

Dear readers,

"They call us atheists. And assuredly, we acknowledge it: we are atheists of the false gods, but not of the supremely true God, father of justice, of wisdom and of the other virtues, without any compromise with evil". Seventeen centuries have passed since Justin, jurist and martyr, had written these words in his first Apology (n. 6, 1-2). Even today, the supremely true God, transcendent and personal, who has manifested Himself in Christ, is contested, rejected, at times mocked by those who in the name of a humanism without transcendence, claim themselves free from all dependence and, alleging a liberty without limits, proclaim themselves sole artisans of their own destiny.



At the root of the aberrations of today's man who appears to not perceive the presence of God, we find, among other things, the promised attempt, above all through the Occidental so-called post-Christian culture, to construct an anthropocentrism supported by the idols of the ancient pre-Christian religions and of the neo-pagan religions. The motives at the origin of this attempt are multiplied. Many, steeped with scientism and with pragmatic materialism, experience a serious existential unrest due to the loss of the meaning of life, disappointed as they are through the promises of certainty which science has not been able to keep. Moreover, in the environment where reigns an unrestrained individualism, there is scattered the sensation that Christianity is no longer able to respond to the profound thirst of the human heart for goodness, a heart plagued with the anguishes of daily existence and dissatisfied with the responses of the technicist society.

What does it profit to go to the moon, if it is to commit suicide there? This question of an unfathomable profundity is of Andrew Malraux, in his work "The Human Condition". He presents in question the Promethean will of modern man (of becoming master of his own destiny). In the past it was said: "Man makes, and in making, is made". The heirs of the telematic era in the Occident know that man risks the unmaking of himself. The acceleration of the rhythms of life, the technology which changes the life of work and family every day, the accumulation of information that comes to us by radio, television, email and the internet, and the frenzied search for success may easily lead man to break apart.

Thus, since the last century, the phenomenon of the sects and in particular the present New Age, has resurfaced on the worldly scene: They are the old and the new cultural and religious forms which claim to give an answer to the most ancient hope of man, the hope of a new era, of a time of peace, of harmony, of reconciliation with one-self, with others, with nature. It is precisely of the inescapable nostalgia for happiness in man, citizen of the third millennium, materially satisfied but spiritually dry, and of the actual apostasy from Christ promulgated by the New Age and by the sects, that we would like to speak about in the next issues of "Convictions".

Madame Martie Dieperink, who was a student of protestant theology at the end of the sixties in the last century, has always had a great interest for all that which was spiritual. Following the mode of the times, as a student, she left for India to follow a guru and to expose herself to this world of religions and of practices from the countries of India and the Orient. She had remained there more than a year, had practiced transcendental meditation, yoga, had been in contact with the spirits, in a word, she had plunged herself in this religious world which fascinates people today. Since her return from India, even now, forty years later – she suffers the consequences from these contacts and fatal practices. Incapable of resuming a normal life, she has taken up, as a mission, to inform and warn others of the dangers of these religions.

Madame Martie Dieperink has been in contact with the Society of Saint Pius X for more than fifteen years, and had accepted to write a series of articles to be published in the official bulletin of the Society in Holland. Very quickly these articles were greatly diffused. Many have read them through interest. The very personal and agreeable style renders the reading easy. The fact that it is a question of an authentic witness who speaks of her own experiences is convincing. In view of the great interest which these articles have aroused among many faithful, even outside of traditional circles, Madame Dieperink has assembled them into a book. The diverse articles will remind us that the spirituality of the oriental religions, the first heterodox Gnosticism, the religious syncretism, the esoteric cults, the cabal, the alchemy and the astrology unite themselves in a vain effort to put Occidental man in the absolute center of reality, making of him a fetish, an idol who artificially occupies the place of Christ, of Him who, true God and true man, is Lord of the cosmos and of history, of which He is "the Alpha and the Omega" (Ap. 1,8; 21,6), "the Beginning and the End" (Ap. 21,6).

Father Jürgen Wegner