

Scripture Reading

A Reading from the Book of Genesis (*Genesis 3:13-15*)

Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and Hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

Reflection – We are the victorious children of Mary, the Immaculate One

We must realise we are in constant spiritual warfare (cf. Ephesians 6:12). Once Lucifer, a high ranking angel rebelled against God and was cast out of heaven (cf. Luke 10:18) by St. Michael the Archangel, a spiritual war between good headed by Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary, and evil headed by Satan (formerly Lucifer) started and is reaching its highest intensity in our present times for that war is about to end. At stake in the centre of that war are our precious souls which were made for eternity and to gain inheritance of eternal life.

God has a good solution to every human problem. God's love is bigger than any problem. When our first parents fell from grace when they wilfully disobeyed God, God had a perfect solution. To the disobedient first Eve, God's answer is to provide Mary the obedient new Eve in His plan of salvation. To the proud Lucifer, God's solution is to provide the humble Mary and Jesus who is meek and humble of heart (cf. Matthew 11:29) who would crush the head of the serpent which is Satan in disguise. God declared Mary and Jesus the arch enemy of Satan and gives them all the power necessary to defeat evil and save His children.

God wills that Mary be our spiritual / mystical mother. *When Jesus saw His mother there, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to Her, "Woman, here is Your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your Mother."* (John 19:26-27). God could have given Jesus to the world in a myriad of ways; He being of infinite creativity and eternal wisdom. Yet, He chose Mary to be the route. Since this is the best way from heaven to humanity, God also wills that humanity return to heaven through the spiritual / mystical motherhood of Mary, the Immaculate One. Thus, Mary is our shortcut to Jesus who is the Way, the Truth and the Life (cf. John 14:6).

God has given to Mary His Son (Jesus) the sole subject of His complacency. Would He not give Her everything else that would help bring about His Kingdom on earth? God wills all people to be saved (cf. 1 Timothy 2:4). Mary's role in God's plan of salvation does not end with the birth of Jesus. When Jesus died, She received the gift of spiritual motherhood of all God's children. Now that the gate of heaven was opened to everyone, Mary has to help each and every one of Her spiritual children to be fit to enter the gates of heaven. In the same way Her flesh forms the body and blood of Jesus needed to suffer and die for us, now Her Immaculate Heart in close cooperation with Her holy Spouse, the Holy Spirit has to form us spiritually to be fit for heaven.

United to Jesus our Brother, we form the heel that crushes the head of the ancient serpent. Salvation comes to us through faith in Jesus who died on the Cross, earning for us every grace we need for salvation. As Mary is the holy Spouse of the Holy Spirit and working in close association with Him on the sanctification of all Her children, She is the Mediatrix of all graces. God wills to pass through Mary not just Jesus borne incarnate but all the graces Jesus won for our salvation through His life, death and resurrection. Frank Duff the saintly founder of the Legion of Mary and who was gifted with a deep insight into the role of Mary puts it very succinctly: "*He (God) did all these things because, in the first place, He would gain from Mary herself a return (of glory) greater than He would from all other pure creatures (i.e. saints) together ...*" *Handbook Chapter 5, pg 19.* God made Mary His masterpiece of creation. How great God made Mary may only be realised by us Her poor children when we gain perfect knowledge in heaven.

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, You love us so much that You even bequeath to us the wondrous gift of Mary, Your Mother. Give us a true devotion to Mary through a prayerful meditation of Her life linked inextricably with Yours especially through the praying of the holy rosary, and a zealous practice of Her sterling virtues especially that of humility, obedience and purity. Like Mary, may I zealously bring You to others undeterred by the many obstacles that lie in the way by my love and concern for others. Like Mary standing at the foot of the cross, may I remain loyal and faithful to You till the last days of my life, earning the everlasting crown that Mary so much desires me to win. Mary, my Mother pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus. www.twohearts.hk