

God is Father

I am sending you a text following a discussion I had with a Muslim friend. He insisted that we could not consider ourselves sons of God without offending God and deserving his Anger. He insisted that to be agreeable to God one has to consider oneself a slave.

This wide spread mentality in the Muslim world is based on a misunderstood quranic verse: "God begot none, nor was He begotten" (Quran CXII; Oneness, 1-4) but to be understood "as have done the gods of the polytheist mythology" at the time when the Quran was inspired. Thus, this verse is an answer to the polytheist mythology and does not in anyway target the spiritual paternity of God.

Whereas the Christians call God their Father but most often behave like frightened slaves and not trusting sons. Their pompous cults, their timid and calculated attitudes are given proof. However, St John says " In love there is no room for fear, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear implies punishment and no one who is afraid has come to perfection in love" (1 John 4,18).

The entire Biblical Revelation talks about our adoption in Jesus through God. Here are some texts:

1. In the Old Testament, God had already said through Jeremiah:
 - Jr 3,19: "And I was thinking: How am I to rank you as my children.....? I thought: You will call me "Father" and will never cease to follow you."
2. Jesus too, asks us to talk to God as a Father:
 - Mt 6,9 / Lk 11,1: "So you should pray like this: Our Father in heaven..."
3. St John confirms this truth:
 - Jn 1,12: " To those who did accept Him (Jesus) he gave power to become children of God".
 - 1 Jn 3,1-2: " You must see what great love the father has lavished on us by letting us be called God`s children – which is what we are. The reason why the world does not acknowledge us is that it did not acknowledge Him. My dear friends we are already God`s children."
4. St Paul too forcefully insisted on our divine adoption in Jesus:
 - Ro 8,14-15: "All who are guided by the Spirit of God are sons of God; for what you received was not the spirit of slavery to bring you back from fear; you received the Spirit of adoption, enabling us to cry out, Abba! Father! The Spirit himself joins with our spirit to bear witness that we are children of God".
 - Ga 4,4-7: "...God has sent his Son...so we could receive adoption as sons. As you are sons, God has sent into our hearts the spirit of his Son crying: Abba! Father! And so you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, than a heir, by God`s own act."

This revelation by Paul teaches us that through Jesus we are receiving a spirit and a new conception regarding our relationship with God. We are not slaves but sons. One must have the Spirit of God to understand that. Those who do not have the Spirit of God will understand nothing. This is why, in our discussions with others we do not try to convince. We only want to inform and testify. We sow the grain and continue our journey without insisting. Those who have God`s Spirit, those alone will understand.

God wants sons, not slaves. Jesus came to liberate us, and not enslave us (Jn 8, 31-36). One is “son of God” or “slave of the devil”. There are no slaves in Heaven, only children; there are no children with the devil, they all are slaves. To refuse God as a Father means to become a slave of the devil. Such is the teaching of the Divine Revelation.

Furthermore, the Quran does not incite the believers to reject the divine paternity. When the Quran incites the believers to “adore” God, it is within a spirit of liberty and not of slavery. The Quran invites the believers to do it with love and not with fear knowing that one is a son and not a stranger. Therefore, some even refuse a relationship of love with God and prefer a relationship of respect. Love does not exclude respect; on the contrary it demands it. Some pretend that it is “shameful” to love God. Nowhere does the Quran teach that.

On the contrary, many quranic verses underline love and stress the tender love between God and the true believers:

- “Yet there are some who take (for worship) others besides Allah, as equal (with Allah). They love them as they should love, but those of faith are overflowing in their **love for Allah (Houb)**” (Quran II; The Cow, 165).

- “Seek forgiveness of your Lord and turn onto Him in penitence. For my Lord is indeed full of mercy and **loving-kindness (Wadoud)**” (Quran XI; Hud, 90).

-“On those who believe and work deeds of righteousness, will (Allah) Most gracious bestow **Love (Woudd)**” (Quran XIX; Maryam, 96).

It is indeed a matter of love (Houb), and of tender love (Woudd) and from the One who loves tenderly (Wadoud). It is very touching to be “Wadoud”, to love with tenderness. Yes indeed, this is the way our Father loves us: “I am gentle and humble in heart (Wadoud)...”, said Jesus (Mt 11, 29).

As for the Bible, we are encouraged to “love God with all our heart, with all our strength...” (Dt 6,5 / Lk 10,25-28). St John declares: “Love is from God, everyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. Whoever fails to love does not know God, because God is Love” (John 4,7-8).

Those who think differently are not inspired by God but by the deceiving satanic spirit that will move them away from the love of God, from the divine filial adoption and turn them into slaves of the devil. Those, who in the name of the Quran do not believe in the love relation between God and man, ignore the Spirit of the Quran, therefore do not recognize Muhammad as the noble prophet of Islam, who like all prophets, was emblazed by the Divine Love.

My beloved, I am writing you so that you realize the excellence of your vocation in Jesus. Without pride, but with great dignity we are “already” children of God and God is our marvelous Father with His limitless love. All men are invited to this filial adoption. We are responding to this call with love and enormous joy. We certainly do not have the monopoly of this divine adoption; to the contrary, we wish that all men respond to this divine call with simplicity. Jesus came to give such a Father to all men. Happy are those who accept Him and do not lose themselves in human reasoning inspired by the devil.

With an infinite gratitude we dare call God “Abba (Daddy)! Our Father”.