

“A UNIVERSAL CONSPIRACY”

by Marc BOSQUART

In his most recent book entitled, *Le Jour d'après* [lit. the day after], published this year (2021) and given over to various aspects of the current pandemic, the French author, Philippe de Villiers, backs up his comments with a quotation from Georges Bernanos.¹ This latter (1888-1948) is another well-known French writer, deeply Catholic, the author of numerous novels among which are: *Journal d'un curé de campagne*, *Sous le soleil de Satan*, *Dialogues des Carmélites*, etc. The quotation de Villiers used in his book is absolutely fundamental, in that it sums up in a few words all the tragedy of our era and provides the key to be able to perceive its determining direction. In 1947, shortly after the Second World War and one year before his death, Bernanos wrote in fact:

**“ABSOLUTELY NOTHING CAN BE UNDERSTOOD
OF MODERN CIVILIZATION
IF WE DO NOT FIRST ACKNOWLEDGE
THAT IT IS A UNIVERSAL CONSPIRACY
AGAINST ANY KIND OF INTERIOR LIFE.”**

We must take the time to read this sentence carefully; it is an observation that is very well thought out, very refined, remarkably clear-sighted – and since it dates from 1947, largely prophetic in fact – of that which is the very essential element of the “*modern civilization*”, that is, an undertaking intended to reduce man to his ability to react to external stimuli, at times physical and at times psychic, to the detriment of what constitutes his greatness and his specificity in Creation, namely, the possibility of having an interior life in harmony with his real nature which, if the entire being is adequately disposed to this, will lead to the progressive blossoming out and the deepening of his spiritual life.

Here, in the preceding sentence, a distinction has been made, in a certain way, between interior life and spiritual life, a distinction that was necessary because of the fact that Bernanos speaks, in a broad sense, of “*any kind of interior life*”. He is not the only one to distinguish more or less clearly the spiritual life in its strictest sense from the interior life in general. Marie-Paule also did this, in her own way, when she wrote: “*The more one's interior life is deeply spiritual [so it is possible that it may not be spiritual] and the richer it is in love, the more abundant the fruit.*” (*Le Royaume*, no. 58, Feb. 1988, p. 4 and no. 251, Mar-Apr. 2018, p.19) On the other hand, like most authors writing in this field,



**Georges Bernanos
(1888-1948)**



**Philippe de Villiers
(1949)**

she usually made of the expression “*interior life*” a synonym of “*spiritual life*”. “*In fact, the interior life is everything that concerns our soul living in a state of grace: union with God, a life of mental prayer, recollection in faith.*” (*Le Royaume*, no. 84, Nov.-Dec. 1991, p. 21)

TODAY: THE END OF A CIVILIZATION

Now, in the present world – “*the modern civilization*” – it has become increasingly difficult to have an authentic spiritual life. Thus, for decades, everything has been working towards drawing man away from his own interior life and from all the potential of riches inherent in it. First target: silence, for it is often the external condition for an interior life. And we hear noise being imposed everywhere, from the insipid music and the useless chatter of the radio in commercial centers or malls to the harsh and often aggressive sounds of numerous outdoor shows, sports competitions and all kinds of other activities.

Then, the second target: the field of vision. The screens reduce this field of vision and narrow it down always more to the point of stifling the soul's capacity of representation.

Ah! the cult of pictures today, those pictures which are very often misunderstood and badly perceived because many of them ought to be examined, broken up into their components, scrutinized concerning their method and intent – but this is almost never done because they are too numerous, confusing and very fleeting. Now, these pictures which penetrate us by a multitude of screens found everywhere, are conceived to “bleed” our soul as much as possible so as to be able to fill it with superficiality, appetences and different desires and, as a consequence, of sadness and dissatisfaction.

The worse one in this regard is certainly advertising, which imposes itself and prevails everywhere, as much on Internet and the social media as on television: continuous sollicitation, mental pollution, exploitation of the tendency to want to benefit from everything to a maximum, and, more and more, being even an insult to human intelligence itself, to the dignity of man. As a result, all these pictures (mobile, colored, seductive, suggestive, erotic, violent, aggressive) worm their way into one's thinking, unduly tak-

1. *Le Jour d'après*, Paris, Albin Michel, 2021, p. 24. Philippe de Villiers is also the author of *Le Roman de saint Louis*, *Le Roman de Jeanne d'Arc*, *Le Mystère Clovis*, *Les cloches sonneront-elles encore demain?...*, among others. If he is referred to in this article, this is then in his capacity as a Catholic author (and not as a politician).

ing over the memory, intoxicating the imagination, ending up by rendering any interior life more and more difficult and finally impossible.

In reality, everything turns us away from this interior life; not only the noises, the pictures and the screens but also all the rest as well, that is, all that surrounds us in our everyday life: the comments made in the media, the political discourses, the place of sports, and the obsession with all that is economy etc. They strike at the sensitive, psychic chord which is already of a nature to muzzle what can still remain, at times, of one's spiritual sense. Moreover, most people no longer even know that the spiritual exists and, if they hear the word, they confuse it with the psychic, simply unaware that the two words are not synonymous.

And the same is true everywhere; the "conspiracy" – for that is what it is – is truly "universal". Everywhere on the planet, we are arguing or fighting over thousands of matters, but beyond these differences of opinion and these conflicts, everything contributes to fostering the "compression" of the interior life which leads to its progressive elimination, that is, take away from man, remove from man, what is the most important, the most determining, what constitutes his greatness and his specificity, the spiritual dimension! The Spirit of God must really feel "boxed in" in the man whose spiritual body is snuffed out!

TOMORROW: THE COMING OF ANOTHER WORLD

That is why we, in the Lady's Work, must be particularly attentive to not let the spiritual in us get too covered up or be too restricted. Of course, we live in the midst of the world and most of us have to work in it. This "having to be present within the world", when we feel as though we are no longer really a part of it, is an ordeal that is exacting, painful at times. However, divine grace accompanies it when this is a matter of one's duties or responsibility.

However, it is also possible that grace can no longer reach us if worldly concerns take up too much room in us, take on an exaggerated importance. "We cannot serve two masters," Jesus told us. (cf. Mt. 6:24) He was referring especially to money, and that is still true, today even more so than yesterday, but there is also the outside world with the unbridled multiplication of its attractions, falsehoods, mirages and seductions. Let us not exclude ourselves from the world to come by dint of not having looked beyond the present world!

For the world to come, unlike what it is today, will be spiritual first of all, fostering the life of the spirit, the interior life. However, the spiritual is not the only thing which will have to be restored, as this is the vocation of the Church of John today and tomorrow, but the temporal itself, in all its fields of action, will only be in conformity with the divine plan to the extent that it will be based on the spiritual and feed on it.

Marie-Paule clearly announced this to us: God, in His "Kingdom of Love" will unite "Church and Royalty", the spiritual and the temporal. (Cf. *Life of Love* XII, p. 32.) This will occur in many ways, and from the moment the temporal itself will be entirely imbued with the spiritual which has been renewed, God will be able to enlighten souls with a view to redressing the world, and help them build a better milieu of life, more just and more wholesome, more balanced in all areas.

Thus, the spiritual must always precede the temporal, but, on the other hand, it needs the support of this latter in order to be able to fully play its role. We may recall that Christianity was not really able to spread until after the Emperor of Rome was converted to it. Nonetheless, in the Kingdom – because it is precisely a matter of a Kingdom –, the world will go even further. There will be a very close union between the spiritual authority and the temporal power in the person of the "new kings" (La Salette) so that the new Royalty will have become the universal principle of all unity.

So it is that the slow and progressive entry into the Kingdom, undertaken a few years ago but which is still so very far from having reached its end, will be the most exalting period of humanity's history, despite the countless tribulations and even the extreme difficulties at times, transforming a bi-millenary waiting into an accomplished work: "a grand and tragic time", Marie-Paule wrote. (*Le Royaume*, no. 30, April 1985, p. 3) That is the reason why it is necessary that the reality of the Kingdom condense our hope in all respects and that it already enlighten our thoughts, our prayers and our daily work. The present alarms and troubles prompt us to sort through our interests and preoccupations, eliminating the unnecessary. Let us take advantage of this very favorable opportunity before our attention, our moral strength and our capacities are solicited by other events.

Marc Bosquart, December 2, 2021

We are in the decline of a civilization. It will be quite different in the era to come. – Marie-Paule, *White Book* IV, p. 80.

Our civilization, however legitimately we may regret it, will not go on indefinitely. Its destiny will be that of all the empires. It will have grown, after having been launched; it will have fought; it will have progressed; it will have been victorious; we need not be afraid to assert that, since it will inevitably decline, it is already very far advanced in this process. – Raoul Auclair, *La Fin des Temps*, Éditions Stella, p. 37.

Are we going to be lacking in courage? We have come to the hour of the "spiritual birth" of the Terrestrial Kingdom. One day, we shall have, with certitude, the reply, the mysterious and clear explanation of the divine plan of love which has "shaken" the spiritual edifice of each one, but during this time, we were furnished with "brand new materials" for the renewal of our souls. – Marie-Paule, *Le Royaume*, no. 60, April 1988, p. 15.