

1246 The Truth*Knight of the Immaculate*

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Although not everyone loves the truth, only the truth can be the basis of enduring happiness.

The truth is one.

Even so, we know well that in the real circumstances of life we sometimes behave as though the answer to one and the same question could be both "yes" and "no." It is not difficult, for example, to recall our own behavior, how at one time we act, as the faith teaches, with the conviction that divine providence assists us, while on other occasions we worry ourselves sick, as if this divine providence did not exist. In reality, either divine providence exists or it doesn't. It is equally true, for instance, that at this moment I am writing these words, and you, beloved reader, are reading them. Vis-a-vis this statement, the contrary phrase cannot be true, namely, that I have not written these things or that you are not reading them. In effect, regarding the same argument the truth cannot be both "yes" and "no." The truth is either "yes" or "no." In fact, the truth is one.

The truth is also powerful.

If someone wanted to refute the above affirmation by claiming that I have not written these words and you have not read them, the truth would not be changed. On the contrary, the one who denied it would be mistaken. And even if such denials were numerous, the force of the truth would not be weakened at all. Indeed, even if all men everywhere stated, wrote in books, proclaimed in films and swore for their whole life that I have not written these lines and you have not read to them, all this would be insufficient to break even one particle of the granite of this truth, namely, that I have written this and you have read it. Not even God will nullify the truth, nor can He, even with a miracle, for His proper essence is truth.

How great is the power of truth! A truly infinite, divine power.

So also in the case of religion.

It is not otherwise in regard to religious truth. In the world we find many religious confessions and encounter the widely diffused idea that every religion is good. But we cannot agree with such an idea. It is true that many who do not recognize any religion, or do not profess a particular religion, may be blameless before God because they are totally convinced that they walk on the right road; however, in regard to the religious argument it also stands that truth can only be one, so that those who have contradictory convictions about the reality of things are wrong. Only he who judges according to the truth has the true faith.

And thus, if it is true that God exists, then the unbelievers are in error who assert that He does not exist; on the other hand, if He really does not exist then all those who profess a religion are in error. Moreover, if it is true that Jesus Christ is risen, then it is also true, as He taught, that He is God incarnate; but if He is not risen, then all the Christian confessions have no reason to exist.

In the end, if Jesus has really addressed Peter with the words: "You are Peter you are on this rock I will build my Church" (Mt 16:18), and in this way has given a sign by which everyone can easily recognize His Church among the hundreds of Christian churches from which to chose, then only those found in the universal Catholic Church walk on the road of truth. And if they strive to be faithful to God, following the teaching of the Church, they are guaranteed of finding happiness in eternity and even peace and joy in this life.

The same thing is valid in regard to other points of religious truth. For example, if it is true that at Lourdes the Immaculate really appeared to Bernadette, it is certain that She lives and loves men like a true Mother. But if this apparition did not happen, then we could not know from this source what it tells us of the Immaculate; even so, we would be able know these things from many other sources.

The acknowledgment of the truth.

Nobody can change the truth; one can only search for the truth, find it, recognize it, conform one's life to it, and walk on the road of truth in every question, above all in those things that regard the ultimate end of one's life, in connection with God, that is, that regard religious questions.

Enduring happiness.

There is no one to be found in the world that does not search for happiness; indeed, in all of our actions happiness presents itself to us, in one form or another, as the end toward which we naturally tend. However, a happiness which is not built on the foundation of truth cannot endure, because everything else is a lie. The truth can be and is the only the unshakable foundation of happiness, for individuals and of all humanity.

M.K.