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Mirrors

Stories, thoughts

Mirrors

A mirror is an interesting thing. It's so thin and flat but it can reflect such a big volumetric world. And always absolutely correct.

The mirror is uncompromising, you can't dispute on anything with it – it always reflects everything that is on our side in its true forms and colors. The best idea that people came up with is to slightly bend mirrors in order to look slenderer in the reflection. But a mirror would never agree to change color of something or turn ugly things into beautiful.

We are all used to mirrors since childhood. You can find them in every house and almost in every room. Nevertheless, we don't know everything about mirrors. Or, to be more precise, about all kinds of mirrors. In fact, our world is also one big mirror, but it has a different construction. It reflects people's lives rather than their appearance. A person will do, for example, something good, and something good will definitely happen to him in the future. And vice versa.

This is nothing new, many world sages talked about it at different times. But for some reason, people tend to forget the most important things. If they remembered it, their reflections in the mirror of life would be much better. And life on earth, in general, would be kinder, more honest and more beautiful.

All people want is kindness, love, understanding. And, as people remember that our world is a mirror, they'd try to send such actions and feelings to it that they'd like to have in the future. Especially since they have some good daily practice in this regard. After all, no one is making faces in front of an

ordinary mirror hoping for seeing a beautiful face in the reflection.

The mirror of the world also always hopes for people. It's kind and, between us, it reflects hardly half of the bad things that we send to it every day. We can't see this, but the mirror of the world cannot do otherwise. It forgives us and reflects the good things more often than it has to. In the modest hope that one day, the good will certainly be reflected in us.

Fate

Is the fate of man on earth predetermined? Many world philosophies claim that it is, but they give this concept different names: karma, fate, lifeline, providence and so on. But how serious are these affirmations?

Actually, faith in the predetermined outcome of human life on earth is pretty convenient. In this case, you can justify anything in life. For example, you did something wrong, so what? Call it karma... And there's no incentive to become better. After all, our entire life is already predetermined somewhere. So what's the point of trying?

But let's consider this issue with respect to the divine creation of the world – from the Christian point of view. In Christianity, in contrast to different philosophies, there are thousands of miracles. And this is, let's face it, evidence of the existence of God. It's quite obvious that only the Creator of the world can surpass the laws of His creatures. And, this will be not too smart

if, as a result, we miss something really important in life and follow the wrong ideas.

So, the Lord created this earth so that the beautiful souls of His real children could grow on it. There's nothing unusual about that. People also love to have children and they're happy when they are like them. But if we talk about the Lord, this similarity manifests itself not in appearance, but in the qualities of the human soul: kindness, honesty, generosity, love and so on. The Lord brought to us the complete list of the qualities dear to Him in His commandments.

And God may, and leads, people so that they come closer to the correct understanding of the main things in life as a result of their positive or negative experiences. This is the main sense and the main life "route" of any person. And this is the only thing that determines "fate", "karma", "providence" of a person.

The logic of the Creator isn't that difficult to understand in this case too. For example, a man grows different crops which feed him or please the eye. If he doesn't get it, he won't cultivate it. In the same way, it's always pleasant for the Lord to look at the dear "fruits" that He has grown on earth — His morally beautiful, kind and honest children. Of course, he does not get joy from looking at evil and deceitful people.

That's why the educational process of human souls on earth is the main sense and gives origin to all life's circumstances. But, the educational process may vary. For example, if a person can listen to the right things and bring them into his daily behavior, then, the emphasis is placed on this conscious side. And, if a person turns away from understanding and comprehension and is guided by the idea "my life, my rules", the educational methods are different.

Actually, the earthly life of man isn't his property. He receives it as a gift from God and must to return it someday. That's why God has every right to take part in it and, by the way, it is always for the benefit of man himself. After all, following the rules of his Creator, man can find happiness in this life and gain eternal life afterwards. And, following "his rules", man can get into anything.

Serious departure of a person from the commandments of the Lord always leads to the occurrence of less pleasant "teachers" — various difficulties and problems. They also educate a person in their own way. For some reason, a person wants to stick his fingers into the socket for the second time much less than the first.

Therefore, when we talk about some predetermination of a person's fate, we can consider it only in the matter of the inevitability of the education of his soul by God. All other life circumstances are subordinate to it, though they can be different and not obvious at first sight.

As for the first question: so, is human life on earth predetermined or not, what will we get if we know the answer? If we're trying to understand God's providence this way, it's naive. Let's first try to create at least one living blade of grass on earth with our own hands. And if we succeed, then we can start thinking about more serious things.

God once said to a great Saint: "Give heed to thyself and do not study the fates of people. It's not good for you." Perhaps this is good advice for us too. Because only God and no one else can correctly understand God's providence on our planet.

However, it's enough for a person to have a heart to love the Creator of all beauty, highness, and purity in the world.

About lies.

Lying is one of the greatest dangers to humanity. If not the biggest one. Outwardly, things may not seem so serious, but it is a lie that serves as the basis for literally all the bad things in the world.

For example, any kind of nationalism represents a lie that some nations on earth are higher or more important than others. God loves all His children and all nations.

Promoting any sinful behavior represents a lie that this path leads to happiness (let alone what it'll bring us after earthly life).

And there are also lies in world views, distortion of historical and modern facts, false reference points and goals in life.

And much, much more.

So a lie can't be harmless. It's not just a few letters, it is the opposite of everything honest, right, divine on earth, the foundation for anything dark and sinful.

Today such times, when lies already often try to imagine to people, as not the worst door leading somewhere. However, in reality, there is nothing behind this door. There's no future behind the lies.

Illusions

We almost always perceive the world the way we see it. However, in fact, we only observe the above-water part of the iceberg our whole lives. But the reality we live in also has the

underwater part which is much bigger and not visible to the human eye. Nevertheless, it's there, and one day, this reality will be revealed to each of us.

This part, which is yet invisible, is the wide world of the Lord, who leads and guides every person in his earthly life, and also manages many processes on Earth. There are Heavenly inhabitants, different methods and laws, that helps people to make it through the "school of life" on the planet. Of course, we are used to taking all achievements as our merits. But it's only part of the truth, and sometimes, it's really a small part.

The education of human souls is the baseline for all the events that take place on earth. A few dozen billion people have already lived and died on our planet throughout history – many more than people on the planet now. And they all did something, ate something, were interested in something. However, it doesn't really matter anymore today.

What really matters is whether these people became kind, honest, forgiving or not. If they did, they're still living their lives in the eternal and beautiful world of the Lord. If not, their earthly lives were, actually, in vain.

If God stopped regulating the world, chaos would appear quite fast. But all people on earth should have a chance to get spiritual education and think about important things. Otherwise, the only valuable “fruits” of the Earth won't grow. Therefore, the Lord is closely monitoring this.

Of course, all this in no way diminishes the merits of people in their desire to develop and improve the world. Respect and care for relatives, friends, country, world – this is what makes a person a person. However, two thousand years ago, the Lord came to earth to teach us how to add faith to our good deeds.

And also to love the Creator of such elevated and beautiful life principles.

Superstition

There are some topics in humanity that are difficult to be serious about. There's just very little common sense in them. Superstition is one of these topics. So, what are superstitions and omens? Where do they come from and how are they destroyed? Let's try to figure this out a little.

Of course, every person on this planet wants to be successful and happy. The statement, that only the Creator of man knows the absolutely accurate secret of human happiness, sounds more than logical. However, logic doesn't always reign on earth. Moreover, sometimes, it seems that the more obvious the truth is, the more people want to look for it somewhere else.

So, the people who do look for the truth with good logic come to faith as they learn about the abundance of God's miracles on earth over thousands of years. Faith leads them to the commandments of the Lord. After that, these people find an understandable explanation for all negative or positive life situations based on the laws of the Creator of the world.

Despite this, there are not as many believers on earth as the Creator would like. But everyone wants to be happy and successful. That's why many "secrets of happiness" from other sources are also very popular in the modern world. Plenty of different books in esoteric stores can confirm this. But since they are rarely based on the laws of God, their efficiency is not

as high as their creators promise. And over time, this becomes obvious.

But the laws of the Creator of this world are quite simple. For example, all the bad things that a person has done in life will return like boomerang. Same is true for good deeds. Also, a sinful life can never lead a person to happiness.

However, if there's no faith in a person, it's difficult to accept the inevitability of these rules. But everyone wants to protect themselves from troubles and, preferably, do this the easy way. Therefore, various superstitions and omens appear.

Superstitions are the most primitive and unsubstantiated explanations for our troubles, which also give primitive recommendations on their prevention. Usually, quite a bit of logic is enough to understand their absurdity. After all, if you make a list of superstitions in different nations, you can see that they are very different and often contradict each other. It is difficult to find at least some common sense in them. However, the fear of trouble in people is stronger than common sense. That's why superstitions have exist for a very long time.

How does one get rid of the belief in omens? The shortest and most reliable way is to begin to correctly understand the world headed by its Creator. As you know, serious knowledge quickly crowds out ridiculous and primitive beliefs. Often this process is accompanied by cheerful smiles...

Heroes and Superheroes

People have always had role models and it's always been like that. Fearless heroes, brave commanders, great sages - they all inspired others to follow their example. It has always been useful for a person to see that someone could achieve a lot. It brought him strength and gave hope.

Then Christianity appeared on earth and people were given the commandments pointing the way to God. They seemed unusual to people because of their focus on kindness, forgiveness, faith. Compliance with these commandments required great courage, and people who staunchly followed these rules became righteous men and saints. Subsequently, they also became role models for many people. Because, when a person diligently keeps the commandments of the Creator of the world, it leads him to eternal life in Heaven.

Today, everything has changed a lot in humanity. In recent decades, we can see new types of heroes on TV screens, computers and in movie theaters. These are fictional superheroes. As a rule, they're fantastic characters with some superhuman abilities. Superheroes quickly became popular among people and especially among children. So popular, that they replaced some of the former role models.

As a rule, superheroes are generally positive characters who fight evil or protect humanity. And this is definitely their positive side. But are there any negative moments in the story with superheroes?

There are, though they're not so obvious. Well, first, former role models of people were real people. That is, their example showed that a person can reach pretty high if he tries hard. In the

case of superheroes, their superhuman abilities is initially unattainable for an ordinary man. This means that there's no incentive to try to become like them, no incentive to strive for something. Superheroes are disconnected from real life and people.

The Lord's commandments and many moral values of nations in different parts of the world teach people to live together in peace. All saints and righteous men are, in fact, close brothers. However, that's not always the case among superheroes. Usually, they have a charismatic personality and sometimes a sharp temper. Quite often, different superheroes are at odds with each other.

One last thing. The popularity of superheroes shows that this image is close to many people today. It's simpler and doesn't force a person to achieve something, to strive for different things, doesn't make a person feel guilty for his own laziness and inaction. However, the example of the real Jacques Cousteau awakens the craving for the underwater world, the example of Gagarin makes a person attracted to space, the examples of saints show people that Heaven is attainable. But what does Spider-Man lead us to?

Superheroes are fictional characters. Their presence on the screen doesn't change the real life of a person. They're an absolute fantasy. But our life is real, God is real, His commandments are real, and so are the different variants of our future which depend on our behavior. And one more reality is that we can only succeed in our life by doing something ourselves.

Depression

The soul is simple but at the same time, it is the most complex organ in the human. It's simple because the causes of all joys and sorrows of the human soul are actually very simple. They are known to people already for 2000 years. Our soul is happy when it loves, does good, forgives, and lives a honest and moral life.

However, if we deceive someone, do bad things, condemn, get angry and don't want to forgive, then our soul gets sick. It happens because, in this case, we do the things that our soul just cannot accept. And if we do such things quite often, then our soul is sick more seriously. People call this state 'depression'.

On the other hand, our soul is a complex organ, too, because any attempt to control or influence it never does any good. The steady increase in the number of depression cases all over the world, despite the great effort of scientists, provide good evidence of this Why is it so? Well, it is so because the Creator created our soul in a way, that it cannot be controlled or influenced.

Considering the fact that only a good and pure soul is the real reason for happiness of a person, the secret of people's happiness remains unchanged too.

Of course, people try to improve the state of their soul with the help of alcohol or different pills. However, if a person doesn't change his views and habits in the right direction, then the effect is always will be temporary. Alcohol and pills cannot heal one's soul. The human soul is healed only according to the rules of its Creator.

Words and Sounds

The way to understand the important things in life usually comes through words. A word is something that resonates in one's memory and gives rise to some thought. Words can make people think about many different things. If not, then it's not a word, it's only a sound. Sounds don't make sense.

A word can be both a word and a sound at the same time. For example, a word pronounced in one of the world languages is a word for native speakers of such language, but it's just a sound for those who don't know this language.

Besides, sometimes, words can remain sounds even though we understand their meaning. An example involves the case whereby a five-year-old child is listening to a textbook on quantum physics. Or, a convinced atheist is listening to the Gospel. In these cases, words also become sounds, but the filters in this situation are the lack of education and ideological presets. There are a lot of similar filters in humanity.

However, the Creator of our world still somehow must explain the most important things to everyone on the planet, regardless of their perception. That's why He solves this difficult task very flexibly, depending on the situation. This explanation is necessary because every person on earth is His child. And Father really wants to give His children the most important things – things that'll make them happy in their earthly life and bring them back to His perfect home afterwards.

So, He says different words to different people but talks about one thing. To Christians, the Creator recalls the things that He said two thousand years ago through His Son. And these are the most accurate and detailed words about the main things in

humanity. By the way, it's no coincidence that another name of His Son is Logos ("Word").

For people of other world views and philosophies, Creator finds other words that they can understand. He tries to choose the words that would be very close to the main sense: about the importance of honesty, forgiveness and morality. Fortunately, there are already many related good and right words stored in different books, films, and other sources.

That's how the word from the Creator of the world gradually promotes real evolution. And those people who perceive everything from Him namely as words and seriously think about it, make thereby a good gift to their Creator and to themselves.

Horizon

The modern world is very material. Nowadays, people spend their whole lives trying to improve their living conditions. These improvements can be various: some people try to get a better-paid occupation, some want to improve the housing conditions, some buy a new car-computer-smartphone, and much more... They think that this can help them to be happy. The world that they live in fosters this idea through advertising and different opinions. But is it true?

Actually, it's quite easy to check the concept of "identity of wealth and happiness". Let's look into the most luxurious houses and prestigious cars. Do you really see the most cheerful, kind and happy people owning these? I think the answer is obvious.

It's not that difficult to understand this situation. Our modern world is very pragmatic and it's profitable to make all people

consumers. However, the "purchasing psychology" of happiness is actually like the horizon. You can walk towards it but you can never reach it. You'll always see something else that you need to buy or improve in order to "become happy".

To prove this idea, we should just look back and think logically. After all, everything that we have today, especially at the technical level, was the limit of human dreams just ten or fifteen years ago. And now, almost everyone has it but there's no surge of happiness in the world.

Of course, this doesn't mean that we don't have to earn money, achieve and strive for something in life. No, it doesn't interfere at all. However, we should realize what really makes us happy. And first of all, we should understand that our happiness is definitely not located beyond the financial and technical horizon.

To find happiness, we should look at the usual road that we walk every day rather than at the horizon. This road hides all the secrets to human happiness. Our thoughts about some "phantom happy horizon" only distracts us from the right search.

Happiness lies in the very joy of life, in movement. It's in our lovely surrounding, in our cheerful smile. The happiness of a person is in his kind look at the world and people. It's always within the pure and loving heart.

Happiness is also in the singing of the birds, in the fresh breeze, in the boundless sea along which we walk sometimes. And that we often don't even notice, because we are busy looking at the "happy horizon".

The Past

Nowadays you can more often face the opinion that the previous experience of humankind doesn't matter greatly anymore. Some people think that in our times everything looks absolutely different and even a child today can adapt to the modern conditions better than his or her grandfather or grandmother.

What is here to say? Only time and life, as always, will give a real appreciation of everything. And the result of this 'separation of the advanced generation from its roots' already presents in the statistic of the last changes in humankind. These statistics sadly show that people have no real significant reason to be proud.

The quantity of families and their children in the world have decreased significantly; many diseases that relate to sedentary lifestyle and constant engaging with screens have emerged. And many, many other things. Besides, there are now more cynicism and coldness in the world. All these demonstrate serious problems in mankind more likely than its progress. By the way, all these deviations today are mainly fixed by these very "grandparents", who, fortunately, are still here.

Now, about God. It is noted that the contemporary generation of youth is much less religious. What is not surprisingly - everyday many hour-long presence in computers forms the corresponding areas of interest and communication. And the topics about God, as we know, are far from the first place here.

However, nobody has canceled every human's death yet. Thousands of miracles from God that have occurred on Earth for many hundreds of years, and which undoubtedly prove His

absolute possession of the world, remains a fact. And that means that human destiny after death is also determined not by some newfangled computer program but only by the observance of the ancient, for some people of the “old-fashioned” commandments of the Lord. But if to take into account that life in Paradise is eternal, and on the Earth is only few decades long, then people should definitely redirect all their logic and pragmatism to this “ancient” question.

Of course, flowers and leaves always look more beautiful on a tree. The trunk and root behind them are not even noticeable sometimes. Nevertheless, the beauty and well-being of all flowers and leaves on a tree depends namely on them. However, when it happens that some modern leaves begin to question the value of their roots, then ...

Another Tomorrow

Humankind will not stay the same. Unlikely, the new generation will ever read “Robinson Crusoe” or “Three Musketeers” with enthusiasm. Why would they need it? Now, it has various games and it can discover unknown islands in them by itself, or fight for evil or good. (Well, it depends on what choosing in the settings).

The spirit of previous times is leaving, and today’s older generation seems to be the last carrier of it. Words like “romanticism”, “healthy adventurism”, “thirst for discoveries” are still familiar to them. These notions have existed on earth for hundreds of years.

What will the new generation be like, how long and in what way will it exist on Earth? Who would know about that? It is very different.

It explores the world mostly through the screens of their computers and smartphones. It does not very much like to wake up early and go somewhere in order to see how the sun rises or dolphins swim. What for? The dolphins are clearly visible on the screens of smartphones. You can stop the video, zoom in the image and look at the cute face.

Being in beautiful places on Earth, this generation cares a lot about “selfie”. It likes making ‘the story of its life’ - it sees significant meaning in it. On the Internet, the new generation likes to create the new corners of its ‘I’, that it shows there to others ‘I’.

This is a completely new epoch (well, or just time). And, according to the existing signs today, it may probably be called the “Epoch of the flourishing of self-expression of personality”.

All days will come

At times, it may seem to us that time moves very slowly and almost stands still. But, it is not so – eventually, every day will come anyway.

In childhood, it seems that we will never graduate from this boring school and will never transit to adulthood. However, the day when we cross its threshold for the last time in order not to return to the desk inevitably comes.

Then, it seems that we will not soon have serious relationships with somebody, will not soon have our family, children. But in exactly the same way a moment when we suddenly realize with surprise that we are already inside all this comes. And that our family life has become an ordinary reality for us.

It also seems to us that our 30th or 40th anniversary - the age of real dinosaurs - is still very, very far from us. However, one day we inevitably wake up at fifty. And suddenly we understand that life has not ended, and moreover - it is very interesting.

We also hardly believe that, necessarily, we will ever become grandmothers or grandfathers. But again, the moment comes when children of our children are already in our arms. And we rejoice and understand that this is great.

However, most of all in life we don't believe that our life itself will once end. That one day we will have to leave our body and appear before the Creator. But, this day will come as well...

School or Park

It's difficult to live on earth without God. Without Him, the world often turns into "Jurassic Park" with a full range of relevant dangers.

There is a deadly nuclear weapon behind a rock. Global warming is sneaking up on humanity from behind tall trees.

Financial crises and an evil set of dangerous diseases are sitting behind the bush. And the whole forest is like that.

Moreover, at the end of this route even the most experienced traveler will run into a ruthless crocodile called "death". Yes, there is something to become sad about...

However, things are different with God. In this case, life becomes a school for our soul with a large set of different situations and circumstances. With the help of the Lord's commandments, perseverance and diligence, one can finish this school quite comfortably, and in the foreseeable future.

However, visible, visible skeptical smile unbelievers here: 'Cheating somebody themselves to lighten the mood!' Despite the fact that God's existence is not self-delusion, but is a historical fact which anyone can easily verify, skeptics couldn't care less. Despite the thousands of evidence there is, even if there were to be millions of them – whosoever does not want to believe will not believe.

Nowadays, anything can be disputed, even the skies above. But, there is a catch. The skeptic, who wins this dispute, won't see anything but the crocodile at the end of his life...

God is raising friends

All the people on Earth are children of God by birth. His biological children. However, when the Lord created the earth

and settled people on it, He wanted to have not just biological children there.

Why does He need them? If God just wanted to look at something funny or beautiful, it would be much easier to fill the earth with nice little animals with fluffy tails and cute faces. They don't oblige Him to anything, they delight the eye and are a million times less troublesome than people.

The Lord created the Earth in order to raise not just His children but His like-minded people, friends. Those who would appreciate honesty, reliability, kindness, and other high moral principles most of all in life. For whom these qualities are the most important, and who would never trade them for anything else, especially for the bad.

To educate such high human souls, God created a voluntary and publicly available school of morality on earth. It has existed for thousands of years. At different times, the teachers in this school were dozens of God's prophets, His Son, and thousands of saints after Him. In this school, a person can study the views and principles that one should firmly follow to become better and closer to the Creator. The basis of all education there is the Lord's commandments.

The Lord always appreciates freedom of choice and never demands love or respect from people. And how can one make someone love? This feeling always comes only from a free heart and only voluntarily. Those who choose the Father's school gradually learn to correctly see and understand all the things in life. After that, they begin to feel many things more correctly.

Yes, the real children of God adore Him with all their hearts. They adore Him for the great love and highest meanings in life which He opens them and to which He is leading and for the happiness that fills their hearts as a result of such a life. For them, He is the Sun of everything and, all together, they are the most united and beautiful family.

And this is the family, for which God created the Earth.

Black and White

'Don't mess with me. This is black and this is white! There's nothing more to discuss.'

'What a conservative mindset you have! As if you did not graduate from a modern University but live in the wilderness, in the uneducated past century. You're afraid of a new thought and don't want to call into question the things that you see.'

'Get off me. This is white and this is black.'

Three years have passed.

'I see that you think over my words from time to time.'

'No, I don't think about it at all. This is white and this is black.'

'That's right. But what is black? And who called black 'black'? Did you see him? I didn't. So, maybe black is actually white from a different perspective?'

'Don't confuse me. Black is black and white is white.'

Three years have passed.

'Finally, you begin to see the world from a higher position. I'm so happy for you, so happy!'

'Well, I don't know. Anyway, white seems white to me and black seems black.'

'Perfect, you are already beginning to see the gist. It *seems*, namely, *seems* to you. However, black, as you call it, seems white to me. But which of us is right?'

'But I've been taught that since I was a child...'

'Exactly. However, are you sure that your teacher knew the truth? Are you a hundred percent sure? His teaching is outdated and mine is modern. Could the more educated one be lower?'

Three years have passed.

'Well, basically, I can admit that black - is not black. At the same time, I still cannot call it white.'

'What indecision! It's the courage in approaches that has always moved humanity forward. Otherwise, we'd still be living in caves.'

'I haven't thought of that before...'

Three years have passed.

'Yeah, now I can clearly see that black is white. They became the same.'

'And now you're wrong again! Actually, the thing that you call white is black. You just need to see how much black there is in white...'

* * *

It's not just an abstract conversation. This is the logic of changing world views in humanity on basic issues over the past few decades. Only the roles of white and black perform good and bad, honesty and lies, beauty and disharmony, righteousness and sin, God and the devil.

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