

Here Ends the World



Once there was a man who thought that the world must end somewhere, so he set out to find the place where the world ends. He traveled thousands of miles, and kept asking people, *“I have to find the place where the world ends.”*

Finally he came to a temple where there was a sign on which was written: **‘Here Ends the World.’** He got very much frightened...the sign had appeared; a little further and the world would end. And below the sign this was written: **‘Do Not Go Any Further.’** But he wanted to see the end of the world, so he went on.

A short distance from there the world came to an end. There was a shoreline and below it an infinite abyss. He just had a look and he was scared to death. He ran back; he could not even look behind him because there was such an abyss. Chasms which are not so deep are scary, but they have a bottom; this one was infinite – it was the end of the world! The abyss was the end and there was nothing beyond the abyss. In his fear he ran into the temple and said to the priest, *“This final point is very dangerous.”*

The priest replied, *“If you had jumped, you would have seen that the end of the world is the beginning of Godliness.”* He said, *“If you had jumped into that abyss you would have found the divine.”*

Friends, how often, in life do we keep reaching that tipping point where we are faced with this choice **‘to run back to safety or to jump into the abyss’?** The choice to do the right and be criticized or to conform to the norm...the choice to judge or to be humble to know the truth...the choice to condemn or to understand...the choice to care or be cared for...the choice to hope or to despair...the choice to play fair or foul...the list continues!

In Blessed Virgin Mary, whose nativity we celebrate on 8th September, we have someone who at every decisive point of her life chose to transcend the ways of the world! **She had the courage to jump! Her courage had the faith to hold! And her faith had the Purity to reach!**

Have we ever wondered what actions or thoughts Mary might have had? She wouldn’t have been envious of her neighbor. She wouldn’t have whined about Joseph being covered in wood shavings. Pretty sure Mary would have never indulged in gossips at the well, or gave in to the temptation to whine and vent out nasty frustrations about having to move again in the middle of the night.

She would have wanted nothing less than God’s will, and sought nothing other than goodwill, for herself as well as for all those around her (pure intentions, purity of heart). No wonder she cared so much for the bride and groom at the wedding in Cana whose wine had run out! She tells us how to imitate this in her last words that are recorded in Scripture. **“Do whatever He tells you”** (John 2:5) is her advice for seeking and following God’s will. This beatitude of our Heavenly Mother inspires us to listen to her Son and obey Him, understanding that purity is woven through our hearts, our bodies, and our faith.

Through prayer, and participating in the Sacraments and life of the Church (as Mary was surely an active participant in her faith!), we shall find that God desires to draw us closer to Him, and in so doing, our love and our faith would grow. Naturally, then, we would become better versions of ourselves. **We would grow in purity of heart and body and faith as our Maker and Savior draws us deeper into His love.** We would surely become more like Him, and that divine spark in us, that image and likeness of God, that divine purity would grow and bloom!

St. Augustine, the fourth-century Bishop, whose theology profoundly shaped the Western Church’s understanding of sin and human nature, affirmed that *“through Mary’s birth, the nature inherited from our first parents is CHANGED.”* **HAPPY BIRTHDAY MAMA MARIA!**

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