

TUESDAY READINGS MORNING TALK (Talk 4)

1. REFERENCES GIVEN IN TALK

Malcolm Muggeridge: *The Infernal Grove*, Page 11

“The saddest thing to me, in looking back on my life has been to recall, not so much the wickedness I have been involved in, the cruel and selfish things I have done, the hurt that I have afflicted on those I love – although that’s painful enough! What hurts most is the preference I have shown for what is inferior, tenth rate, when the first rate was therefore the having. Like the man who goes shopping for shoes, and comes back with cardboard ones instead of leather, with dried fruit when he might have had fresh, with processed cheese when he might have had cheddar, with paper flowers when the roses were out. “Nothing is so beautiful and wonderful nothing so continually fresh and surprising, so full of sweet ecstasy as the good.” Simone Weil writes, “No desert is so dreary, monotonous and boring as evil.”

“In both cases it seemed to me, the significant thing was the ready acceptance of fantasy as reality; even a predilection in favour of fantasy, and any abhorrence of reality. Why? It was the question of questions confronting me, I could only wail and lament by the lake shore....as I remembered my own readiness to take the plastic wings of fantasy, to listen with Caliban to the sounds and sweet airs which give such delight and hurt not, so that when we wake – but we never do – we cry to sleep again. All I could claim – so miniscule a claim – was that I knew, had always known, would always know, that the alternative reality existed, and that all to carelessly and faithlessly, I had looked for it, aware that this quest was the only true and serious purpose life held.”

Revelation 3:16

“Write this to the angel of the Church in Laodicea, “Thus says the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s creation: “I know your works: you are neither hot nor cold. You are luke-warm, neither hot nor cold so I will spit you out of my mouth. You think you are rich and have piled up so much that you need nothing, but you do not realise that you are wretched and to be pitied, poor blind and naked.”

The Cloud of Unknowing

“Should all the saints and angels in heaven join with all the members of the church on earth, both religious and lay, at every degree of Christian holiness and pray for my growth in humility. I am certain it would not profit me as much, nor bring me to the perfection of this virtue as quickly as a little self-knowledge. Indeed, it is altogether impossible to arrive at perfect humility without it. And therefore, do not shrink from the seat and toil involved in gaining real self knowledge, for I am sure that when you have acquired it you will very soon come to an experiential knowledge of God’s goodness and love”

Living in the Truth Michael Casey, Page 130

“The monk becomes aware of thoughts and feelings that are at variance with his stated aspirations and external conduct and he is aware that sometimes these find expression in secret activities. When this becomes more than a transitory phenomenon, he is forced to adopt a stance. He may compartmentalise his life so that the private sphere is split off from his public persona. He is leading a **double life**. Alternatively, he may rationalise his aberrations. This will cause his mind to be **possessed by a basic untruthfulness**. Thirdly, he may feel so badly about this inconsistency and his incapacity to improve matters that his **commitments to the continuance of his vocation are undermined**.”

2. LECTIO DIVINA: FROM ANXIETY TO TRUST

Jn 14:1-7 Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still and trust in me.

Other Texts:

1Th 4:1-12	We have been called by God to be holy.
Heb 6:1-20	God will not forget your love.
Rom 4:18-25	Abraham's faith ... God's fidelity.
Lk 12:22-31	Trust in Abba.
Ps 91	Trust in God.
Ps 131	In the arms of God our Mother.

Mgr John Armitage
Walsingham
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