

# THE “DECLINE OF A CIVILIZATION”

The expression in the title is taken from Marie-Paule's writings, and the sentence is simply the following: "We are in the decline of a civilization"; and it is immediately completed by the information, "It will be quite different in the era to come." (White Book IV, p. 80)

This is a powerful expression... and quite strange, besides, given the place it is found in Marie-Paule's work, namely, in her "Letter to My Apostles" written in 2008. In it, she made various recommendations, especially of a spiritual order, and concluded the first part of her letter by this short paragraph, now quoted in its entirety: "You may think that you are already accustomed to directing souls. I readily grant you that. But we are in the decline of a civilization. It will be quite different in the era to come."

Discovering those statements by Marie-Paule and their linking, we could well ask ourselves what the relationship really is between the first sentence (about the spiritual direction of souls) and the two others (about civilization). Part of the answer to this question is found immediately afterwards in the subtitle that follows, "Towards the Kingdom", and in the beginning of the paragraph introducing it: "We are entering into a new phase."

However, the words which develop the meaning of that sentence, in turn, raise another question. "Already, some religious, some lay people (single or married) are committed along superior paths," Marie-Paule wrote, in fact, as though as an explanation. So, what then are those "superior paths" which she associates with the "new phase" that must follow the present "decline of a civilization" and cause humanity to advance "towards the Kingdom"?

## WHAT IS A CIVILIZATION?

What strikes us first of all is the forcefulness and the "scope" of the expression, the "decline of a civilization" – not just a particular society, were it our own, or a specific, localized culture which the globalization of concepts as much as products would endanger. No, it is a matter of an entire civilization which is something much broader and,

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by that very fact, also of greater concern.

What is a civilization? There are multiple definitions but we will stick to the one found in the French dictionary *Trésor de la langue française*, accessible on Internet. In fact, we should say "the ones" since we will take up two complementary and very summarized definitions. Thus, civilization would be both "*the more or less stable state of a society which has reached a high level of development*" and "*a comprehensive set of transmissible values, knowledge and realizations considered in its totality*".

Thus, in speaking of Antiquity, we could refer to the Babylonian, Egyptian, Greek or Roman civilizations and, in other cultural universes, to the Chinese one and later to the Aztec or Malian civilizations. At the origin of the present world, there was mainly the Christian civilization (sometimes called Judeo-Christian) and right next to it, the Muslim (or Islamic) civilization. Over the centuries, the two of them went beyond their initial boundaries: the Christian one spread to almost all the areas on the planet, with the relative exception of the Far East;<sup>1</sup> the Muslim one spread to the Near and Middle East, Northern Africa and towards the east all the way to Indonesia.

## THE CHRISTIAN CIVILIZATION

Obviously, the civilization which is of prime concern to us is the Christian one since it is the most universal, so this is inevitably the one Marie-Paule was referring to when she spoke of "*a civilization*" without any other specification. So, we are witnessing the "*decline*" of this civilization, that is, its progressive degeneration and degradation.

1. This is a relative exception, in fact, because there are nevertheless centers of Christianity there, mainly in Korea, the Philippines, Timor, Vietnam and Japan.

The idea of its weakness and its decayed state is nothing new besides. It appeared at the time of the First World War, and we are familiar with the famous comment from Paul Valéry, a French author: “*We, civilizations, we now know that we are bound to die*” (in his book *La Crise de l'esprit* published in 1919).

This established fact just kept getting worse throughout the 20th century, fed especially by the other wars, the atomic bomb and the destruction of the environment. There is no need to go into greater detail, we need only open our eyes and look at the reality of the world around us to see hundreds of signs and confirmations of this.

However, one thing must be specified: even a century after Valéry's statement, followed by many others, we have not reached the end of this decline, regardless of how advanced it might be, because a civilization must decay and dissolve entirely before another one can rise from its ashes and establish itself on the former's ruins. Thus, the Roman civilization took a long time to die (to go soft from within as much as to be weakened by the attacks led from the outside), but it had to disappear, be “wiped off the map” or “written off” before it was finally possible for the Christian civilization to be born and develop “in the same place”. Moreover, this latter fed off certain elements of the preceding one, but this was within the context of completely new laws and radically new principles.

## DESTRUCTION AND RECONSTRUCTION

The same kind of revolution is awaiting us, but in a much more accelerated manner: an in-depth upheaval in our ways of thinking all the way to the very core of our innermost beliefs and our most elaborated concepts, at one and the same time of God, of Man and of the World. Consequently, “*it will be quite different in the era to come*”, Marie-Paule warned us, which means, in reality, that almost nothing will be the same.

Besides, she insisted so much on “*the other world*” to come that we could easily pull from her works, a hundred statements along the same lines which complete one another. However, only a few of them will be enough, most of them already well known, to show the vastness of what is awaiting us, first of all in the destruction which will be speeded up and then in the reconstruction which will have to succeed it.

We will begin with the information she gave us concerning the state of decay of what is left of morals and religion in the heads and hearts of men, as well as the collapse of the present political system and of the perverted economy presently driving the world.

- “*In a few short years, we have seen the spiritual, cultural, moral and artistic patrimony of twenty centuries of Christianity being squandered.*”
- “*A time of [general] religious disaffection [and] of a crisis of authority.*”
- “*Governments have resigned. Others will do the same.*”

• “*World events are leading us to the ‘economic crash’ ‘announced’ by the Lady of All Peoples. ‘The world is on the brink of the abyss.’*”

• “*It will not be long before the world will witness the downfall of the infernal. It is all going to come apart, everything that was put together in hate, lies and revolt.*<sup>2</sup>

We (humanity) are thus in the process of entering into a tunnel of an impenetrable, anguishing darkness, and many, driven to despair, will maybe think that there is no way out of it. But we (in the Lady's Work) have the immeasurable advantage of believing in Marie-Paule and of having been receptive to the hope she passed on to us.

• “*In this time of transition in which we are living..., we are at the dawning of a new era which will lead us into the Kingdom of the earth.*”

• “*We are in an ENDING and soon the ERA of true RENEWAL will radiate along new paths on the Earth of men and more precisely in the ‘Terrestrial Kingdom’.*”

• “*Soon it will be necessary to rebuild everything, to rethink and order everything in accordance with God's wisdom to which our generation will have to submit itself after having so ravaged the order established by the Master.*”

And especially the editorial with its wonderful title which “sums up the hope of the world” and contains, in so few very simple words, all the “program” of the Kingdom:

- “*NEW WAYS FOR A NEW EARTH AND NEW HEAVENS.*<sup>3</sup>

## NEW WAYS

“*New ways*”: this expression does not mean “ways superficially transformed, certain points of which are improved, made more human if possible and perhaps turned a little more to God.” No! Marie-Paule foretold totally different ways, absolutely new, original, unheard-of today, in the same way that in the Roman Empire no one could possibly have imagined the Christian civilization which would succeed it.<sup>4</sup>

So, we have probably not seen anything yet of all we will have to go through: humanity – “*those who will still be alive,*” Marie-Paule said (cf. *Le Royaume*, no. 262, p. 5) – will have to pass from a world which will have become the worse one in many respects to a world which has been announced to us as the one that is supposed to be the best men will have ever known, the Kingdom of God on Earth. And such a passage or such a “*transition*” cannot occur without things “snapping”, without the entire “structure”

2. Respectively: *Le Royaume*, no. 55, 1987, p. 15; no. 158, 2002, p. 5; 23rd message of the Lady, August 15, 1950; *The White Book IV*, pp. 126-127; and *Life of Love*, vol. XI, p. 333 (cf. also vol. X, p. 114).

3. Respectively *Le Royaume*, no. 60, 1988, p. 15; no. 145, 2000, p. 5; *The Hosanna of Life*, p. 40; and *Le Royaume*, no. 147, 2001, p. 1.

4. In the preceding issue of the review (*Le Royaume*, no. 265, p. 7), Father Leander Van Renterghem recalled and clearly showed that Raoul Auclair had already perceived and even foretold the unimaginable magnitude of the newness awaiting humanity in the Kingdom: “*a totally different order of laws and living conditions*”.

supporting the “System” today being shaken and without its complete collapse.

As a consequence, let us not nourish unlikely hopes and engage in wishful thinking concerning what has to take place. Thus, with regard to the present Covid-19, it is not, in itself, a major event on a global level, except in its consequences (economic, professional, and above all, human, family and psychological, for we see only the bodies and we forget the souls). Concerning the irreligion of peoples, it is increasingly advanced undoubtedly and in itself extremely serious, but it could also lead some day to something like a return to the “time of the barbarians”, the enemies of any faith. Regarding the economy, tottering and disorganized, perhaps this is only just a beginning because the Lady spoke of “HUNGER”, “not for your country alone, but for the entire world.” (8th message, February 25, 1946) Finally, concerning the helplessness of governments relentlessly striving to govern everything without God, the Lady also spoke of “POLITICAL CHAOS” similarly universal. (*Id.*) And when it is written “the Lady speaks”, we would need to add that Marie-Paule quoted abundantly from these messages in *Life of Love* and in her articles published in *Le Royaume*.

And it is in this crumbling world that a new spirituality will be born – and has already begun to be born – under the impetus of Marie-Paule. It will be such a central part of the life of the people in the future that it will determine all its other aspects. In this regard, Marie-Paule spoke of “a new style of spirituality” (*Le Royaume*, no. 158, 2002, p. 13; cf. also, no. 228, 2014, pp. 3-5); however, the word “style” could be wrongly interpreted. If there is a “new style”, that is because there will be like a flood of new concepts and new contents which will need to be understood, integrated, passed on, taught and developed always further. And the time of the Kingdom will come which, of course, will still be a time of sanctification for many people (as in the Christian era), but also, for an increasingly greater number of souls, a time of resurrection and then of glorification and divinization (however far those realities might be from the current preoccupations).

## THE LIGHT OF THE LADY

It is also in that sense that what follows in Marie-Paule’s *“Letter to My Apostles”* must be understood when she wrote: “Even some lay people will be spiritual directors.” And why not? Already, some Mothers in the Family of the Sons and Daughters of Mary are sought out for their advice and exercise that kind of responsibility without bearing its title. The same is true for other men and women with wide experience and sound judgment. Later, other roles or responsibilities will arise, other “spiritual attributions” corresponding to the “superior paths” which more and more souls will be following.

However, for the time being, obviously, we are still a long way off from that, even if the Lady has prepared everything, sown all the seeds, indicated all the paths, provided all the means. And it is also just before the time of the greatest darkness that the incomparable light of the future is announced to us. *“It is your light which is beginning to shine on humanity,”* the Lord said to her in fact. (*Life of Love XIV*, p. 43) For the moment, this light is still very subtle, reaching only a few thousand people, but to the extent that we allow it to illuminate us, we will withstand the darkest hours announced by the Lady in her messages and even in the prayer she gave us to protect us from ever more corruption, disasters and wars.

At this time, in fact, corruption is reigning as master in so many circles and milieus. Calamities (not only natural ones) are multiplying. And war: there are certainly fewer of them these

days than at certain times in the past, but if the Lady asked us to pray in that sense, then there is every reason to fear it...

“*It is ALL going to come apart,*” she said,  
and it is the present *“decline of a civilization”*.

*“Rebuild EVERYTHING” + “rethink and order  
EVERYTHING”*, she also said.

That is the foretold Kingdom,  
a time of intense spiritual life  
and of the complete regeneration of a humanity

freed from its shackles  
and from everything that prevents it today  
from really ascending to God.

**Marc Bosquart**, September 21, 2020