

## ON HORSE BACK RUNNING to look at flowers

This is a popular Chinese saying to describe a quick and general impression of events made with inadequate information, normally after observation made hastily lacking attention to details.

If this remark is made on one's life , it could certainly mean time flew by so quickly, there was not enough time to focus on anything in particular. However if we wish to search what brings 'Sacred' into Profane during our lifetime, then this subject can infuse a much deeper meaning when travelling with God on this gifted journey on earth.

What God gave us is a life filled with Time and Space that we can choose to live with "Sacred". I hope that whilst my life has been spent running around discovering all the beauties of the world, and meeting all kinds of people along the way, that the fulfilment of living is living with 'Sacred' as much as we can in our 'Profane' status. We are fortunate that the Holy Spirit grants us grace to remember to give thanks. and be sincerely grateful to our Almighty Father's to enjoy 'Paradise' with His blessings and unconditional LOVE.

In actual fact, for me in life, the most important sense is to 'Love' - to Love God, Love others, Love oneself and be Loved.

Most people will find 'love' with the surrounding company of family members' ; the warmth and loyalty of friends; or the realization of one's values; or finding answers through religion; or being able to leave one's own footprint; or the ability to achieve one's heart's desires, etc.

In life, we are all under test to be a good Christian disciple. Life is not smooth sailing. Sorrow and joy will happen to each individual. As the Bible has said, man has sinned and is not perfect. Although we have defects, we also have the freedom to choose good or evil. I know I do not have the complete ability to see myself clearly at all times. I need the grace and guidance of the Holy Spirit to see that the big stone in my own eyes should be my focus instead of the spec of sand in the eyes of others.

Man cannot see or understand God, as He is the Most High. But during the span of our lives, God has granted us Time, Space and healthy human bodies to advance in this beautiful universe of wonders. From the series of courses we are learning , Fr. Ha teaches 'Profane and Sacred' by elaborating many examples of various daily lives, encounters and happenings of people over the ages. Based on this additional knowledge, we can continue to broaden our contemplation which can help us to expand our personal lives into the ' Sacred' by maximizing life with God on earth.

As such, mankind can continue to enjoy our lives together. Jesus is the 'Way' and He is the road for all of us to travel on. If we seek to lessen the load of others, we are following the Christian life of self sacrifice. If we strive and choose to live this life ' within God', all men will be truly free to be filled with the Lord's Peace and Love in abundance.

Lesson Nine is full of very rich contents with depth to continue deeper reflection. Firstly, 'Running on horseback' is the movement of our bodies in time on a road. (Jesus is our road) Looking at flowers is using our eyes, with light, to see the colorful things which we absorb from outside of us. All these will interrelate with perception, awareness, our cognition to acknowledge; enhancing our choice to continue to move ahead into the still unknown marvelous direction. As a result, the 'Sacred' envelopes the choices we make for oneself, or with others on movement, direction, the attractions, etc.

Some memorable writings on movements and travels selected for our reading are;

Meng Jiao, Tang Dynasty Poet 751AD - 814AD Two of his poems have been collected in the popular anthology...A Traveller's Song , The Son of a Wandering Son.

The Travels of Lao Can, a novel by Liu E 1903-1904, a novel written to denounce the society and government of that time.

Feng Zikai (1898-1975) "I sympathize with the suffering of children and intend to appeal on their behalf, so as to draw the attention of adults in the world". " I have a strong interest in literature. Therefore, my painting is inevitably influenced by it. I don't know how to paint pure landscapes or still life paintings such as flowers; I hope that the paintings contain meaning - the taste of life or social issues. I hope that a painting can be looked at and thought about. In other words, I try to use shapes to replace language, and literature to write."

Craig Storti, He defines the art of coming home, understanding and definition of culture. Quotes, you have no idea, that what is normal. Craig is a trainer in intercultural communications and his view of travelling is that it can change a person's views.

Paul Fosse(1924-2021) as explorer as tourist

Quote: "The wise traveller learns not to repeat successes but tries new places all the time."

Nellie Bly (1864-1922) she travelled round the world in 72 days 1889 Nov to 1890 Jan. After a few months, her record was broken.

Rebecca Lee (1944) An explorer of North and South Poles, supporting the world's Green movement through her travels.

Yusaku Kawauchi 1975 , spent 12 days in space and in this case, the "horse" was replaced by a spaceship.

Gulliver's Travels, a book by Jonathan Swift. The book criticizes various forms of knowledge - whether political, legal, naval, scientific, or rhetorical - that are more flashy than useful, and it questions claims to superiority based on assertions of physical power or moral righteousness.

Emily Thomas 2020, the meaning of travel

Will space travel show the earth is insignificant?

John Henry Newman (1801-1890) He cautions that Travel holds a magical attraction for the profane and the young can be mesmerized by travel. His view is B to remain in familiar surroundings to avoid falling into mishaps.

Albert Camus (1913-1960) His belief was that the absurd - life being void of meaning, or man's inability to know that meaning if it were to exist - was something that man should embrace.

William Faulkner (1897-1962) Nobel prize winner 1949

Inspirational quotes: "Given the choice between the experience of pain and nothing. I would choose pain." "Never be afraid to raise your voice for honesty and compassion against injustice and lying and greed. If people all over the world...would do this, it would change the earth." "You cannot swim for new horizons until you have the courage to lose sight of the shore".

Professor John Tribe wrote about the hospitality industry, recreation leisure, and developments in tourism. His work covered the medieval travels to the Holy Land. This gave tourists and believers to learn about the Church movements and transparent changes to advance into the future with courage and to break away in stages from the secular environment as the times evolve.

Alison Kuznets Quote: The religious tradition is well known, and travel gives enlightenment for the ability to make changes.

When we look with Sight, sometimes misunderstanding can be perceived because of color or drawing and light, etc. For sound created like 'Vapor Con' which can be seen with our eyes as the plane flies faster than sound, and the noise created also can break glass windows below.

Eight beautiful short poems by Bian Zhilin (1910-2000) Quote: "You stand on the bridge and watch the scenery, while people watching the scenery watch from the upper floors, The bright moon decorates your window, and you decorate other people's dreams"

Nicolas Malebranche (1638-1715) French philosopher, Catholic priest, theologian.

Quotes, "Our soul is not united to our body in the ordinary sense of these terms. It is immediately and directly united to God alone." "I am not a light unto myself. I am unable, when I turn to myself, to recognize any of my faculties or my capacities...I have no idea what of my soul." Malebranche views that to understand God, it has to come from revelation and illumination from God.

From what we can see with our eyes, our brain must be bridged to create our awareness and perception. When there is outside motion, and the one who is looking, can see and we may have a reaction. So in this discussion, if we put the future of robots being able to perceive a picture, the

metaphor is there may still carry defectiveness that what we see, hear, feel, decipher and conclude can still not be proven as 100% accurate.

Some Wise quotes for reflection:

Muhammad Rumi 1207-1273

Quote: "In order to recognise the true beginning of a new day, or separate the color of the wine from its cup, first raise your head to see the light, although you will feel faint and dizzy"  
And the revelation is that we do need Light to see the flowers, such is also food for thought....

Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941)

Quote: "Who are you, you cannot see. What you see is your shadow." "If you cry when the sun has left your life, your tears will block you seeing the stars"

Marie Curie (1867-1934)

Quote: "There is nothing we need to fear, but we must learn more. Now we should improve our knowledge, and this will diminish fear." "People do not remember what they have already done; they only see what else they have to do to finish."

Khalil Gibran (1883-1931)

Quote: "The tortoise recognizes the road better than the rabbit". My house said to me: "Do not leave me, because here lives your past." The road said to me: "Come follow me, because I am your future. I said to my house and road: "I have no past and no future. If I stay here, my stay will contain departure, if I leave, my departure will contain staying. Only with love and death can everything be changed."

Antoine de Saint-Exupery (1900-1944) French writer, poet, journalist and aviator. Author of The Little Prince, which encourages us to look beyond the surface, to see with our hearts, and to appreciate the vital things in life. He expresses that in all things which happen to us, something bigger is following; everything is but a road, an entrance, or window panels, leading to things outside of ourselves.

We thank Fr. Ha for the listing of Jesus' travels on earth and what the Lord sees. Also for including Father Yan's writings. All this helps to further our understanding of how to live in the Sacred with the Profane.

Amen