Atlanta, Georgia.

("THESE FOUND THE WAY"- Soper p. 53)

Self surrender is the simple answer to all persons who would seek a life. It cannot be more simple and need not be more difficult.

What is man that thou art mindful of him!!!

God is mindful of the man in the fourth dimension-

And living in the fourth dimension demands that man rise above the pettiness of racial and other prejudices, economic greed, selfishness, hatred and all other components of carnal dedication and become one worthy to be called after His name. A fourth dimensional life is a dedicated life.....

In the early nineteenth century a ~~great~~ debut into society was to be made by one of the most beautiful girls in all England. Great arrangements had been made and it was to be one of the outstanding social experiences of the year. When the debut was to be made the young girl was not present. In far off Crimea English boys were dying upon the battlefields because there were no loving hands to care for their wounds. The girl who was to make her debut into society rather chose to dedicate herself to the sufferings of mankind. And gathering with ^{some of} her ~~other~~ friends, she walked the battlefields of Crimea. The devastation which lay rampant was lessened by the presence of a loving heart. In the darkness of the night as the moans and screams were heard in the stilled blackness, a figure carrying a lantern went from tent to tent giving comforting words and assurance. They lovingly called her "the lady of Crimea"- they called her "the lady with the lamp". For Florence Nightengale found new meaning in a loving and dedicated life.

About the same time in the neighboring country of Scotland a boy was born into a world of poverty. At an early age he began working in the mills to help support his poverty-stricken home. With whatever money he could save above necessities he would buy books so that he might become educated. On reaching manhood he was a brilliant scholar and the world lay before him to be conquered. But during the course of his study he had become acquainted with the ravages of ignorance, sickness, and other needs of darkest Africa.

Equipping himself for such a venture he walked in the pathways which had never before seen the presence of a white man. All excursions into darkest Africa were a result of the pioneering work of a man who was acute to the suffering of others and gave his life to help alleviate such a condition. One morning as a dear friend approached his hovel he saw the missionary upon his knees by his cot in prayer. Approaching him further the friend discovered that the great leader was dead. And today a lonely spot marks the burial place of David Livingstone, but the monument of his work and his life is within the lives of those natives of darkest Africa who have found the enduring peace which was before denied to them.

They are examples which can be duplicated many times throughout history- they exemplified the dominance of the fourth dimension.

Is your life condemned to three dimensions, despair, desecration , doom---- or are you living "in God's image".....