

The Signature of God within us!

Hohenheim University

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Transfiguration of the Lord

Dear brothers and sisters,

How shall we describe our personal life history?

How shall we experience the ups and downs, success and failures, good times and bad times of our life?

Is it not like a novel being written by us that carries the signature of God?

In the sense of Bible, none of us is the product of chance or accident.

Even in the extreme case that we were actually not wished by our parents, we are intended by God, the eternal creator.

He has designed us in his own image and likeness, declares the Bible.

Yes, we carry within us the signature of God!

Today as we celebrate the feast of Transfiguration of our lord, we are also invited to celebrate this signature of God within us.

It event of Transfiguration occurred to Jesus in anticipation of a crucial phase of his own life history.

He will be soon rejected by the same people who adored him like a pope star.

He will also be deserted by his own beloved disciples with whom he shared his own spirit.

He will be soon left alone to the unjust judgments and cruel death.

The chapters of trials and tribulations wait to be written to life history.

At this instance Jesus decides to climb the mount Tabor together with a selected three.

He wanted to gather his spirit.

And he was transfigured in front of their eyes!

He is no more the illiterate son of a carpenter as some wanted to describe him.

He is not a person possessed by evil spirit as some other people understood him.

He no more a humble person from Nazareth, a land from which, according to Nathaniel, it is unbelievable that something good shall come!

He is no more just a wonder worker who even won the appreciation of the king Herod.

He was not just an eloquent speaker and a benevolent teacher.

He is not just a prophet even.

His ancestry, place of origin, color of skin, religious, moral or educational status do not play a role in the revelation of his real Self.

The voice from the clouds declared what he really is.

“He is my beloved son”.

A father calls out from heaven and says: He carries my signature, my recognition, my acceptance.

It is this awareness that shall empower Jesus to walk along the thorny paths of his life, till he will be cruelly murdered on the cross.

It is this awareness that shall break away the rocky blocks of his tomb and break into a new resurrected life.

My dear brothers and sisters,

The transfiguration or self-illumination of Jesus is not something that we are expected to watch and wonder at a distance, as his disciples did.

Each and every one of us carries the same signature of God within us.

From the moment of creation I carry the image and likeness of my creator.

And through Jesus I am a member of God's own family.

Like Jesus and through Him I am privileged to hear the confirmation from God that I am his child.

God's DNA defines my **Real self**.

The Tabor experience shall therefore be an essential ingredient of our daily life.

It is a moment of illumination of my real self.

It can take place in the morning when I begin the day or in the evening when I conclude it.

It shall awake me to the equanimity of mind in the success or failures, in honor or dishonor in praises or indictments, in happiness or sadness.

It shall be the true source of my peace.

As we gather around the Lord of Transfiguration, today, we shall also be aware that one who sits near or far from me also carries the signature of God.

S/he is my sister or brother in Jesus.

I am obliged to be nice with her/him in a true familial spirit.

I shall also be concerned about her/him as my own sister or brother.

In this sense, the whole human race on the face of the world is my own family.

God has put his signature over all his creation, over the entire cosmos.

The cosmos is a holy dwelling place which shall not be destroyed by the greed of human beings.

Here is the significance of Hopkins Sonnet part of which I recited at the beginning.

In the name of commerce and war we have destroyed a substantial part of the earth.

The remaining part which still sustains life has become insensitive to him because of his alienation from the cosmic realities.

But one shall not loose heart.

The darkness of the night will be accompanied with the day break!

The Holy Spirit broods over the destroyed world to awake it back to life and beauty with the warmth of God's loving incubation-suggests Hopkins.

So let us be aware of the signature of God within us, within every human being and within the entire cosmos.

Let us be strengthened and motivated to add new chapters to our own novel of our life which carries God's signature.

Introductory note:

Today is the feast of Transfiguration of the Lord, the feast of our Real Self.

To begin the Holy mass, I wish to recite a part of a famous poetry written by a 19th century poet, G.M. Hopkins, with name “God’s Grandeur”.

In the poetry Hopkins portrays a destroyed world, the result of industrialization, the result of greed of human beings.

Upon this destroyed world the Spirit of God broods over (like a mother hen) in order to bring something new and beautiful!

The Spirit of God awakes the newness and beauty sleeping at the heart of all reality!

God’s Grandeur (1877)

“The world is charged with the grandeur of God.

It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;

It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil

Crushed. Why do men then now not reck his rod?

Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;

And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;

And wears man’s smudge and shares man’s smell: the soil

Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;

There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;

And though the last lights off the black West went

Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs—

Because the Holy Ghost over the bent

World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings”.

In the time of war today, when human beings continue to destroy each other and the nature to satisfy the greed, the hope-filled poetry of Hopkins shall guide our thoughts.

Prayer of the Day:

Heavenly father, you created us in your image and likeness. Bring us to the awareness of this source of newness within our hearts, your signature upon our existence. Let us learn to celebrate it so that the failures and sadness of the day transform into success and joy. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our brother and our Lord.

Prayer over gifts:

Heavenly father, we offer you the gifts of bread and wine as your beloved son Jesus Christ once did. Accept our gifts in his holy name and transform them into the source of life and happiness for us. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our brother and our Lord.

Concluding Prayer:

We thank you heavenly father for the spiritual nourishment you gave us, the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us imbibe his spirit and remain your children. Let us be aware that we carry your signature in our being. Let us also be aware that your signature lies also in others and in the whole world. Let this awareness be the source of peace and harmony in the world. This we ask you through Jesus, our brother and our Lord.