

Anastasija Cumika

Donald Maldari

THE 184-01

13 December 2016

Our Solution is beyond the immanent reality

Uncle Wilbur, that is really sad that you did not have a chance to take a theology class in your college because this class gives a great view on our world which helps to understand our life better. Along with that understanding of theology helps to solve some moral issues, including probably the most important one for theology – selfishness. Apparently you have asked yourself where did selfishness come from and why even though we are selfish we want to help people around us. Such a willing to love people around and be selfish cannot go together and we hope that at some point altruistic love will win selfishness inside us. Meanwhile science answers the questions “how”, theology is looking for answers to all these moral dilemmas and try to answer the questions “why”. The article states that society is not build on selfishness which supports Christian theology that is mainly built on the fact that altruistic love will bring community to success, even though it is impossible to reach that goal in the immanent reality.

The main “why” question for the whole nation is why do we live. Many people would say: “I live to get better, to succeed”. Everyone has their own goals and understands the success in different variations weather its money, power or a big family with five awesome kids. Theology has an answer to the question what the main goal for all people together is – to be a united community with altruistic love that will bring us all to fulfillment which is the main success. In real life when people get united they have a better success. For example, when a sport team plays as a team they have a better chance to win comparing to the team where every individual wants to be the best. Although we have this feeling inside us that we want to help each other and be unite, selfishness is like a little devil on our shoulder that does not let us to reach the main goal.

According to bible, selfishness has its roots all the way back to Adam and Eve when they committed original sin – disobedience God's will and ate the fruit of knowledge of good and evil. By eating this fruit, they were trying to be God but God is only one. However, this story is only etiological myth, it only shows us the insights. In actual historical context, *Sitz im Leben*, there was no Adam and Eve, so Daryl Dominic come up with the idea of original selfishness. Dominic states that selfishness was always part of us because it drives evolution. Comparing to the animals and plants people have conscious, so we know that selfishness is bad and we are willing to be good. Mostly people are selfish in order to get more power, be God, that is why it is a sin and it is bad. However, we cannot imagine our world without selfishness because it drives the development. If people were not tending to be selfish they would never invent all the stuff, we have now because all the invention ideas were driven by the selfless willing to be better than others and to have more power. Another function of selfishness in our lives is that it helps us to survive. It brings a competition in our world and at some point some species die, some keep living. Same with people we are always competing with each other in order to survive and get a better life.

As individuals realize they have a better chance to succeed in groups they cooperate. This is how push of selfishness pulls altruism: "The development of altruism goes hand in hand with that cooperation: individual members of cooperative groups are often willing to fight to the death to protect their colony rather than run for their lives" (Maldari 74). Selfishness inside us makes us willing to succeed, so we cooperate. So now we want our group to succeed over others groups, so we are ready to sacrifice our life in order to help our group to succeed, which is altruism. The problem is that when the group succeeds species inside the group start to compete among each other and it is like a cycle. The only way out of the cycle according to Martin Nowak ideas is death which will bring us to the new altruistic life, where you become unite with everyone including God, Son and Holy Spirit – The holy trinity.

The concept of the holy trinity is super important for theology. Christians theology understands it as God in thee but one, which represents unity and diversity. To simplify the concept of trinity you can see it as God reveals himself through his Son by the Holy Spirit. People were made in image and likeness of God, and God is holy, selfless and altruistic. This is where our willing to be good comes from. Although we still have selfishness in ourselves, so God sent his son, Jesus. According to “The Creed” Jesus showed the way for humanity by being selfless and altruistic no matter what the circumstances are. Even more, for Christians Jesus is “the way”. As the Son died, he broke the cycle and opened the way to the heaven, where all people get united and there is no selfishness. God emptied himself through the Son, which theology calls kenosis, in order to save people from the sin. When God emptied himself he released the spirit which is called the Holy Spirit an energy that motivates and inspires people for good and moves towards the main goal. By having faith, you open yourself to receive the Holy spirit.

The church would be one of the best places to learn faith and to get a better believe in God’s love for us. By learning the faith, we always try to be less selfish and more altruistic because we are trying to follow God’s will and the Holy Spirit help us there. According to Brook, we should build “more institutions that harness people’s natural longing to do”. The main problem is that institutions will always get corrupted because of the selfless people that will always be there in our world. That is what happened with the institution that people call “church”, despite the fact it is supposed to be holy. In theological understanding the church is not an institution but a holy community. Overall Brook’s idea is fine, but instead of institution people need more volunteering communities where no money has place. The right community will help you to find and open yourself for God and the Holy Spirit.

People obviously see how church is corrupted so they do not want to go there. Although they still say they belong to some sort of religion which helps them to be more connected with God. Unfortunately, in 21st century there are some restrictions on how people express their religion in public – they should keep it in themselves. Such an attitude for the religion might intercept with

the idea to make communities where people can get better and find their way to God, as these communities might be related to religion.

Even if people will have more community options where they can make a better self, learn to live a more altruistic life that is still impossible to get rid of selfishness. It is just the way we are – selfless and sinful. Christians have a hope for salvation: that one day we will achieve the main goal and we will beat the selfishness. We will be sinless people and live in the altruistic community where everyone loves and helps everyone.

Brook, you, myself and everyone hopes that over the years our community will get less selfish and more altruistic. We all are willing to find the solution how to reach the main community goal – be fully altruistic, be united as one whole. I guess Brook is putting too much emphasis on looking for solutions in the immanent reality. The truth is that we have to go beyond the immanent, to transcendent. Because the only way out of the cycle is death and go to heaven where you get united with the holy trinity, where we all can reach the main goal and be fulfilled. We need more love, faith and believe in God's love for us. That everything we are doing will pay off. The more we help other people the more we will get back, and some say you will enter the gates of heaven.