

THEN CAME SIN

In the first days of the creation of human life, Adam and Eve realized the ideal of the living of the spiritual life – that is a life lived with God at the very center of it. We are told that in the cool of the evening God visited Adam and Eve and spoke with them with the familiarity of a companion. The life of these first human creatures was a happy life because it was as God had meant it to be. **THEN CAME SIN**, and all this happy state of things was wrecked! All came to an abrupt end! Through sin the world and all that was in it was ravished of all its beauty and all its harmony. The union that was enjoyed between man and his God was ruptured. In addition, man, severed from God, had nobody left for him to fall back on. The separation was instantaneous. Immediately after they ate the fruit of the Tree, they ran. They hid themselves from the very One Who was the answer to all their needs. What was once free and beautiful for all to behold, they quickly covered with clothes.

In himself, man found emptiness and his cravings for satisfaction became ever stronger and stronger, and an unknown feeling came upon him. He felt a restlessness, a nervousness, an interior burning sensation that was quite new to him. Neither in himself, nor in any of the creatures that were all about him could he find anything at all that could satisfy the unbearable hunger for that – whatever it was – which he no longer really knew, which he could no longer find. It was an infinite that he once searched for that got him into trouble. Did not the tempter say, “you will become like gods, you will know the difference between good and evil”? Did he not offer him an infinite? Now, though man had lost the infinite altogether, his hunger for an infinite became even stronger. In his attempt to satisfy his hunger, man flung himself into the pursuit of absolutely everything that might hold even the slightest promise of pleasure and gratification. As time moved on into the present we see man seeking his satisfactions in expensive trips and vacations – vacations to all parts and ports and “fun places” of the world; costly and rare gifts; palatial houses; fine clothes; gourmet foods served in kingly restaurants; the most expensive of things, automobiles, boats, yachts, experiences unmentionable and available just for the asking, and, MONEY! The simple accumulation of money, even by small children. Man has persuaded himself that happiness is found in all such things. Pleasure, yes, but true happiness? NO! “Vanity of Vanities” – vain endeavor!

Man, rejecting God as his true happiness and obstinately resolved to find his happiness elsewhere, has plunged from depth to depth into an abyss of moral nothingness and total misery; into boredom, loneliness, brain-searing drugs, killings, a total lack of decency and modesty in manner and dress, every sort of sexual permissiveness and perversity,