

Why the Mashrik?

Damascus, 21/4/2024, Father Elias Zahlawi

The answer to what's in this headline is provocative, needing no type of research, neither in history, nor in sciences, nor in philosophy, nor in theology, nor even in politics... We reckon with the reminder of five facts, keys, as precise as they are truthful, that have accompanied, from four thousand years ago to this day, the history of this Mashrik, now known by a common name, Greater Syria.

And simply recalling these facts would absolutely clarify, in the eyes of every upright person, the sole and necessary answer to the catastrophic situations that undoubtedly threaten the survival of our magnificent planet!

Foremost among them is **the invention of the alphabet**, truly a human miracle, regardless of its origin, whether Phoenician or Ugaritic! It has been, for all of humanity, a renewable source for every thought, every word, every dialogue, writing, and relationship, and thus for every love and cooperation, especially for every 'new local alphabet'...

And today, in the face of the escalating phenomena of generalization and normalization, of every lie and forgery, of hostility and demonization, as well as the lust for killing and nihilism, on a global scale, it has become more urgent and vital than ever to ignite a tremendous and renewable momentum of love, freedom, and dignity worldwide!

Secondly: **The Code of Hammurabi**, King of Babylon - (1792-1750) BCE.

Today, more than ever before, the entire world suffers blatantly from the actual and radical absence of universal laws that everyone adheres to and abides by! The genocide being committed by Israel, in full view and hearing of the whole world, comes in the wake of another, more extensive genocide, orchestrated by (140) countries, led by the United States of America, ironically dubbed the 'Arab Spring,' against Syria, since mid-March of 2011. I say that this genocide has completely exposed the predatory and despicable tyranny exercised by those who hold power in this world.

And today, it has become absolutely imperative, without further delay, to adopt laws that uphold dignity and integrity in the relationships between all peoples without exception! In this lies an indispensable condition for every dignified human life, on a global scale...

Thirdly: **The presence of Jesus Christ in Palestine**, two thousand years ago.

Regarding this matter, suffice it to highlight two very brief points:

The Bright Implication:

There is consensus that Jesus Christ is a unique and radiant historical figure, both in his life and teachings. He sees God as love... And that all of humanity, present, past, and future, is but God's family on earth... And the church he established is a gathering of God's sons and daughters, where the greatest serves all, following Christ's example...

And it ended with Christians, relying solely on their faith and comprehensive love, gaining nations and overcoming their persecutors, whether Roman or Jewish. It also ended with the Byzantine Emperor Constantine, acknowledging the Christians in 313 AD, their right to live peacefully throughout the entire empire...

The Grim Implication:

It is acknowledged that the Church, starting from 313 AD, gradually transformed into an institution, and like any institution, it gradually slipped into the mazes of power, wealth, prosperity, self-sufficiency, pride, despotism, politics, etc., especially in feudalism, from then until the mid-twentieth century...

It so happened that this entire Church, with the Vatican at its helm, fell into a massive and troubling sin complex regarding Jews in general and the state of Israel in particular... So much so that the horror of what happened in Palestine in general, since 1948, and in Gaza in particular since October 7, 2023, couldn't break its silence akin to the silence of graves! All this, while what the Church should be is nothing but the voice and presence of Christ, for that is its sole justification for existence!

Fourthly: The emergence of Islam in the seventh century.

What matters to me today from the massive phenomenon of Islam is nothing but this pattern of coexistence, the Islamic-Christian, which Islam alone was within all the conquerors known to history, thanks to its exceptional creator, from the moment of its entry into Damascus in 635. This coexistence extended to the city of Jerusalem since its conquest in 639, and to Egypt in 641, especially to Andalusia, from 711 until 1492, where Muslims, Christians, and Jews lived together.

And it must be reminded that things proceeded in this manner, throughout centuries, in the Arab and Islamic world, despite the fluctuations of history and some transgressions here and there, until the emergence of the Zionist movement... What justifies today the insistence on making Islam the 'tyrant' of the modern age, starting from the alleged 'jihadists,' entirely manufactured by the Anglo-Saxon and Western intelligence apparatuses, which are controlled, funded, directed, and blatantly nurtured by global Zionism?

Fifthly: The phenomenon of the apparitions in Damascus, the Syrian capital.

This phenomenon is nothing but an intrusion, unexpected by anyone, initiated by the Virgin Mary and Jesus Christ themselves, within a landscape of fragmented Arab churches living in an overwhelmingly Muslim Arab society. This event, in itself, undoubtedly constitutes an unprecedented occurrence in the Arab and Islamic world.

Today, I rely on various messages conveyed firstly by the Virgin Mary and then by Jesus Christ.

Here are three of the messages of the Virgin Mary:

1- Dated 18/12/1982, in Damascus:

«My children,

Remember God, because God is with us.

You know everything, and yet you know nothing.»

2- Dated 4/11/1983, in Damascus:

«My heart has been consumed over my only Son;
It will not be consumed over all my children.»

3- Dated 15/8/1990, in the town of Braaschaat, Belgium:

«My children,
Pray for peace, especially in the East,
For you are all brothers in Christ.»

Here are also three messages from Jesus Christ:

1- Dated 31/5/1984, in Damascus:

«My daughter, I am the Beginning and the End.
I am the Truth, Freedom, and Peace.»

2- Dated 10/4/2004, in Damascus:

«My last commandment to you:
Return, each one to his home,
But carry the East in your hearts.
From here, a new light arose. You are its rays to a world seduced by materialism, lust
and fame, so much so that it has almost lost all values
As for you (pl.),
preserve your Eastern Identity.
Allow not your will, your freedom, and your faith in this East to be taken from you.»

3- Dated 17/4/2014, in Damascus:

«The wounds that have bled on this Earth are the selfsame as the wounds in My Body,
for the cause and the causer are the same.
But be confident that their fate is the same as the fate of Judas.»

These messages themselves, I want them to be the conclusion of my speech. And is there anyone better suited to understand, in the best way, what our lost, if not lost, world needs most, than Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary?

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