

Has Russia Really Made Us Second Rate?

By REV. HENRY A. ATWELL

When the full white moon rose serene in the sky Thursday evening, November 7th, I found myself echoing the prayer of St. Francis:

Praise be to Thee, O Lord, for sister Moon
and for the stars,
in heaven Thou hast formed them shining,
precious, fair.

I fully expected to see the moon that night stained by the blast of a Soviet rocket flaunting the Russians power on the fortieth anniversary of the Red revolution.

Even if the Communists didn't get to the moon that day, they certainly have come a long way since 1917.

The Red regime today reaches from East Berlin five thousand miles across Europe and Asia to Peking. Kremlin control is felt in Damascus, Cairo, and in the primitive royal tents of African jungle kings.

A million anguished human hearts mourn the brutal torture, death, or exile of their loved ones, victims of the Soviet system of slave labor and ruthless uprooting of whole nations to advance the Communist cause.

DESPITE FORTY YEARS of persecution, Christian faith survives, in chains and hobbled by close state scrutiny in scattered Orthodox churches and in but two Catholic churches—tokens of "freedom" according to Soviet propaganda but in reality more like haunting ghosts of a murdered man.

This same nation which has killed its own people, closed their centuries old churches, exiled and purged its own top leaders, starved its citizens, invaded its neighbor, persecuted millions—this is the nation which today commands the awe struck admiration of the free world's scientists and makes London, Delhi, and Washington court its favor.

We are told in headlines that the United States is now five years behind the Russians. Analysts warn us we must compromise, crawl, or some way appease that mysterious Moscow monolith which—like some vast vulture—grows as others die.

We are told Russia's school system makes college graduates of youngsters the age of our eighth graders. Soviet pupils work calculus and electronics problems at an age American pupils begin to struggle with simple algebra.

On all sides we hear that these are uniquely critical times in which we live and as citizens and as Christians we instinctively ask, "What should I do?"

Certainly we should realize that times have been critical before—from the day Adam looked at the forbidden fruit in Eden, through the days when Jesus our Saviour trod the roads of Galilee, into the ages when barbarians swept aside the civilization and culture of ancient Rome, on the day when Luther posted his defiance against the Church the Lord had built, and finally on a hundred other dates when decisions shaped the destinies of decades. Mistakes and tragedies have made a sorry picture of man's much vaunted wisdom but if you sift the facts you must admit this human race has groped its way through the centuries on a path ever upward.

AMERICA WE KNOW BEST so let's take a second look at this country we are told is so far behind, which must hang its head in shame in the face of Russian accomplishments.

Maybe Moscow does have some scientists in advance of some of ours, maybe there are pupils in Moscow who prefer calculus to Mickey Mouse—but how many families in Russia today have a home like yours, how many children on some Ukrainian farm ride in a shiny bus to an ultra-modern school, how many Kremlin scientists are free to make life more comfortable, more enjoyable for the millions of peasants who groan under so-called Soviet superiority?

How many Russians, just the ordinary people like yourself, do you think can go to their town hall in Murmansk or Novosibirsk to register their objection to a new sewer tax or the way the supervisor paves their streets?

How many Russians, just the ordinary people, have a car in their driveway, a deep freeze in the cellar, a television in the living room, a shower bath upstairs, and the sense of freedom to come and go as they choose?

And how many in Moscow tonight can walk down a street to a parish church, light a flickering candle and kneel in silence to adore their tabernacled God?

THESE QUESTIONS are not indicative that we should settle back into any complacency. The Soviets are set on our ultimate destruction—their basic philosophy and their repeated statements make that clear. We have need to admit their accomplishments and determine that we will redouble our efforts to preserve our way of life and someday, God speed the day, to set the Russians free of their own masters.

In our efforts to continue our progress, however, we must advance not with a sense of being second-rate. That would be to surrender our hearts to the Kremlin propaganda mills. As Americans, as Christians and Catholics, as free men we are proud of our heritage and we are confident we shall keep true to our destiny to lead the world to peace, to justice, to freedom.

JOSEPH BREIG

Old Movies Reveal Folly Of Film Fame

I saw some excerpts the other day from movies which had won Academy Awards in the past, and I must say that I was moved to give thanks for my own occupation of writing.

I mean no offense to anybody when I say that these old and once highly honored films, which millions paid millions to see, were incredibly silly and funny.

The more seriously they originally intended, the more ridiculous they were. This is not a mere personal opinion. The audience howled with mirth.

The scenes devoted to what Hollywood calls love were the most preposterous. The obvious reason for this was that

love is beyond Hollywood's grasp.

HOLLYWOOD'S ATTEMPTS to portray love are almost invariably caricatures and burlesques. Only the glitter and glamor of the moment prevents audiences from realizing the fact when the films are first released.

Let a few years pass, let the costumes become a bit outmoded so that the superficialities are stripped away, and what remains is absurdity.

Nevertheless, year after year, solemn ceremonies are televised in order that the absurdities may be celebrated in the awarding of Oscars.

Writers, producers and players, overcome with emotion, hasten forward with bated breath to receive what must surely be the most ephemeral honor in the history of human expression.

Is There A Man On The Moon?

If a flying saucer lands in your block, it is possible you may have nothing to fear from its pilot.

He could be a being which God created with no desire to do evil and therefore, he would not wage war or harm others.

However, there are other possibilities. And among them is the chance that he may be strongly inclined to evil.

THESE SPECULATIONS come from Father Francis J. Connell, C.S.S.R., noted Redemptorist theologian, who was asked for a comment on the recent recurrence of reported sightings of "unidentified flying objects."

Catholic teachings do not rule out the possibility of life, perhaps akin to our own, on another planet, the dean of the School of Sacred Theology at the Catholic University of America said.

"Revelation, the common teaching of the Fathers, tradition, the solemn pronouncements of the Popes—none of these say there cannot be life other than on earth," he said.

"Theologians have never dared to limit the omnipotence of God to the creation of the world we know," he added.

Father Connell cautioned, though, that he had "no intention of discussing the factual problem of whether or not the 'flying objects' are actually space ships from other planets."

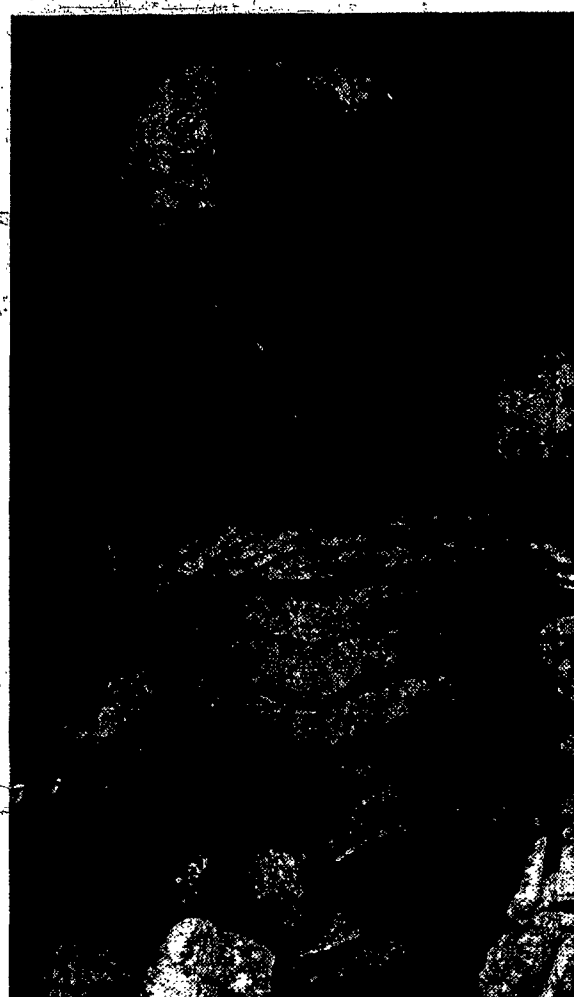
BUT IF GOD DID create other rational beings, theologians can imagine a variety of states in which they might exist, he declared.

It could be these beings received from God the same supernatural and preternatural gifts given to Adam and Eve—and never lost them.

Thus, they might still be living in a paradise of pleasure, such as Genesis says Adam and Eve enjoyed before they ate the forbidden fruit.

"They might be intellectually and physically far more superior to us, and it would be reasonable to suppose they would be far ahead of us—even to mastering inter-planetary travel," he said.

Granting that they lived in a world of enlightened intellect and had wills adher-



If you ever meet a man from outer space, don't worry! He probably won't look like this. He might be very much just like us.

ing faithfully to God, it can be assumed they would not wage war, or that they have not even invented weapons, he stated.

"ANOTHER POSSIBILITY, however," continued Father Connell, "is a world of rational beings who, like the fallen angels, sinned against God and were never given another chance to be re-instated in God's grace."

"Such a group could be creatures with keen intellects, but with wills strongly inclined to evil. They would, naturally, be unlikely to bring our mankind any good," the theologian mused.

There are at least two other major possibilities, according to Father Connell.



Scientists and theologians say there may be intelligent creatures living on other worlds out in space. These spacemen may someday travel to earth via a flying saucer.

"But all these are mere suppositions by theologians. God may have produced beings in a number of other different circumstances."

"It is possible these conjectured beings were given a supernatural destiny from God and extraordinary preternatural gifts—and like our first parents, they sinned and lost them."

If such might be the case, it is possible God could have arranged for their Redemption.

"It could be that the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity assumed the nature of rational beings of another world, as well as human nature on earth. Or, one of the other Divine Persons could have become incarnate on another planet," he said.

A NOTEWORTHY MAJOR POSSIBILITY, he said, is that these beings "could have been created in a purely natural state, without any supernatural or preternatural gifts and with merely a natural, but eternal destiny."

In other words, he explained, they would have been destined after death to a purely natural happiness for all eternity, but without the possibility of seeing God. "Their condition would have been similar to that now given infants who die without Baptism."

They could be mortal and somewhat similar to inhabitants of earth, but without any means of supernatural grace. "Their intellect might be more perfect or less perfect than ours," he said.

Father Connell pointed out that theologians have speculated on the problem of life on other planets long before "flying saucers," and talk of realizing inter-planetary travel.

More than 70 years ago, the question was discussed by Father Angelo Secchi, famous Italian astronomer, and Jacques Monod, a French Dominican orator. Both admitted the possibility of rational creatures existing on another planet," he said. Numerous other theologians have discussed the topic since, he added.

Making Marriage Click

Holy Little Devils!

By MSGR. IRVING A. DEBLANC
(Director, Family Life Bureau, N.C.W.C.)

"Last June one of the smartest girls in our class averaging a straight A topped the religion meday at graduation exercises. Our pastor proudly made the presentation during the Church services. A few minutes later this winner walked down the Church aisle, jumped into an auto and eloped. Now, are we confused? Please explain." Dorothy.



Monsignor DeBlanc

In trying to quote St. Augustine who prayed, "Lord, teach me to know Thee teach me to know myself." A human being is so often a mystery to himself, a Dr. Jekyll and a Mr. Hyde, a devil and a Jesus, child of God and a yellow dog all at one time.

We may suggest a dozen explanations for your own Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. I will mainly submit the following, Dorothy, because it is rarely stressed.

Some notable psychologists teach that at four, or even three years of age, a child's basic disposition is already crystallized.

The child immediately after birth is somewhat visceral. Though, of course, a distinct individual, he extends his moth-

er somewhat like a branch extends a tree. To attack his mother is to attack him and so he cries loudly.

THE WEANING PERIOD is strategic and important. The child gauges his security not only through his stomach and his senses but also through the affection which he constantly receives and which is as necessary as bread and water. Babies just a few months old can feel so rejected at this time that they stop eating, get sick, wither away and die.

In an understaffed orphanage a high mortality rate forced the supervisors to invite motherly volunteers who would come in daily to give a child two or three extra hours of affection.

Give a child proper security then and he will be ready to go to school for a few hours a day before he is six. I know this is a controversial question. But the youngster knows that affection and security are now in a bank; he knows that he can draw on them whenever he needs them. Joining other little friends for hours at a time should rather help him than hurt him.

A CHILD NEEDS a father concept as much as he needs one of his mother. The concept of each will differ but one is as important as the other. So both parents must then personally care for a child, both should experience putting him to bed, feeding him, saying prayers with him, blessing him with a little sign of the cross, listening to him, talking to him even if it means putting down "the daily paper."

Regardless of the occasional lack of virtue that obscures some parents, the child must be given a reverent concept of "Morn and Dad" as both parents must promote this concept and no sabotage!

There is a danger when a nurse is the one principally training a child, that the child may never get a truly helpful concept of his parents.

In a normal parent-child relationship a child loves his mother as much as his father. Ask a child, "whose baby are you?" and the answer should be "Mommy's and Daddy's." If the child happens to constantly be one-sided in his affection, the other parent had better get moving in a hurry—double time. The power of a parent!

Purgatory

OBJECTION: One of the proofs of the falseness of the Catholic Church is its invention of the doctrine of Purgatory.

Nowhere in the Bible can the word "Purgatory" be found. Moreover, the Bible tells us that if we believe in Christ we go to heaven or hell when we die—not to a fictitious Purgatory.

ANSWER: To deny the fact of Purgatory because the word itself is not found in the Bible is surely unreasonable.

The question is, does the Bible ever speak as if there would be some atonement for sin after death, outside of the eternal punishment of hell?

The answer is yes.

Our Lord Himself spoke of one sin (the sin of speaking against the Holy Ghost) that "shall not be forgiven him in this world, nor in the world to come." He thereby clearly assumed that His hearers knew there was a process of atonement for some sins in the world to come.

The place where that process is carried out is what Catholics call "Purgatory."

With regard to Christ's statement, "He that believeth shall be saved," it must be remembered that He also said: "If thou wouldst enter into life, keep the commandments."

Certainly the goodness and justice of God demand that there are different degrees of gravity attached to breaking different commandments that He gave.

Is one to be sent to hell for a thoughtless word of anger? or for a distraction at prayer?

As a proof that there are grave infractions of the commandments which condemn a soul to hell and light infractions that can be atoned for "in the world to come." Our Lord spoke of sin to be paid for in prison "to the last farthing."

We know that nothing in the least defiled can enter heaven, because the Bible says so. There must therefore be a place for small defilements to be cleansed away after death.

IT IS ONLY by denying, with Martin Luther, the necessity or possibility of keeping the commandments (which is clearly unscriptural) that one can avoid seeing the reasonableness of Purgatory and the miracle of Christ concerning it.

That priests invented Purgatory to make money has been stated often by those who hate the Catholic Church. The above facts prove that priests did not invent Purgatory but that God did.

Pope Appeals For Modesty In Women's Fashions

Pope Pius XII in effect told Catholic women of the world this week, "Be beautiful but don't be dumb!"

His hour long address to fashion designers in Rome gave practical advice to the gentler sex on modesty in the way they dress.

The points he stressed proved the Pontiff is a realist. He admits that a girl has a right to look attractive but he insists that often she must dare to be different to defend her dignity against shameless styles of dress.

The Pope does not expect women to go back to styles current in the gay 90's nor does he say a schoolgirl going to a prom should dress like a nun in a gaudy convent.

He said women must realize that the way they dress is a "moral problem" and they must face the fact that immodest styles are responsible for a good share of the current breakdown of morals.

The Pope is also very much the realist in his realization that fashions are quite consistently swayed back and forth by dress designers who deliberately create style changes simply to make money. Hem lines go up and down, bodices rise and fall not to make my lady fair but simply to sell her a new creation even if last year's Christian Dior gown made her a ravishing beauty.

STYLES, SAID THE POPE, may indeed gild the lily to make the fairer sex fairer still, but there are "limits" marking the frontier between modesty and shamelessness. He did not stoop to make measurements of just how long a sleeve must be or how high the neckline. He even admitted customs vary according to country, but common sense in people can decide when a fashion "oversteps the bounds of normal modesty."

To a great extent, the Pope pointed out, styles these days are popularized by the actresses of movie and TV fame, and the ordinary people just tag along. He appealed to these actresses to set the pattern for a return to modesty, and he called the people to do their own independent thinking and styling in defense of decency.

In the final analysis immodesty is not just a question of a dress that is too décollete but more so in the way and the reason it is worn. That means, the Pope continued, that any return of fashions to a Christian concept of style must start from the intentions of those who design fashions and of those who wear them.

If we are going to take the Pope's words to heart there will have to be a notable change in the prevalent styles seen on a suburban summer Sunday or at the beach parties of high society.

Actually most modest minded women are aware of these facts. They simply are swept along in a swirl of "everybody else is doing it" philosophy so they don a dress or outfit their daughter contrary to their Christian conscience. A moment's thought would remind all women that true beauty is not best revealed by cheap exhibitionism. The Pope's counsel to them is simply to be true to their dignity. Women who dress modestly, said the Pontiff, possess their God-given beauty unspoiled by the whims of passing fads.

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Parent On

St. Paul has reprimanded who told parents pressed no r.

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