

## THE CONSEQUENCES OF ATHEISM

Belief in God is not just a barren stance, a rocky islet, as it were, in a sea of unbelief. Cardinal Manning's analysis demonstrates that even as we acknowledge God's existence we must, since he is a person, accept that he has communicated with man created in his own image and likeness. God's public revelation is through his Son, the Second Person of the Trinity, Our Lord Jesus Christ. But Christ communicates with us privately too. He visits the soul. St John in the *Apocalypse* makes it clear:

“Behold, I stand at the gate and knock. If any man shall hear my voice and open the door to me, I will come in to him and will [sit down and] eat with him, and he with me.”

What more homely an invitation ? And before he suffered his passion Christ insisted on the familiarity with which he dealt with his disciples :

“I no longer call you servants but friends, for the servant does not know what his master does. I have called you friends because I have made known to you whatever I have heard from my Father.” (*John* 15 : 15)

God calls each of us to something unique—*as he has made each of us unique*—that we may attain the end he has in store. Here is the order :

GOD → VOCATION → END

The very first part of our vocation has to do with our human nature, the genus *man*. As we noted in an earlier lesson, nature implants in each of God's creatures particular laws. Among those specific to *man* is the need to conform himself in his choices to the rule of morals, the moral law.

The second element of our vocation has to do with gender. If I am created a woman I have duties that attach to the female and are part of a woman's rights *as a woman*. If I am created a man I have duties that attach to the male that attach to the male and are part of a man's rights *as a man*.

The third element of our vocation has to do with our particular talents. Let no one think he has no talent peculiar to himself. A saying of St Thomas is to the point : “Every man is superior and inferior to every other man under some respect.” There is an inclination, an urge, in each of us to develop our talents and we will ignore that urge at the peril of our souls.

The great evil of the atheistic belief system is that it destroys the sense of purpose in its adherents. What happens if we do away with God ?

GOD → VOCATION → END

The ordination loses its sense. Not only is God removed from the equation, but so is the end intended.

GOD → VOCATION → END

Whereupon, there is lost also the sense of vocation.

Without this influence, the tasks a man performs in life are done not to ennoble and refine in preparation for his fulfilment as a person in accordance with the ultimate end God intends, but for trivial motives, like money, or possessions, or the esteem of others. Man's sense of worth is degraded. Utterly lost is the deference a man owes his creator.

This is seen in loss of the sense of each of the three elements of man's vocation. First, a loss of sense of the need to conform himself to the moral law which manifests itself particularly in neglect of the deference and love he owes God, in neglect of the duties he owes to others, in systematic failures over chastity, indulgence in contraception and breach of the fifth commandment which occurs with abortion. Next is the loss of the sense of one's masculinity or femininity which, allied with the abandonment of chastity, results in removal of the natural aversion to homosexuality (tendency to effeminacy in men ; to indulge masculinity in women), and all the aberrations in behaviour that flow. Third is the loss of the sense of one's own worth with the particular talents God has given.

The degradation manifests itself in dress, deportment and presentation. When not constrained by the demands of employers or a need for formality modern men and women do not see the need to dress in a manner that befits their dignity. They frequently dress like children. Neatness is regarded as otiose, untidiness a fashion statement. In ages past there were always men and women who were overweight but in the present age obesity, testifying to the tendency to gluttony and distaste for essential bodily exercise, has become epidemic, even among children.

It manifests itself, too, in the fetish for tattoo-ing and disfigurement with pins or rings or bizarre hair-colourings. These mirror the practices in savage cultures but lack their rationale, the cultural purposes these serve among such peoples. In a society that owes its provenance to the majesty of God's revelation these symptoms of ubiquitous atheism mark the influence of the diabolical. They are grounded on the unspoken assertion that a man's body is his to do with as he likes. There is no God, no being, to whom he is ultimately responsible for the gifts he enjoys. Nor will he have to account for the use he has made of the body given him. How far is modern society from reality encapsulated in Pope Pius XII's words :

“[T]he principle is inviolable. God alone is the Lord of man's life and bodily integrity, his organs, members and faculties, particularly those which are instruments associated in the work of creation.” (*Allocutio to the Fourth International Congress of Surgeons, May 20, 1948*)

#### *Nature is God's handmaid*

Parallel with man's rejection of God goes his rejection of the means God has chosen to ground our essence and our existence, nature. The word *nature* derives from the root *na* which signifies 'given'. Every one of us is born in the *na* ; we live our lives in the *na* (despite being drowned, as it were, in the trappings of civilisation) ; we die, willy nilly, in the *na*. We bring nothing with us into the world ; we will take nothing out of it. All we have has been given us. St Paul's rhetorical question is to the point : “What do you have that you have not received?” (1 *Corinthians* 4 : 7) The evil of atheism leads inevitably to the rejection of God's handmaid, nature *taken formally as nature*, rather than the popular opinion that it is nothing more than a happy concatenation of accidents, nature taken at the merely material level.

Watch any of the videos of Sir David Attenborough dealing with the wonders of nature and you will see nature in all its splendour accompanied by analysis which is immersed in the follies of materialism and atheism.



*Sir David Attenborough & friend*

Absent is any acknowledgement of nature's final or efficient causes, of the *reason* for its existence and of the pre-existence of the one who intended (and intends) that reason, even as he endowed it with its multifold essences. In vain did Almighty God reveal his creation of the universe and the blessings he has bestowed on man, the most noble of his creatures. In vain has he revealed the facts of man's fall from grace at the beginning of creation, of his need for redemption and of the historical reality of God coming to earth as man in Jesus Christ to effect that redemption.

The irrationality of the atheistic belief-system dominates human existence in the twenty first century.

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