

Human Tragedies [January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005]

The size and scope of the Tsunami tragedy are staggering.  
Man should always be humble before nature.

Along another line, if man were “perfected sons and daughters of God” then I believe that there would be resources aplenty -- along with natural cooperation amongst victim nations and those untouched -- so I sincerely believe that this type of catastrophe, from the human side cost, could have been reduced to little or nothing. My reasoning is this, if the peoples of the world were already united and “one in heart”, then the systems of undersea detection, international tsunami notification, and evacuation strategies would have been firmly established in advance. That is, to make a long evaluation short, it is the so-called “fallen nature of man” that keeps us from being able to unite and to do so at the most unselfish of levels ... centering on God.

So the true tragedy is that humanity has not discovered the “keys to the Kingdom of Heaven”, which is the means to unlock the human heart so that we may all love one another unconditionally. This is the impossible dream. No one could allow the demise of others regardless of the reason because we care for them just as if they were closest loving relatives. This is how God probably sees it but we cannot since our “spiritual eyes”, and our hearts, are closed shut. If we were capable of such intelligence and unselfish thinking, all the way up to the national levels of government and international organizations, then we would never allow “our brothers and sisters” to be at such risk. Humanity would see itself for what it is in the eyes of God, literally a single family, His family.

Have you ever read “Lord of the Flies”? In a way, the portrayal of immature boys marooned on an island who revert to the lowest levels of savagery since they receive no loving parental guidance, is the expression of fallen man today. In the Lord of the Flies in the end the appearance of an adult begins the transition back to normalcy and sanity. To some degree, the arrival of a “parent” or adult figure represents the return of the avatar, a messiah who can show the boys the path to true adulthood and a sensible life of dignity and wholesome activities.

So, should I pause here and stop this train of thought or ramble on as I often do? I think I will continue. If you like dear Chethan, you can close up now and slide off into slumber if my blathering is too esoteric and downright boring. Or, let’s see where this train of thought goes and figure out if I can tie this back into your email which precipitated my response to begin with ...

In the Family Federation their curious view of God sets them apart from other Christian organizations in that in spite of God’s power they see Him as being pained by man’s situation, i.e., God is hurt by man being in a “fallen state” cut off from Him. Even the idea of a God that can be troubled by mankind is unnatural for predestinationists, fatalists, deists, and anyone who holds that God is “too big, too great” to feel what we feel.

Nevertheless, according to the FFWPU belief, this painful separation between man and God is a circumstance that man, not God, created. Insomuch as this might be the fact of our plight, then it is also a “problem” that only man, not God, can undo. Chethan, there is so much more to this that I’d like to expound upon now, but even though their belief is inter-religious by its very

nature, the direction and thrust of what they believe to be the original revelation (won over a period of about 9 years) is mainly aimed at reforming Christianity, and therefore the arguments put forth are more often than not Biblically oriented ... rather than attuned to the magnificent stories of the Upanishads and the Gita. There is even rationale as to why the belief holds that the avatar for this age must come first to Christians, “winning them over with the true nature of Jesus and his providential role”, before it can effectively reach out to all the religions and philosophical beliefs of the world. But again, this is almost a multi-page thesis in itself. Certainly too much to go into here and I am not versed enough in the belief or in the Christian roots to be able to do the thought process justice anyway, so I’ll just continue on as I am for now with “generalities”.

Anyway, it is a very unique and most interesting theology and their belief flies in the face of a God of omnipotence in that the belief is that the all powerful God is constrained from intervention by the necessity of man to make the effort to return to a point where he can reach out and pull man back.

By the way, I am reminded of a newsworthy event that took place years ago in Texas (I believe) where a little girl, maybe 5 years old, was playing (where she should not have been) by a storm drain during a rainstorm. She was “swallowed up” and lost in the late afternoon. Firemen and rescue personnel searched through the night but were sure she had drowned and her body flushed out the drain systems into the bay. The parents were in the greatest of anguish. The afternoon, that night, and the next morning passed ... there could be no hope for the child.

The next day however, during a lull in the storms, a road/sewer inspector checking the receding waters was able to peer into one of the drain catchments with his flashlight and spotted her alive and holding on for dear life to a metal handle in the concrete piping under the road. However, no one could get in to help her and fears arose that if she did not come out right away, and if it rained again that this time she would be washed to sea. There was no time for any planning or earthwork removal because it could rain at any time. It took some serious but gentle coaxing to get her to trust the stranger and I don’t think that she ever did eventually let go and to go to him. Her precarious position, although in darkness and painful and difficult, had become her whole world and lifeline and she would not relent in trusting to let go and crawl out to her prospective rescuer.

If I’m correct, it wasn’t until the Mom came and shouted “orders” (based on the rescuer's advice) for her to let go and come to them that this little girl was able to crawl free towards them. In so doing, she came within the arm’s reach of the rescuer and he could pull her out safely. The key point here is that the little girl needed to make the first move and start in the direction of going to them, i.e., the man could not go to where she was trapped. The girl needed clear, firm words of direction from the Mom to come to a point where the rescuer could reach her.

Up to the appearance of the mother on the scene he could only provide words to her in a tone and understanding that he hoped would persuade her to trust and come to him. But ultimately he needed the mom to intervene and “bark” at the terrified little girl to do as she was told and come out. Okay, I know that although this is a bit of a stretch, the interleaving thread of “salvation” for this little girl - or mankind in general - hints of an avatarish or messianic connotation wherein a powerful God is somehow constrained in a circumstance that requires a personality who can be

understood and trusted by both God and humanity to intercede on humanity's behalf and "bark directions". And humanity, to be saved, must make some conditional effort to move from an "unreachable realm" outside of God's direct dominion, into one in which God can at last "snap us up".

I bring this example up (and I confess it has been a long while since I remember the event of this little girl so my recollection is not so clear) because it resembles the Family Federation's thinking about the need for mankind to make the greatest of efforts to unite in peace through the love of God which is the consistent teaching in all major religions. If man does not collectively come within the grasp of God by conditional efforts that demonstrate faith, then God is not in a position to exercise His power to "pull us up into His loving embrace". And this relationship starts with individuals first, then moves to the family level, and expands to clan/tribal groupings, on to societal and national levels, and at last, the world level. Still, too much to go into here but I think you can get the general drift.

The Family Fed folks actually believe that "salvation" of man is possible, salvation equating to total oneness with the creator. The extent of their belief requires that all humanity, even those souls "trapped" in Hell, must be saved. So in the end, their religious philosophy is an "all for one and a one for all" mix, and it is not passive but proactive in that the sense that man can (and must) participate to some degree in his own destiny. I'm not saying that this is the way things are or to open up religious argument or discussion as such, mainly just reporting the belief of the noble people I work around and seeing if there is relevance in their "God understanding" and the tragedy of the Tsunami (and wars, pestilence, the general suffering of humanity, etc.).

I realize that this theology is not consistent with general religious beliefs that dominate the world today, and is even heretical to orthodox or otherwise conservative Christian beliefs. Nevertheless, the teaching behind this theology provides some curious rationale that supports why an all loving and all powerful God would allow man to be in this wretched state he is in. That is, the concept of salvation and the reason that it is "prolonged" or takes so long is that God is somehow held powerless by principles that mankind, in his fallen state, is not aware of ... but must understand in order to change his situation in this earthly existence. Hence the term for the main body of revelation that is referred to as the "Divine Principle", which is then explained using the Christian historical background in the main book of teachings "Exposition on the Divine Principle".

The belief structure of the Principle may also shed light on the mystery of how a God, that supposedly loving, could not be moved to take action in saving his children. The inaction conveys a sense that God is aloof or simply uncaring, in spite of being "loving". This single point alone is a basis for the denial of God's existence by many an atheist.

If God were somehow powerless to help mankind, as the Family Federation believes, then as bizarre a notion as this might seem then the follow-through thought is that a God that was disempowered from helping His children would be in grief over their suffering. He would be a God of great longing, a God seeking to reunite with His lost sons and daughters who likely fell willingly -- but mistakenly -- into the realm of darkness. Cut off and in this world of "hell" where God cannot directly intervene, man is not even able discern what is right and wrong nor

recognize that for the most part he was born to be divine, to grow into the sons and daughters of the True Parents of mankind, God.

If any of this supposition is true, then in our present state we are little more than a very knowledgeable (not to be confused with “smart”) and evolved “animal”, still primitive in heart and mind in many ways. And when I see the enormity of the tragedy of the recent Tsunami and how much suffering could have been avoided if national leaders had their priorities straight, then I feel that it just may be true that the solution to man’s problems lies not in God “coming down” to us with a showering of miracles, but us “going up” to Him with the real miracle being that mankind would become a union of peoples of unlimited love. On such a foundation of “True Love”, then the vast potential for expanded intellect -- in pursuit of that which is only good and righteous for all -- would completely open up, and without an end in time.

That is, even now a state of mankind “evolved in heart” would be exploring any and all initiatives for peaceful reconciliation to our humanly differences. People in all responsible walks of life would be diligently working without pause to find ways to achieve a commonality of worldwide thinking that is focused on the greater good. This true “brotherly love” mentality is what is needed from the individual level on up to the worldwide level. Okay, this is an impossible task to be sure given man’s inherent selfishness, desire for comfort, and general fear of the unknown.

Still, in reading the words of the founder of the Family Federation, this ideal of salvation for souls alive in this earth and even those who have “passed on” is the singular goal of their movement. Hence the great efforts they make towards achieving unification starting originally with Christian ministers, and now expanding to religious leaders from all belief persuasions. They do not see reincarnation as a means to salvation in itself if a soul can’t be born with clear knowledge and spiritual understanding from the previous lifetime(s). So, there is a difference here in theology from what might be considered the more traditional Eastern Thought, but on the other hand, there is much that is of interest which begs continued investigation.

So, in summary, the massive catastrophe we have recently witnessed (and will continue to witness because there will be an ongoing impact to the peoples that lived through the initial horror), might not so much be the goal or simple act of a God that is not caring or in touch with the suffering of mankind, but rather this was/is a calamity that could and should have been avoided had there been unity and resources available and in place. In this new perspective, these things are not just fated to happen (the earthquake and Tsunami would happen but the loss of life avoided) but are due to man’s separation from the goodness and greatness of God. And this is a God that is a loving, compassionate, and caring God who is not for some reason able to help us to achieve the greatness that is the potential within us because we must find the secrets of how it is that we are to participate in finding our way “back to Him”.

This potential for divinity in each of us, if ignited from spark to flame, conceivably would ensure that man would not suffer from the various types of misery that seem to be our due course in history. Rather these are miseries indirectly of our “own doing”. Our individual and collective suffering is not simply imposed upon us by a callous God. So our present state of “unhappy”

mankind is due in large part to our individual and collective inability to achieve total oneness in heart with one another and the separation from our True Parent and Creator, the God of us all. Make any sense at or are my ramblings clear as mud?

The extent of this specific instance of the Tsunami disaster reflects the consequence of this “tragedy of fallen man” that I refer to above. If there is any truth to the notion that there is a “separation between man and God” due to no fault of God, then it just may be that an “event of nature” like the Tsunami would not have impacted a truly evolved species. The horrific event and aftermath are due to the fact that man is still in a relative primitive and fallen state, one in which we are vulnerable so that such an otherwise natural event does tremendous carnage. Ironically, nature then appears as if it is a vengeful and capricious and powerful monster, which it is anything but.

Well, I’m rambling on and on as usual. But I hope that some of my mutterings make sense. Even if not everything is accurate, in one sense all that matters ultimately anyway is that each person is an eternal being, our lives on earth have consequence to our state of being in the afterlife, and collectively as societies, humanity still should seek to improve and evolve in the realms of the heart, and not just in science, business, etc. Only from the heart can there be genuine hope for us all, this is true now and especially into the future. If we are to tame the forces of nature, or at least not live in fear of them, then the starting point is in developing the loving hearts and clear, reverent minds that will help us to understand and live in harmony with this vast universe that surrounds us in this experience and form of existence we refer to as “Life”.

Love to you dear soul,

Kem