

The background of the entire page is a watercolor illustration of a beach. In the center, two young children are running towards the water. The child on the left is shirtless and wearing light-colored shorts, while the child on the right is also shirtless, wearing dark shorts and a blue cap. Several seagulls are depicted in various stages of flight across the sandy beach and near the water's edge. The background features large, craggy rock formations and a grassy dune under a clear blue sky.

Igor Bondar

# Sketches

*Stories, thoughts.*



## **Princes and Princesses.**

Perhaps, everyone dreamed at least once in his life to find a real Prince or Princess for himself. Good-looking, with brave and noble character, good manners, and a big, kind heart. But, also very few adults actually admit that this is possible in real life.

They say that times have changed and princes and princesses have become a huge rarity. They say that there were many of them before, but they became extinct several hundred years ago. Almost like dinosaurs. However, they died of cold, and the princes and princesses, perhaps, of longing.

But, actually, that's not true. Today on Earth, you can still meet a prince or a princess. The problem is that our approach to this issue is wrong. After all, our world is, in fact, one large mirror. To see a prince in reflection, a real princess should stand on this side of the mirror. There is no other way.

And, it turns out that in order to meet a real prince or princess, it's not enough just to dream about them or look for them (especially on the Internet), we have to create real princesses and princes from ourselves. Not from the outside, by means of crowns or mantles. Otherwise, we'll see only the same 'princelike designers' reflected in the mirror. We need to become better from the inside.

The highest things in this world always gravitate for the same highest things - that is how it always has been and always will be. And, real princes and princesses, in turn, reach for real princesses and princes.

Do you know who creates this attraction? God! The source of all the most beautiful fairy tales and stories on earth. Including the ones about princes and princesses.

And to be honest, he doesn't come up with them very much. Here, God often speaks of those whom He sees next to Him in Heaven. Here all the inhabitants are actually princes and princesses.

Because a prince or a princess is first of all an internal essence. They are synonymous to honesty, courage, generosity, and high thoughts. Here they are - the golden 'rays' of their real crowns!

Therefore, those who think that real princes and princesses no longer exist in the modern world are greatly mistaken. They exist. They just have their own ways and laws.

And one of these laws says: 'A real prince cannot but meet a princess.' The Creator and Ruler of this world, who is also the main Romantic here, pays special attention to the implementation of this law.

# The Apple and the Swamp.

*To one wonderful*

*Australian guy*

*is dedicated*

An apple always grows on a branch. The branches must be adjacent to the trunk, and the trunk, in turn, always rests on the root. An apple cannot grow by itself without roots, trunks and branches. It also cannot grow on any other tree. Quality is always important here, as well as consistency. Otherwise, there will be no apple at all.

\* \* \*

There was a small coastal town with good apples. The local apple trees had healthy roots, strong trunks and reliable branches. And the apples that grew here were large and tasty.

One day, one of the local apples grew into an incredibly huge size and become unimaginably beautiful.

\* \* \*

The swamp doesn't love apples.

First of all, because it cannot love anyone at all. Secondly, the swamp just does not see the point in anything but the swamps. Based on this, it always strives to turn all around into a familiar sticky liquid with a distinctive odour. Thirdly, apples remind the swamp with their very presence that there are things in this world, which are much more beautiful than it.

That's why the swamp can't stand apples. And tries to harm them to the max, if not devour or destroy them.

\* \* \*

It took a while for an apple from the small town to become giant and beautiful. At first, it was quite ordinary, but then it suddenly began to speak. And, most of all it liked to tell the truth. After that, the apple began to grow very rapidly.

It was telling the truth about how ugly the morals of the swamp were, what dirty secrets were hidden under its green surface. The giant apple has grown on a very good branch, trunk and root. And it just couldn't speak another way. The apple tried its best to bring the truth to other apples.

\* \* \*

However, on earth, the time of apples was coming to an end. Now, it was the last times for swamps. Swamps were spreading around the world with incredible speed in different directions. First of all, they were hunting for apples because they always told the truth about them. And the swamps were afraid of just one thing - the truth.

The giant apple spoke louder and bolder than anyone else. The swamp was really afraid of it, and they hunted it with special zeal. Once the swamps managed to surround the apple.

\* \* \*

The giant beautiful apple was very sad. Not scared, but sad. Real and properly-grown apples are not afraid of swamps, it just makes them sad to see how they fill the places, which were beautiful before. It's sad to see how other apples gradually degenerate and become shallow, how honesty fades away because it's less and less needed.

The giant apple was completely cut off by the swamps from the beautiful forests that still survived here and there. And, it didn't have a choice. The real apple could only win or die. But it just wouldn't become a swamp. It was worse than death.

The giant beautiful apple could only hope for a miracle.

\* \* \*

The Root of all apples looked at his faithful and brave apple. He loved him very much. He was proud of him to tears. He knew better than anyone that this story would have a good and fair end.

And from the bottom of his heart, he wished the beloved apple would stand in this last unequal fight.

## **The Cold.**

The cold stops life.

Just recently, the forest has been comfortable and warm, and life was literally flowing from each blade of grass, from each flower and leaf. It seemed like it would last forever.

However, the frost came and the life froze, although externally not so much has changed.

The frost may come not only in nature, but in human hearts too. Look, someone's eyes are shining with warmth. The heart sends one after another waves of happiness, love, cheer and joy. Sense and content fills each second of life.

But suddenly, the cold penetrates the heart and the look becomes prickly and suspicious. The heart is overfilled with insults, reproaches, lies. Cunning and slyness come to mind. And the person freezes. Though, externally, it might seem like nothing has changed so much.

It has changed. The cold stops life.

## **Beauty and Disharmony**

It's well known that tastes differ. And, it's not really clear what areas these tastes can cover. Anyway, who can seriously and undoubtedly claim these days that, for example, harmony is better than disharmony, light is better than dark, decency is better than vulgarity, and a literary word is better than a non-literary one? Of course, a dispute on this matter can take place, but what person can say that he tells the absolute truth? Some say that this or that thing has always been like that. So what? Now is the age of new, modern values, views, freedoms. Everything is constantly being reviewed and changed. That's why nowadays no one can tell anything with such confidence on this matter that everyone would listen to him.

However, there's one simple word on earth that immediately resolves such disputes. This word is God. The One who created our world and all the people is not on the same shelf with them. He is always above them - the Creator is indisputably and incomparably above His creatures. And, He certainly knows the truth and the exact price of everything on earth.

God did not hide any important information from people; two thousand years ago, He told us everything in detail through His Son. In His conversations and commandments, one could find the answers to all necessary questions of mankind. Including the questions about what is good and beautiful, and what is bad and ugly.

Therefore, if a person claims that immorality, dirtiness, disharmony, and vulgarity is beautiful, then, he turns away from



the laws of his own Creator. And, if he believes that he has no Creator at all, he turns away from logic. This is because thousands of miracles performed by the Lord on Earth over many centuries undoubtedly prove the reality of God to all sane people.

And, as for beauty, it has certainly been and will always be. Each of us will see it beyond this world when it's time to leave it. But you won't see disharmony in the big and bright house of God - it's not there and will never be. Disharmony is only created by some people on earth and one day it'll just disappear. All the details of this process are expressed in the words of the Son of God.

Beauty on earth is of great value and importance. You can find it in every person's heart from birth. Depending on his choice, it can either evolve or fade away. Beauty within a person is like a magnet to something important and right in this life. This is one of the reliable compasses of God. It can often serve as wings, which help many human souls to rise above the earth from time to time.

Beauty always brings peace and joy to people, whereas disharmony only brings stress, controversies, gloomy tones.

Beauty is also a sure sign of life, and extinction of beauty means the extinction of life. Not as people understand it – they're often quite fine with the lack of beauty. But as the Creator of life and beauty sees it. And nothing else but beauty.

## About importance

Let us think of notions that are most important for a human being.

Well, fashion, for instance. Is it of importance to people? For most, it is. Though, it changes very quickly. Heedless of it for a little while, you will be out of fashion instantly.

And knowledge, what about it? Certainly, it is important, but there is so much knowledge in the world! So different it is, and in recent times it is renewed very quickly. The trend is such that we are taught more and more to find it on-the-fly online rather than keep it in our minds. In addition, knowledge is mainly a means of earning money.

Then, money, perhaps? No one will dispute its importance. But in parallel, conflicts related to it never stop in the world. Also, in the issues of happiness, it is not completely unambiguous too. “Money does not buy happiness”, says folk wisdom that apparently emerged not just from nothing.

Well then, wisdom maybe? It is an extremely crucial thing for the people, of course. Though, nowadays the many centuries-old and proven wisdom of human kind is remembered less and less. While modern wise men are philosophizing so productively and massively, that you cannot watch them all. But if you do, it does not mean that it will be for your own good.

So, what is next there? Health, of course. It is of indubitable importance as everyone wants to be healthy. Though, no one manages to stay healthy forever. The years unavoidably take it away. And, they will do it completely, regardless of what we are invent.

What remains? Love. Here, everything becomes not just interesting, but extremely amazing. All the previous notions were purely earthly, but love is not only an earthly notion. It has been before the Earth appeared and it will remain after it. We all appeared on Earth because of love and the best of us will return to it again. It is the foundation and the “oxygen” of the whole universe, which is much greater than our planet. Touching love, we touch the most precious and important of what can be, though unfortunately, we often do not realise it. And one more thing: love has no minuses...

## **Transparency**

Human life on earth is becoming increasingly "transparent" from year to year. And, it seems that this process is unstoppable. Our personal data are becoming more and more open: our income, expenses, payments, places of payments, and much more. From all of this, it's quite easy to draw conclusions on our interests, tastes, preferences, and so on. As a result, the "personal" territory of people, hidden from prying eyes, gradually becomes smaller and smaller. And, the question is whether it's good or not.

In fact, there are many positive things about openness. As is well known, theft is usually made under the cover of night. And, when a person lives a "transparent" life, all sins, lies, and other moral dirt become more visible.

Transparency also leads people, albeit mechanically, to honesty and politeness. A person simply gets more profits when he lives more responsibly, honestly, and with good intentions.

After all, it affects his reputation, different ratings, and feedback. And, in turn, they bring him new income.

The negative side of such a "rated life" includes the situation, when money become the only thing that motivates our good behaviour.

The Lord appreciates our constant desire for good and decency, regardless of any income or absence thereof.

## **Fog**

It's hard to be guided in a thick fog. In this case, a person needs special devices, for example, GPS or, at least, a compass. Trying to move in a dense fog without such "helpers" is a rather risky business.

However, fog may appear not only in nature. Much more often it can occur in the mental life of people. This fog begins to hide really important reference points of a person and fill the information space around him with other things: thousands of small matters, interests, opinions, pastimes, goals, clouds of desires, and sets of different modern views and judgements.

As a result, there are so many of them in a person's life that he can barely touch everyone. And he just doesn't have enough strength, abilities, and time to break through this fog.

For this purpose, one needs more serious helpers: independence and intuition, good philosophical nature, moral core, knowledge of the deep wisdom of mankind, or better yet, knowledge of the Lord's commandments. And, this is exactly

what can help anyone to go confidently through life, regardless of the density of the surrounding fog.

However, if there are no such helpers, then the fog of civilization becomes a new real horizon for man. It becomes his little world and all that he has. And, the main, beautiful, and real life never opens to him.

## **Loneliness**

People are not happy to be alone. A person may have everything for a quiet and happy life: perfect house, money, great job, and more. But, that's not enough for him. A person always needs other people, preferably the dear ones, to be next to him.

Why is it so? Some say it's because people are “social” creatures. Regardless of that we call this property – either "sociality", "dislike of loneliness", or something else, it should have an explanation anyway.

People have high intelligence, logic; they can set goals, make plans. Based on this, they can create their own convenient living conditions. Against this background, inexplicable inner attraction between people doesn't look too pragmatic and rational.

Nevertheless, it exists. And, there must be some reasonable explanation for this.

In fact, there is only one theory on earth that fully explains this issue – the theory of the divine creation of the world. According to it, God put a little piece of Himself into each of us. This piece

inside each person is called a soul, and it very far from any rationality and pragmatism. The soul lives only by emotions.

And then, it all makes sense. Since these pieces inside of us come from the same source, they, of course, are attracted to each other. Besides, if our soul isn't tainted by sins, we always strive for everything elevated, kind, and beautiful. Because these are soul's native qualities.

## **Attraction**

Strong attraction is difficult to overcome. For example, human science struggled for years to overcome Earth's gravitation. People carried out research, built rockets, created powerful engines. Only through the tremendous work of humanity did satellites finally appear in orbit of our planet, where gravitation no longer affected it.

However, attraction relates not only to the outside world. The human mind is also subject to some kind of gravitation of the world where we were born and live. All our earthly thoughts come down to the question anyway: "how better would it be to live here for 70 or a little more years?"

And at the same time, beyond this earthly world, there is God who created it. God is incomparably greater, more important, better than our world, and He is eternal. And, God has one more world, the main one, which people call Paradise. The closest inhabitants to God live there, and they live there forever. Forever means millions and millions of years. (Well, and another millions, in case it's not enough for some.)



People have long and been well aware of God and the rules of going into Heaven. Enormous number of miracles that happened over the several thousand years on Earth provide a conclusive evidence of the reality of God to all reasonable people. And, it would seem quite logical that it should be important to us to seek eternal life in Heaven and follow the path that God left us. After all, it looks quite pragmatic because seventy years of earthly life is much less than millions of years in Paradise.

However, this is where the earth's attraction comes into play. It consistently gets all the thoughts of people back to endless earthly worries, problems, troubles, and doesn't let them raise their heads, doesn't let them look at the sky. And, there is a paradox: on the one hand, people are becoming able to solve more and more complex earthly problems, and on the other hand, they often can't calculate "one plus one" when it comes to their future.

If we think that such irrationality is just a coincidence, the answer is no. It is this very gravitation, which God called "the spirit of the world", that leads our vision of reality astray. And, a person cannot think or act in a different way if he doesn't overcome it. The attraction of the earthly world is stronger than us.

But not stronger than God. To overcome this attraction, we should always keep in mind the real picture of the world with God at the head. It's necessary to keep faith and be mindful of the brevity of our lives.

Another important part of our work is trying to live by the rules that God left us in his commandments. Kindness and forgiveness, peace and honesty, care and love – all this should be dear to us. After all, God and His world live only on these principles. And, if we do not appreciate these qualities, then we'll just be strangers in the eternal world.

It's not easy to overcome the attraction of the earthly world. We must be persistent in this way, otherwise, the worldly will fill our soul again. It's like if to turn off the engine of the rocket, that hasn't gone into space yet.

"The Kingdom of God is taken by force," God warned us. But eternal life in Heaven is worth the effort. And, if a person lives by these rules day by day, he will gradually begin to overcome the attraction of this world. And, if he is solid for the chosen way, he will eventually overcome it whole. Overcome in his heart.

After this, the earthly world can still surround him as long as he wants. But such a person will no longer be subject to earthly attraction. Because his heart will be in a different place.

## **Success**

We often become interested in people, who've achieved great success in their lives. It's no secret that each of us wants to achieve something too. That's why we're interested in vivid examples and try to find some secrets that can help us become more successful.

However, in reality, everything looks a little different. There is no doubt that hard work and perseverance always bring results. But serious success is something else. Let's take an objective look – for many decades, the shelves in our bookstores have been filled with books like: "How to achieve success", "How to become a millionaire", "How to become a star", and so on. Their total circulation can already be compared to a population of people. And, as for their visible success – everything is much more modest in this regard...

All because only God can give people great success. Of course, the reasons for this may be different for the Creator. But very often, this happens as a result of the fact that in a particular person, there are qualities or beliefs that are pleasing to Him.

For example, some successful people take good care of family values. And, for some people, the creative component of a project is much more important than the financial one. Someone wants to spend a significant part of the earned money on charity and help others. And, someone really cares about their employees. Someone tries to defend some important ideals in life. And, for someone, honesty and integrity always comes first.

Seeing the behavior of these people, God moves a pointer of their future to the word "success". (In the same way, He moves it away from this position if they change for the worse in the future.)

And, the information about the wake up time, type of breakfast to have, and working hours of successful people is, in fact, secondary. I guess I'm not mistaken when I assume that many people are just trying to copycat their behavior. But, something has not been heard about anyone yet who would reach the top in their lives as a result of such a simple imitation.

Although there is one exception. Everyone, who carefully reads one very old book called the Gospel and tries to do the right thing in their lives, as the main Character of this book teaches, can achieve incredible success.

## **About children.**

The upbringing of human souls on Earth is a difficult and unpredictable process for God.

It is difficult because for that purpose, God had to do a great deal of work: create the entire Earth with all the living conditions for people, create the people themselves, then send many teachers to them in order to explain the rules for them, following which a person will become truly beautiful and happy. And in the end, one will be rewarded with eternal life in the home of one's loving Father.

It is an unpredictable process because here already, not everything depends on God. He can only create conditions, explain the beauty and importance of lofty principles in life. But it does not depend on God whether humans will go this way or not. People are given an absolute freedom of choice.

And the question arises unwillingly: why does the Lord need all this? After all, the process is very difficult and the result is unpredictable.

However, the answer here is simple. God doesn't feel sorry for efforts He spends on the upbringing of His real children. He is the best and most noble Father. And even if not many of His children will grow up, it is all right. He will do for them everything that is only possible. God always has endlessly high feelings, but when it comes to His children then the word 'rationality' disappears at all.

Real children, who love Him and live with Him by the same values, are endlessly dear to God. It is difficult even to find some kind of comparison to explain it. Glass and diamond from a

distance of three meters look similar, but in fact, the difference in price is a million times. The same is with the people who walked the path given to us by Father on Earth, honestly and till the end, are more expensive for Him than all the brilliants.

## **About realities.**

The reality in which we live on this earth is not always joyful and fun. This is due to various reasons: because of ourselves, other people, or events beyond our control. However, everyone wants to always be in a good mood.

Of course, the best way to achieve this is to start changing yourself and your view of the world and of people in accordance with the commandments of the Lord. But, how many people are ready for this today? Besides, it requires considerable effort, and after all, only some people are close to this.

However, each person can also temporarily switch to other realities and draw here good spirits and peace without changing their own reality. Before, there were few opportunities for such switches – nature, some books, creativity, occasional holidays.

Nowadays, there are a thousand times more possibilities for such switches, if not more. Hundreds of TV programs, dozens of endless series and TV shows, thousands of different websites on the Internet, several kinds of social networks for non-stop talking, enormous shopping centers, and so much more.

Therefore, to be honest, the question today is "how to stay in your reality" rather than "how to switch off your reality". And

what frequent being in other realities can lead to is also a good question.

There are several possible answers, and they all depend on the quality of the reality chosen by people. After all, a person in the mental sense is, in fact, a set of different thoughts, desires, beliefs that can change and develop in him depending on the sphere of stay.

Therefore, some good and kind reality can have educational and disciplinary character and, as a consequence, be useful to us. Some other reality can harm if it propagates bad and sinful things. And some reality can be quite neutral and just distract a person from pressing issues for a while.

It's no secret that in addition to the above options there is one more type of distraction from the earthly reality. You may call it "learning the divine by man". A person can switch to this reality also only at his own will.

What is the similarity of divine reality with others, and what is the difference? The most important thing is that divine reality is the only reality on earth, which was not created by man. Moreover, it was created by the One who created man himself.

Next, we cannot stay very long or forever in human realities. However, we can and we will stay forever in the reality from God if we follow the life rules that He gave us.

One more thing. An ordinary person cannot see the divine reality with his eyes in this life the way he sees other realities. First, he can realize its presence only intellectually, based on a wide range of numerous and indisputable facts throughout human history. It gives him faith.



To move forward in this reality, a person has to keep the commandments of its Creator in his life. This is an indispensable condition; further movement won't be possible without it. In general, everything is quite logical here. If we want to become a citizen of some country on earth, we have to learn its national language, culture, and traditions. To become an inhabitant of Heaven, we must also be fully prepared for such way of life. Keeping the commandments of God means that we learn its values, culture, and principles of life in Paradise.

If a person understands and does it, he begins to get closer to divine reality. His faith gradually moves from his head to his heart and becomes real knowledge and vision. This process cannot be understood or described by those who didn't make this way themselves. Science won't help here either – God created it along with people to help them study the processes necessary for human life on earth. The rules of learning the divine are superior to science.

Every person on earth is completely free to choose the reality in which he wants to stay. Just as the Creator of all realities, who for some reason decided to love us, worry about us and help us achieve the best.

## **The Future.**

People always care about the future and they often try to look into it. It can't be helped – curiosity is natural for all human beings and our interest in tomorrow is quite understandable. That's why many people turn to all kinds of sci-fi writers, fortune tellers and so on.

However, as it turns out, predicting the future is quite a thankless job. Statistics show that hardly any sci-fi writer of the past years managed to accurately predict the reality that we live in. But there were many attempts... And it seems that the same result awaits modern science fiction writers. It looks like the world develops in its own way, which often eludes human fantasy.

In addition to sci-fi writers, there are also many soothsayers of all kinds. They're less harmless because they often instill fear in people. Just look at the "end of the world" from different comets and asteroids, which are regularly predicted every several years. Given that life on earth have existed for many millions of years, it means that our planet was "very lucky" just an incredible number of times.

Besides the views of sci-fi writers and all others, there is also the Christian prediction on the future. It also refers to the last days of humanity, although no specific time frame is mentioned.

And this information is much more serious because it comes not from people, but from God. This prediction is based on the evidence of an incredible number of miracles on earth over thousands of years. And every miracle, after all, proves that God can easily surpass the laws of the world that He created. No one else can do it. A reasonable man cannot just wish away these facts.

But let's think about the logic of this prediction with regard to the facts that we know. So, God created earth for the growth of kind, honest, and wholesome people who could then come to His eternal home – to Heaven (by the way, this version fully explains constant "misses" of all killer-comets).

And it's quite obvious that if such people aren't appearing, His project "Earth" won't make sense anymore. But the opposite is also true: if there are many kind, sincere and moral people on earth, then God's plan is being fulfilled and the project "Earth" is still important to Him.

Moreover, today's humanity has a unique opportunity for this. Let's think about the information. How much time was needed before, to spread the word around the world? In the first centuries of our era, it could take decades or even centuries, and then it took many years. Nowadays, any information can circle the globe in a matter of hours, it can be translated into all languages and affect almost everyone.

Unfortunately, people's opinions are often manipulated with the help of different false ideas and technologies, and their views are often changed, and not for the better. But this also means that today, any good, honest and wholesome information can change people's minds for the better.

And God will certainly help all people and projects on earth that will do it. All good movies and cartoons, useful books, honest news, good TV programs and many more will inevitably get His support and will be successful.

That's why "the end of the world" is a concept directly related to our behavior. Rather than thinking and talking about it, it depends on our choices and actions – either we do a good thing or not, are honest or not, are moral or sinful.

The Gospel says that only God knows when the world ends. However, He will determine the time based on our actions.

## About soul

The pure and bright soul of a person is his pass to eternal life. However, the soul remains pure as long as such person does not commit bad deeds. The soul always gets dirty because of our lies, anger, greed, envy, jealousy and so on. And, our soul begins to look like what beautiful shoes look like after walking through the mud. But shoes can be cleaned. However, what can we do with our soul, so that it becomes clean again?

Man is capable of thinking, capable of feeling. He is also able to feel guilty when he does something wrong. This feeling is one of the main feelings in a person because if one feels guilty, one can restore the purity of his soul again. The Creator is happy about our desire to live purely and righteously and forgives our mistakes for sincere repentance. However, if we don't repent, our soul remains dirty and the passage to eternal life will be closed to us.

A sense of remorse for one's mistakes must always be deep, sincere, real. God is Sincerity and Honesty. Without sincerity, only a theater that no one needs will come out. We should be ashamed. We must understand that with our bad deeds, we have upset the Father, we have upset all the good and light forces. We have upset those who love us very much.

And, if there is no sense of shame towards our mistakes, then it is very bad. Without it, the soul of a man cannot be cleaned up.

# Instincts

Instincts - are the programs from the Lord, embedded in all the living beings on the Earth. Instincts regulate their behavior in many questions. For instance, instinct of self-preservation or instinct of procreation are well-known and, by the way, are also present in a person. If these instincts are taken away, then every living thing will die out exactly after one generation.

It is not a male's fault that he is attracted to a female. This is an instinct, a program. Moreover, attraction usually exists within only one species. She-hippo attracts hippo, she-rabbit attracts rabbit and woman attracts man. Every species has to breed in order to continue its existence on the Earth. If the Lord wanted to change this program in some way, then the behavior of living creatures would immediately change: an elephant might be attracted to a she-crocodile and a penguin to a zebra.

However, in contrast to animal world, there are not only instincts in a human. There is a whole range of other qualities in us, which we will call in one common word for convenience - awareness. Awareness also influences the human's behavior strongly and the higher it is developed in the person, the weaker the manifestation of instincts in him. And vice versa.

Don't mix up awareness and education. Awareness is a moral category that includes such qualities as conscience, honesty, responsibility, respect for others, kindness, goodwill, and calmness.

It is not difficult to notice that the qualities of awareness are quite close to the commandments of the Lord. It is not surprising because Paradise is a world where there are no instincts. However, to some extent people need these programs on the Earth

in order for humankind to keep on existing. Although frankly, the factor of instinct is minimized between kind, honest and attentive spouses whereas love, trust and mutual respect become the new motivation for their relationship.

## **Opportunities**

How great are the opportunities of people? Sometimes we think they're tremendous, but let's make an objective assessment. And also reflect on them for a while.

A man cannot cancel his death. In fact, people prolonged their lives to 70-80 years throughout history. However, this period is just a brief flash in the multi-million history of the planet. Or just a grain of sand on the beach, which has become slightly bigger. Why is it so? It's good for a man to remember the brevity of life on earth for his own evolution. This is the strongest incentive, which can motivate him to start searching for God and the way to the real eternal life.

A man can't beat diseases. He seems to be coping with some of them all the time, but he constantly faces new diseases. As a result, the total number of different types of human diseases on earth has already reached several tens of thousands. The reason for this is similar to the previous one. Diseases are the "sobering telegrams" from the Creator. A kind of reminder that earthly life isn't endless. And we shouldn't live it blindly, immorally, and away from the commandments of the Creator of people.

A man can't overcome cyclones, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and the like. Of course, he tries to exercise control



over nature in some way. But so far, he does it rather with a minus sign.

A man can't make someone love him. He can try to like someone, but the control over the heart of his crush is not in his hands. Lack of any logic and predictability, which happens all the time in romantic relationship, demonstrates this well enough.

A man can't control his dreams. All he can do is try to stay awake a bit longer. However, when it happens, he has random dreams. Well, maybe with a little contribution from the Creator of dreams.

A man can't create life. Of course, he tries to do it and will try further, but it'll always result in a deadlock. After all, the meaning of any life on earth is that the main life on the planet – a man – comes through his mind and logic to faith, kindness, love, and morality. Other reasons for the emergence of life on the earth are meaningless for its Creator. So it just can't happen. Besides, the natural birth of a child in a kind, loving and decent family is the best start for him. And there's nothing to improve.

In fact, there are many things a man can't do. But he can always do the main thing – to try to understand the meaning of life and learn everything from the One who can really do anything.

## **Music**

There's always music in the air on earth. It's incredibly beautiful and its divine chords permeate everything around every day and every second. This music is different from modern

rhythms, which are popular among today's people. It's always melodic, always calm and always insanely beautiful.

Some people hear this music and enjoy it all the time. One can't get tired of the beauty of perfect sounds, as one can't get bored with the taste of spring water or the smell of forest air.

And some people can't hear this music, though it always sounds very loud. That's because their hearing doesn't catch its tones for various reasons. They call other things *music* and have every right to do so.

However, the divine music still sounds, regardless of all this. The Maestro won't stop the music as long as there are still people on earth who need it.

## **Knowledge**

People very much appreciate knowledge. But what is *knowledge*, actually? It's no secret that God holds his many saints of the first years of Christianity, who were poorly educated, in high esteem as well, as the highly educated saints of the last centuries.

Why is it so? Isn't a person's knowledge important for the Lord? In fact, it's very important. But the meaning of the word “knowledge” is different for God and people.

Earthly knowledge – science – was created by God for people. Humanity needs it for a comfortable life and progress on our planet. However, all this knowledge is necessary only for people living on earth. They won't need it after death. Also, earthly

knowledge is not necessary for God and His angels for living in Heaven. There are other laws and principles, which are much higher.

And this perfect knowledge can be touched by people who seek God and keep His commandments. That's why He gave them to people two thousand years ago. The righteous life of a person opens the way to the main source of knowledge – divine enlightenment. As a result, a man begins to see and understand the things, which cannot be found in earthly science.

This knowledge doesn't come to him in the usual way - through visual or sound channels, followed by memorizing and comprehension. The only “channel” in this case is a human soul or, in other words, a heart. However, there's one very important condition – a person must have a pure soul and fight against sin. Otherwise, this channel won't work or will produce distortions.

Science will never discover this channel, unless scientists studying it are deeply religious and righteous people (actually, there were such scientists in the history of mankind). Divine knowledge can't be studied by ordinary scientific methods. Children playing in the sandbox will never understand synchrotron construction.

In fact, a man hasn't progressed on earth as far as it may seem at first glance. Objectively, even the simplest flower in the field is much more complex in technical terms than the most innovative human car. And, in addition, it's alive. We just don't think much about it and we take the reality around us for granted.

However, it's wrong. This reality has its own Creator. And He is also the Creator and Owner of the most perfect knowledge. Which, by the way, starts with simple words: love, kindness, honesty, generosity.

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