

And On the Third Day I Shall Rise Again (1917-2012)



A Fresco in Ekaterinburg: The Royal Martyrs Stand above all Factionalism.

Touch not mine Anointed.

Psalm 104, 15

Unfortunately, we Russians too often accuse others of creating our misfortune, not wishing to understand that our situation is the work of our own hands, we are all guilty and especially the upper classes...Only the greatest suffering and the blood of innocent victims can wash away our sins and the sins of whole generations. May the Lord help all us Russians, both those who languish in faraway foreign lands and those who suffer in our much-suffering Homeland, of course so dear to us all, to unite in peace and love with one another, offering our tears and our ardent repentance to the merciful God for the innumerable sins that we have committed before the Lord, before our Sovereign Tsar who was crowned by God, and before our Homeland. And only then will our great and mighty Russia rise up, inspiring joy in us and fear in our enemies.

Mother Maria (Anna Vyubova, + 1964), the close friend of the martyred Tsarina Alexandra

Introduction: On Messianism

I have been called 'a Russian Messianist'. These are not the first words that come to my mind in describing my beliefs. I would rather say that I try to be a Christian and follow the Gospel. However, it is also true that Christians who believe in the Incarnation (as opposed to those

who merely play at ‘spirituality’) have to be Messianists. This is because we have always had to face secular Messianism, to which we have always opposed Christian Messianism. Fundamentally secular Empires like the Roman, the institutional Roman Catholic, the British and today the American, always claimed to be Messianic, attempting universality. We have to resist them. After all, Messianism is inherent in the Lord’s commandment in Matt 28, 19, ‘Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them...’.

In more recent times, the Western ideologies of Communism and Fascism were also Messianic. Both the Third International of Communism and the Third Reich of Fascism were intent on conquering the planet. However, both were stopped and defeated by the Third Rome of Orthodoxy, even when all around there was apostasy. Today, Consumerism, the society of modern bread and circuses which lacks all moral seriousness and depth, is also a form of Messianism, as it too is global, intent on conquering and controlling the planet.

Like all post-Protestant Western ideologies and obsessive delusions, from puritanical environmentalism to feminism and political correctness, Consumerism also self-righteously meddles, priggishly interferes, attempting to impose itself on others. However, all these ideologies have failed and will fail as Messianic because of their secular nature. For secularism is always anti-Trinitarian, that is, it is always Unitarian or centralising, opposed to the freedom of unity in diversity. This lack of freedom is why all such centralising ideologies contain the seeds of their own destruction. This we can see in the failure of Russians in 1917 to keep faith with Christian Messianism and instead choose secular centralism. What was that failure?

The Russian Failure

By 1917 many upper-class Russians had been infected by the ideological sickness of humanism. This was the result of contamination from the by then 900 year-old process of spiritual degeneration in the West, away from the worship of God towards the worship of man. This sickness had already appeared in Russia some 450 years before in the heresy of the Judaisers, and later in the sixteenth century through the Italian and Polish entourage of Ivan IV. After being rejected by the holy Patriarch Germogen during the Polish invasion of the early seventeenth century, the ideology reappeared later in that century under Alexei Mikhailovich, who deposed Patriarch Nikon.

This was the beginning of the end. By the time of Peter I a few decades later, some 7,000 were massacred, some by him personally. He also introduced freemasonry and was the first to try and introduce the alien humanist ideology in the form of despotic absolutism. After him the spiritual contamination developed apace through the ruling class, the Empress Anna, and especially under the German Catherine II, who persecuted the Church, closed 80% of the monasteries, tortured its bishops and enforced Western-style serfdom. This humanist ideology received a sharp rebuke in the Orthodox victory over Napoleon and its liberation of Paris. However, by the early twentieth century it had come to express itself in the delusion that man can and must create for himself a paradise on earth, because there is no other paradise.

Two forms of this Western delusion, Communism and Capitalism, expressed the two sides of the same coin. The only argument between them was which form was the most ‘efficient’, that is, which was the most spiritually destructive. When Communism was applied to the Messianic Third Rome of Russia, not paradise, but hell was created on earth. In the end,

following the partial spiritual reawakening of Russia after the invasion of Hitler on the feast-day of All the Saints of Rus, the Communist Messianism of the Third International was replaced in 1991 by the Consumerist Messianism of Globalisation, the idolatry of the Golden Calf.

Why Christian Messianism Failed in Russia

In the Russian Orthodox context the only system of Messianic government that works is Orthodox Sovereign Monarchy. Why then did this fall in 1917? It was because, as we have explained above, the ruling classes had lost their faith in Russia's duty and destiny of Christian Messianism. They simply no longer believed in Orthodoxy, Sovereignty and the People, the Faith, the Tsar and 'Rus'. They had fallen away from the spiritual centrality of Orthodox Christian civilisation into the spiritual provinciality of Western secularist 'civilisation'. The vacuum of their loss of faith was filled by anti-Christian Communist Messianism, which had its roots in the Messianic ideology of a rabbi's son.

Similarly, in 1991, Messianic Communism was replaced by Messianic Consumerism, which is based on Globalist Banking and Trade. Messianic Communism, based on totalitarian dictatorship, created enslavement to a false ideology, but Messianic Consumerism, based on totalitarian 'democracy', created enslavement to debt and anarchic destruction, as we are now seeing in country after country. The reason for the downfall of Christian Messianism in Russia was clearly understood by Tsar Nicholas II in 1917. On the night after his Gethsemane, his so-called abdication, he wrote in his diary that all around him were 'treason and cowardice and deceit'.

He had been betrayed by the treason of the Sanhedrin, the upper class of masonic Duma politicians, generals and courtiers, Romanovs among them, who wanted him to abdicate so that they could seize power for themselves; he had been betrayed by the cowardice of the middle classes, clergy among them, who thought only of their own selfish bourgeois comfort; and he had been betrayed by the deceit of Judas and of Pilate, of Germany and the so-called 'Allies', forgetful of the 150,000 Russian lives sacrificed at Tannenberg to save Paris in 1914, who out of envy wanted the Russian Golgotha and, according to some, from New York ordered the slaughter of the Imperial Family. After this turning point, the cock crowed three times, the anti-Russian pogrom, slaughtering millions, began, and the whole tragic history of the twentieth century, of treason and cowardice and deceit, unfolded. World history, which has not known peace from that day on, has been haunted by its innocent victim, Tsar Nicholas II ever since.

Faithfulness and Courage and Honesty

Today, in 2012, it is clear that the full Resurrection of Orthodox Russia, after the failure of both Communism and Consumerism, can come only after repentance for these three vices of treason, cowardice and deceit. And repentance means the action of applying their opposites - faithfulness and courage and honesty.

Faithfulness to Orthodoxy is to veer neither to left nor to right, to veer to neither of the thieves between whom we are crucified. Both the spiritual thieves of left and right, of Communism and Consumerism, have the same origin in the delusion that man has no immortal soul, no destiny in the hereafter and that therefore all must be done for his selfish well-being on earth. However, both Communism and Consumerism are redundant if Popular

Monarchy, faithful to Orthodoxy, takes care of those in society who are too weak to look after themselves, but at the same time insists on personal courage, responsibility and moral values, which are always founded on the spiritual.

Faithfulness to Orthodoxy means putting our heavenly homeland above all local, tribal nationalisms. Only faith gives courage – without it there is the fear and denial that lie behind all cowardice. Courage also means rejecting the deceit and dishonesty of swimming with the tide, adapting and conforming to Communism or Consumerism. Honesty rejects the treason, cowardice and deceit of the kiss of Judas and the indifference of Pilate. For this reason, faithfulness knows that it cannot trust the deceitful and hypocritical ideology which sold out to the banker and the merchant. Faithfulness, courage and honesty thus reject the illusions of both materialism and spiritualism.

Conclusion: On the Resurrection on the Third Day

Satan is thwarted. His greatest weapon is Golgotha, that is, the Cross of the Crucifixion. However, not knowing Good, Satan does not know that if there is repentance which leads to faithfulness and courage and honesty, his greatest weapon of the Cross always rebounds on him in the form of Resurrection. Crucifixion and death have no power over those who die in Christ, for they are raised with Him. This is why Satan's crucifying devils fled Russia after the fall of atheism and returned to the West. With its anti-Gospel ideology of 'homo economicus', preaching that man shall live by bread alone, the West has for centuries been sick.

The Western sickness has been the desire to destroy any spiritual ideal and authority that withholds, standing in the way of its materialism. However, no sickness is a sickness unto death, if it is fought with the medicine of repentance. In Russia the West has met the East in Ekaterinburg, where the double-headed eagle reigns. The East, with its Golgotha of Communism, has failed. The West, with its Golgotha of Consumerism, has failed. And after Golgotha there must come the Resurrection of Russia on the Third Day. This Third Day is the Day of the Redemption and Restoration of faithfulness, courage and honesty.

Only faithfulness, courage and honesty can bring compassion for the world, not the bankers' usury which finances the traders' manipulations of the people and the world, the bread and circuses which result in Consumerist amorality, tyranny and self-destruction. The prophecies of the Saints unite in proclaiming that a descendant of a Romanov mother, chosen by the people, the White Tsar, will come before the end in Russia. This is what destiny has chosen even us to work modestly towards and this work is our responsibility, our duty and our witness before history. Although this Third Day of Resurrection has not yet dawned and it is still night, many stars have now come out, for dawn is close and so we must prepare.

Archpriest Andrew Phillips,
Paris

19 July / 1 August 2012
St Seraphim of Sarov