

Beholding the Face of God
The Demise of a Son or Daughter

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Introduction

The young agers leave the world without dishonor and receive the crown without struggling for righteousness. There is the wondrous victory without a fight, and the wondrous conquering name without a war. The death of a child is filled with condolences for those who are special, and it is without pain for those who can make a distinction.

It ascended from the sea without being tortured by the waves of the sea. It entered the world and left it without trespassing. It grew like a flower in the human lawn, was picked by the heavenly Groom, and there it is positioned in its crown while it is still beautiful. A chaste body and a soul pure from every evil; a high beauty that was not stained with lusts; the image of the King, whose beauty is fixed, whose face is bright, and that is not deformed by any defect.

Ye distinguished person, who has buried a child that is filled with beauty, why do you cry over the beautiful one that is pure from profanity? Who would cry over the pearl that ascended from the waves of the sea, for there it is stationed in the crown of the King? Who does not rejoice the one that won without a fight that is a victor without a war and that is positioned with the victorious?

St. Mar Jacob of Serog

One stands perplexed, not knowing how to console someone who has lost a son or a daughter, for nothing is bitterer than the death of a son or a daughter. Usually, the parents would bitterly say: "We expected our child to bury us, not that we would bury him or her!" Why does God allow the death of a son or a daughter? A sword was pierced through the soul of St. Mary, as Simeon had told her [Luke 2:35], when her Son, Jesus Christ, died on the cross.

In St. Mary's Embrace:

When a four-year old child died in an accident, her father's soul was very bitter, but he used to say: "I love St. Mary, and what consoles me is that I can see my daughter in Her embrace as She is looking after her in my stead. She is young and in need of someone to look after her!"

It is a great and consoling feeling to hear of a father that wants to see his departed daughter in a fellowship with the saints in heaven, especially our Mother, St. Mary, but what came to my mind when I heard his words was: Who is in need of someone to look after him, the child that is in heaven, about whom Christ the LORD had said: "Take heed that you despise not one of these little ones, for I say unto you that in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven" [Matthew 18:10], or the parents?

The passing of a child from this world to heaven changes the positions. Before the demise, the parents feel a commitment to take care of their child, spiritually, physically, psychologically and mentally. It is a talent in their hands, as they want -with God's grace- to make a live and successful leader out of their child, which would have a role in the world as an ambassador of Christ the LORD and a representative of heaven itself. This is what the wise parents would seek. However, after the passing of the child from this world with a joyful angelic protection to meet with our LORD, Jesus the desire of the nations and even of all the heavenly beings, the child does not need someone to look after it anymore, as it would take the position of the true leadership.

It is looking upon Christ the LORD, and its soul is rejoicing to know the divine secrets. Thus, it would ask Christ the LORD with a fiery heart -if one could say so-: Would You shine upon my parents, my family, and even upon the entire mankind so that they would get to know You and see You like I see you so that they would be filled with Your ultimate eternal peace!

In the certitude of love I say that the child receives a leadership position, not just to take care of its parents, but also to present the entire world before the thrown of God's grace, so that the people could experience the earnest of heaven and taste the fellowship of the heavenly parties and of all the departed saints.

Here, I would like to mention one of the mysteries that will amaze us on God's Great Day, as was told by Origen the Scholar, that we will see children that have become mature heroes and men and women that have become weak children!

A Consoling or a Congratulating Letter:

When St. Jerome wrote to St. Paula a letter to console her for the death of her daughter, Blaesilla, he congratulated her for her child's passing from this world and for leaving the body, as she became a resident with God. He felt this great situation that the daughter has become a resident with the Savior of the world, the Almighty, the Lover of mankind... as if Paula became in need for her daughters' prayers, requests, and heavenly care before the LORD.

It is truly comely for us to grieve over the dead, but only over those who were received and devoured by hell, and whose punishment is the eternal flare; while we, who will be guarded by the angels to meet with Christ, Himself, when we depart, should groan the more for being delayed so much in this tabernacle of death [2 Corinthians 5:4]. Whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord [2Corinthians 5:6]. The psalmist has expressed our only longing: Woe is me that I sojourn in Mesech [Psalms 120:5].

St. Jerome

The Child is bright without effort, while the others receive the brightness with much effort:

When a child leaves the world, it jumps over its road and prevails over the traps that are lined up throughout it. It was not exposed to the traps in the road, nor did it run across a gallows.

It entered the world and left it without a fall, without effort, and without profanity in all its way. It prevailed over the creation without having to fight evilness, and it became a conqueror without the heroisms of righteousness.

It is counted with the virgins without having to fight against the lusts, and with the saints without having to struggle for righteousness. It is crowned with the fasting without having fasted, and is counted with the righteous without having given any charity. All the beauty is poised in it. The others have reached it with much effort, but it had found it for free. It entered the war without being stabbed. It quietly received the victory without going to battle.

Who could prevail without getting beaten or stabbed? Who would grieve over the victory that is filled with safety? It is like the good worker that received his reward with the early people but without exerting much effort at all.

St. Mar Jacob of Serog

The Beauty of Adam, the Child, does not need any Addition:

The beauty that was found in Adam in Eden before he trespassed was great and did not need any addition; without the work, the good deeds, the struggle, and without the road to righteousness.

The new bright creation that is pure from evil stands in the glory that is filled with the beauty of perfection. It has no profanity, shortcomings, alteration or insult, and its beauty does not need any addition. Because there was beauty in

the nature of the inhabitation, God said: Behold, it was very good when He created it...

Adam, the child and the son of one day, inherited the Paradise without having to pass through the stage of doing good deeds. How could you now doubt that the boy that died a child will inherit it as you say? Our LORD gave His Kingdom to the people and gracefully to Al Adam.

The Deceased Children were not stained with the Guilt Deed of Adam and Eve:

The children, who left this world while they were beautiful, are not guilty according to the deed that Eve has wrote, for Christ, the LORD, has paid the general debt with the Baptism and freed them from the consequences through the live water. The children did not do anything wrong according to the justice, as they have went through the place of guilt without trespassing. Here they are wearing the baptism that is filled with light, which is beautiful, victorious and filled with light. Can't the Groom of light, who led them while they were beautiful, scarf them with the garment of glory?

If the Child had stayed in the World, its Beauty would've gotten stained and it would've had to do Good Deeds:

If it had stayed in the evil world, it would've gotten stained and dirty from the lusts, and the evil pleasures would've defiled it, tarnishing the baptism with faults. It would've had to fast, pray and get justified; yet how and when could it find the beauty that it had lost? With watching, lots of efforts, the oppression of humbleness, and with working each day through the struggle of the great blood.

It would've had to fight the sultan of the air and go into battle with the forces of the left. In its war, it might have prevailed or not; but if it prevailed, it would've become like the child that was not profaned.

This beauty that is higher than any other beauty which the child had found; yet here you cry over its victory? It left the world, and because it escaped the traps, here you are grieving... It stands in the garment of the glory, wearing the great light, while the ignorant that is wearing the dirty clothes is crying over it!

God cannot be blamed when He lengthens or shortens the life, for He seeks the benefit of the people:

With His wisdom, He shortens the life, lengthens, increases or diminishes it, and He is above and higher than to be blamed. When He lengthens the life, He is waiting for repentance; and when He shortens it, He is protecting from evil.

In any case, He is seeking the benefit of all humans and to win them over with His many mercies. He wants to lead all the beautiful people that live without profanity when they die.

God wants to fill up His Chamber with Beautiful Children:

As He found that the entire world has defiled its way, He is leading the beloved children while they are still beautiful. He has a chamber that He wants to fill up with all the beautiful people, yet the world is lacking the beautiful people and the saints. Therefore, He chooses the children that are without profanity to fill up His feast with the children of light.

He knew that if they have stayed in the evil world they would've gotten profaned by it, and they would've acquired wounds and blisters. Thus, with His love, He picks them up like flowers while they are still prevailing in their beauty... so that His bridal would be rich of them that are beautiful and unprofaned with the strange lusts.

God has testified for the Beauty of the Children and has commanded His Disciples to become as Children:

The gospel of our LORD has publically testified for the beauty of the children before trespassing. Read the Gospels and you will learn, without doubt, how high the children stand before God! The disciples of the Son were required to become as children, for if they didn't, He would not wish to accept them.

Who would cry over a Child that has all this Beauty?

Who would cry over someone that has all this beauty and that was taken to God while still in this beauty? He would have a bright nature and a great image that was not defiled or tarnished by the lusts. He did not eat from the fruit of the tree of knowledge and has not opened his eyes to behold himself naked.

The sin has not entered to bite him so that he would be ashamed of becoming naked, nor was he bothered by trespassing the commandments so that he would be ashamed.

He is proud and glorified in the area of the children of the high Light; bless is the One that took him to become an heir of the Kingdom.

St. Mar Jacob of Serog

The Departing of a Son and a Grandson:

It was a cruel sight when 3 boxes were entered into the church carrying the bodies of a little child, his father and his mother, while the grandparents stood in peaceful silence during the entire funeral service. When I talked to the grandfather, he said: I specifically came to Australia for my elder son, who was in danger of becoming blind -and he actually did; and now his younger brother has died of an accident along with his wife and his little son, while his 12 year old daughter received a fractured skull. He then pointed at the Holy Bible and said: This is the secret behind my peace and condolence!

What does St. Mar Jacob of Serog say about the Holy Bible?

- Eating bread causes heaviness and laziness, while the word of life can grow wings to the soul to fly with.

- You are the Granter that gives for free to those who seek Him, grant me the word of education to enlighten me. Your word is a lamp to those who want to own the light, while those who do not want to get enlightened by it will stand in darkness.

-The Books of the Son are the ocean where one can find the hidden pearl. Thus the interpreter has to dive in the water to extract it. The brain should dive into the Books to extract the pearl and show it to the merchants. The mind would dive into the Torah to catch the divine pearl, while the tongue would present it to the listeners and say: String up your minds to the daughter of light as a beautification for yourselves.

St. Mar Jacob of Serog

My Son died and Christ came to live at my Home:

When, in the 60s, a young man in high school had died of cancer, his parents made his room a chamber for praying. They used to say: Our son died and Christ came to live at our home! This family became a source of condolence to many people. Our Christ is quite capable of consoling!

Who is the Heir?

Before the doors to St. Mary's church in Cleopatra, I saw a man crying. When I asked him about the reason, he bitterly answered: "I have two sons and I feared that I would die and leave them to pay a huge amount of money as an inheritance tax (before the recent amendment of the inheritance tax law), and so that they would not argue with each other, I divided the inheritance between them and registered the share of each as a sale". Here, his tears started to fall heavily and his cries grew louder as he said: "The registration was completed this week, but before 1 week had passed one of them died. Instead of passing my inheritance to my son, I became the heir of my son!"

Many people focus on arranging their inheritance for their children, especially if they have daughters and no son, for others would inherit with them, like the uncles (according to the Egyptian law).

Here, I would like to stop talking about the inheritance and quote what St. Mar Jacob of Serog had wrote about "the blessings of Isaac unto Jacob".

The Everlasting Inheritance:

Nowadays, the sons are seeking the money of their fathers, and not the blessings that are much better than all treasures.

Nowadays, the sons are seeking the money of their fathers, and not the blessings that are much better than all treasures. They argue with their brothers over stones and dust, and they seek to own what does not last.

Esau and Jacob disputed over the blessings, but they didn't fight each other for the houses and the fields.

Nowadays, give the possessions to the son even if they were impermanent, while he accepts that his father would curse him every day. Give him to own an inch of land and let him be cursed, for he does not care for the blessings of his father or mother...

They despised the temporal possession, for it meant nothing to them, but they struggled to be distinctively blessed. With a great attempt and a scam, Jacob has entered to seize the blessings of his father like treasures [Genesis 27].

The Elders of that Time cared to bless their Sons:

The elders of that time cared to bless their children before they die. They were counting on the justness of their consciences, and everything they said came true.

The Secret of the Nations called unto Jacob to be blessed without Effort:

When Esau, the firstborn, was sent to hunt a prey, the secret of the nations called unto the young to be blessed. The Grace caught Jacob, through his mother, to be blessed without effort like the nations...

Rebekah knew well Isaac son of Abraham: that the word of his mouth comes true when he blesses. Jacob also knew, like a wiseman, that his blessings and curses are true. When his mother was urging him to get the blessings, he feared that the curses would be brought upon him...

Rebekah told him: if he cursed you, I will bear your curse; and if he blessed you, the blessings are all yours, my son, and I will rejoice. If he cursed you, let all the curses be brought upon my head, while all the blessings are yours if he blessed you. If he threw you with the arrow of anger my son, let it stab me; and if he threw you with safety and mercies, take them for yourself. If he was disturbed, I will bear his fury; but if he was satisfied with you, let his blessings be poured upon you. If he was angry and started to curse, let your curses be brought upon me; but if he blessed you, take all the blessing for yourself.

Here, the secret of the grace has spoken through Rebekah: Christ took upon Himself the curse of the nations through His cross [Galatians 3:13]. He became a curse, while the cursed nations were blessed by Him. He bore the pain and the sufferings on the cross in the stead of the trespassers.

Rebekah spoke with Jacob like the grace when she told him: Mine are the curses and yours are the blessings. The secret shined from her so that she would bear the curses of her son and so that he would be blessed and become a pattern of the facts. The little one entered through the secret to become older than the old one. Others have born his curses, while he was blessed.

Isaac blesses Jacob [Genesis 27:27-29]:

The old man rested and started to bless with might. He opened up his safe and started to distribute all its treasures...

Isaac had cumulated the treasure of richness for his beloved one, and with the blessings he connected the high with the deep for his honor. He subdued unto him the sky with its dew and the earth with its fatness. He gave him the leadership and the kneeling of his brothers before him. Isaac cursed all that curse his son, Jacob, and he blessed all that bless him so that his happiness would grow...

Jacob accepted the great treasure of all the blessings as the leadership and command was granted to him.

Esau demands the Blessing [Genesis 27:30-40]:

Esau heard that the treasure of blessings was robbed, and cried when he found that this treasure was stolen from him. The merchant saw Jacob as a thief that has stolen all his richness from him and has left him poor. The robbed cried of pain, because he has gone poor, and groaned over the blessings that Jacob has stolen from him.

Why don't the Children now demand their Parents' Blessing?

Why don't the children, likewise, ask the father to bless them before he dies? Why are, nowadays, the words of the fathers despised, and why are they not demanded to bless their children as they used to do? Why are there disputes over the inheritance that does not last, while no one demands the blessing of the father to have pride with it?

The Fathers do not think about blessing their Children, but about the Possessions and about who will inherit them:

He that writes his will, nowadays, gathers the witnesses and the writers around him to carefully write and seal the will before he dies. He gives more money to the ones he loves instead of the blessings, and he shows his love through the possessions of dust and stones. If he loves his son, he would give him the house that could fall down, but he does not give him the blessing that is much better than all treasures.

The sick person calls unto the witnesses to testify over his will: how, how much, and who will inherit his possessions? This will go to this person and that to that person: he lies on his death bed while his eyes are still open on these matters. The arrow of death is stabbing him, while he does not care much to bless, but with who and what will be inherited of his possessions. The pain of death is torturing him, while he is grab-holding the earthly matters to set them in order...

The hour of his death is knocking on his door, while he is still not despising the world and its matters. Death is threatening him and pulling him to leave his life, while he does not wish to leave the richness that he has to leave behind and that does not last. The great underworld is opened up before him to enter it, while he is still thinking about who will inherit his possessions.

The Sons are gathered around the Father like a Predator upon a Corps:

The fathers, nowadays, do not care much to bless their children, nor do the children beg their father to bless them. They do not dispute over the blessings like Esau and Jacob who despised the possessions and focused on the blessings.

The heirs, nowadays, dispute over the worldly possessions, and the brothers struggle with their fathers over the buildings. The father is thrown on the bed of pain to leave this world, while the greedy heirs are gathered around him to inherit him. They are gathered around him like a predator upon a corps, snapping to steal his richness and not his blessings...

The children, nowadays, are greedier than Esau, because they do not resemble Esau that was blessed... When Isaac found that Esau was painfully begging him, he opened up the door of repentance before him so that he could enter it. Behold, I have made Jacob your lord, and all his brethren have I given to him for servants; and it shall come to pass when you shall repent, that you shall break his yoke from off your neck and you shall not serve him.

He has given him the hope and has helped him to repent. He showed him that he is a servant, but if he repented, he shall break free...

The bright old man gave him a crown of repentance to work with if cared for the blessings. He made the repentance as a teacher unto Esau, so that he would exercise it and avoid the greed that made him a lazy man. The word of Isaac casted the hope over all the repented: the door of mercies is opened up before them if they wish to enter it.