

The Force of Faith Behind Mother Teresa's Miracles

SIX WORDS FROM A PRAYERFUL MOUTH:- "I BELIEVE IN LOVE AND COMPASSION."

"When, God wants you to do something, He gives you the strength to do it," Mother Teresa used to tell her Sisters.

Not only He gives you the strength to do it, He provides the direction to do it, and looks after you when you do it.

Look, how Mother's first recruit and postulant Subhasini Das describes Mother's unshakable faith that God looks after you. She refers to the days when Mother had started her work, and says;

"She didn't know where she was going or what she was going to do in the future. Nothing. But she was not frightened. She knew God was calling her and would lead her where He wanted. One thing very outstanding is Mother's faith. She came blindly, trusting in God, not knowing where she was going to live or from where food would come.

Always, when I am worrying about tomorrow, Mother scolds me and asks, **"Why? Isn't God looking after us ?" And this we have to learn from Mother. She says that anything we have or want to keep we should give away while we have it. But we are always worrying about what will happen when things finish, but has God ever failed us ? Hasn't He seen that we get what we want in time? Amazingly, it's true.** Because during the twenty-six years we've had our Congregation, we've fed so many people daily without having an income of our own. Everything runs on the charity of the people. God touches their hearts and they come and give."

Amazingly true. It is miracle all the way.

Every moment of Mother's life of 87 years and ten days was a miracle and a prayer.

Who would have imagined in a wildest dream that a frail sari-clad nun, who was always found amongst the poorest of the poor would be awarded the Nobel Prize on 17-10-1979 ! 33 years after she heard God's call to serve. Who would have thought that the very hands of God's mercy, which silently lifted up the thin infected bodies of the distressed, lying neglected in the slums of Calcutta, would one day receive and hold the Nobel Prize, and she would stand before an august well-fed assembly of kings and lords and declare in a cool, confident, Godly voice that she was accepting the Nobel prize in the name of and on behalf of the poorest of the poor!! A miracle indeed!

And look here: the frail nun at United Nations, standing before the sexually obsessed humanity and proclaiming in a stern voice that God is in every speck of life and the humans have no right to abort a life! God's messengers are meek in humanity but thundering warriors before inhumanity.

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God's call to serve the distressed humans was heard by Mother on 10th September 1946, while she was traveling to Darjeeling in a train. She called that day her "Inspiration Day."

Miracles are NOT just coincidences, they are designs of God; and God's voice is NOT just a mental disturbance. It is a real, solid, down-to-earth call, a magnetic tilt emanating from a high divine Point of God. "Noo Gooshodum Noo Sraotaa", Asho Zarathushtra proclaimed. "Activate your ears with His Energy and Hear the divine voice of Sarosh." Unfortunately the present day humanity listens to the devils' deceit and mistakes it as God's voice. That is why we pray: "Taroiditey Angrahey Maniyeush" - May i be able to see Ahriman's trickeries through and through.

When the call was received, there was no looking back. Mother swung into action. Slum school in Moti Jheel (21-12-48), House of one Michael Gomes, Mother House, Nirmal Hriday near Kali Ghat (1952), Shishu Bhuvan, Leprosy colony..... all in and near Calcutta..... and today there are more than 3000 sisters of the Missionaries of charity working in 52 countries in such diverse places as Rome and Adis Ababa and

Venezuela; Tanzania; Bourke (Australia) - centre for aborigines; Gaza; and Viet Nam; and Lima (Peru).....There are 500 centers all over the world.

THE FOURTH VOW

Missionaries have three normal vows: poverty, chastity, obedience. Mother's Missionaries have a fourth one: **"Whole hearted, free service to the poorest of the poor."** And yet they are happy and cheerful. They are all set on fire by Mother herself. She infiltrates the human hearts. A silent, peaceful, loving infiltration. Human hearts do exist. Not all are in devil's clutches. As Mother said, "There are women in this work who are still looking for a life of prayer, poverty and sacrifice." And along with the Sisters, there are Brothers too.

Here are Mother's sparkling messages which ignite an explosion of love: -

"Give until it hurts."

"Something beautiful for God !"

"How easy it is to conquer God! We give ourselves to Him, and God becomes ours and how we have nothing but God."

Nothing but God. So, Mother had only two sarees. She went barefooted wherever possible. She slept on the floor of open dormitory. She washed her own clothes. Once somebody wanted to gift a washing machine for Mother's Home. She called all her sisters and asked, would they take it ? "No" came the swift answer in a chorus. They would prefer to wash their own clothes, as they were doing. With the cheapest soap. Mother had a beaming smile. They had passed her test.

Mother's House had no fans except in the parlour and sometimes in the chapel where outsiders came to pray. **"There is plenty of God's good breeze. When people of the world are suffering so much, ours is nothing by comparison,"** said Sister Florence to Desmond Doig, author of an excellent book: **"Mother Teresa, Her People and Her Work" (1978). (Fount Paperbacks)**

THE FRAIL AND THE FRUGAL

Sisters eat simple food. It is a sin to eat luxury when the poor are dying because of hunger. God will provide exactly what is required. Once a lady - actually the mother of Sister Florence - wanted to bring the Bengali delicacy, Hilsa fish, cooked in the traditional way. Mother Teresa first said 'No'; but seeing the disappointment on the lady's face, agreed, provided it was just boiled without any traditional 'masala's. "God sometimes gives us more than the poor people we are looking after. Which shows, really, that He is looking after us for our looking after **His poor,**" Sister Florence said to Doig.

"His poor" ! Poor are His! Nay! **He Himself is the poor. He comes "in distressing disguise" as the poor, and in serving the poor, we serve Him.** That is the powerful thought force which is the basis of the miracles of Mother and her Sisters and Brothers. It is not the thought-force alone. **It is the heart throb of love and compassion.** And IT IS THE TRUTH taught by Jesus.

FATHER AND SON

The Christians call Jesus, the Son of God and some people quarrel over it. Son is "Putra" in Sanskrit, "Puthra" in Avesta. It means the Son *through* whom the Father works. Son carries out the will of the Father. That is the purport of "Athra Ahurahe Mazdao Puthra;" Athra-Atesh- is the Son of Ahuramazda. When we, humans, bring down the divine word of God - the Mantra or Manthra - to the level of our own narrow and limited understanding, we quarrel. We would be led to ask, if Jesus of the Christians or Atesh of the Parsis is the Son of God, who is God's wife that was their mother?

DIVINE SHEPHERDS AND THEIR FLOCKS.

The messengers of God bring different Religions to different groups of humanity. Each of them teaches such versions and facets of God's Truth to His own group, as are suitable for its spiritual upliftment. Each Prophet, Messenger, Saoshyant, is the divine Shepherd of His own flock of sheep. He is the divine Prescriber of such 'medicines' as would work on the spiritual illness of His group. He is the provider of such 'food' as would be suitable for the spiritual health of His group. That is God's plan and that is why the "medicines" and the "food" i.e. the tarikats, tenets, practices, devotions and doctrines are differently provided in different Religions. Gatha Ha 31-11 says so. (Please see the Editorial).

In the Religion of Lord Jesus, love and compassion are highlighted through the Truth that the Lord, the

Father, and Jesus, the son live in every speck of life, and manifest themselves through the sufferings of the poor and downtrodden. Jesus subjected Himself to extreme suffering on the Cross to proclaim this Truth in His own action. Therefore any suffering human has Jesus vibrating in him or her, and serving the suffering humanity is itself the service and prayer to God through His Son. **"Whatever you are doing for the poor, you are doing for Christ"** this was Mother's guiding star from day one to the day last.

Please note that this is not just some psychological device to boost the ideal of service to the suffering. It is the Truth of God. It is the Truth that exists in Nature. It is the Truth which is to be accepted by all Christians as an article of unshakable faith. Mother Teresa not only accepted it but lived by it every single moment of her life. Verily, she was the Avatar, the Personification, of this Divine Truth emphasised by Lord Jesus.

MANY SPLENDORED THING

Love and Compassion are taught by all Religions in different ways. **Gautam Buddha and Bhagvan Mahavir have highlighted love and compassion through Ahimsa - nonviolence; Guru Nanak by "Satnaam;" Prophet Mahammad by "Mahabbah," Charity; Lord Krishna by Bhakti - Yoga; Asho Zarathushtra by 'Vohuman', the Ameshaspand of the cow i.e. Gava, selflessness, and 'Spenta Armiti,' the Ameshaspand of the earth i.e. humility and service.** Love and compassion are the common ingredients of all spiritual medicines, with different contours and different strengths. That is why Mother says: through the works of love Hindus become better Hindus; Muslims, better Muslims; Catholics better Catholics.

SIX WORDS TO SILENCE THE SCIENTIST

Once, Mother was invited on a T.V. show in Canada. One Jacques monod, a Nobel prize winner molecular biologist and an athiest, and Jean Vanier, an eminent Religious personality were to debate on the future of human race. The scientist, in the usual misguided fashion, contended that the whole future destiny of the human race was inexorably locked up in our genes. Jean Vanier controverted the contention through Christian testimony. All along Mother was sitting with her head bowed in prayer. When the compere asked for her views, she simply lifted up her head and said: **"I BELIEVE IN LOVE AND COMPASSION,"** and went back in her prayer. Nothing more was required to silence the scientist and reinforce the Truth of Religion. Professor Monod was afterwards heard saying that a little more of the treatment and his sound athiestic position might have been shaken. Six words from the prayerful mouth of Mother were sufficient to topple all the huge scientific books, experiments and conjectures as also the huge scientific ego. The six words were like a powerful wall abruptly stopping a strong current of the devil's deluge.

Adieu Mother ! The apostle of Gava ! . . .

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"Prayer is joy, prayer is love, prayer is peace. You cannot explain it. You must experience prayer. It is not impossible. God gives it for the asking. Ask and you shall receive. The father knows what to give to his children"

Mother Teresa

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