

Chapter 23

The Idols and the Lanterns

“ You must not uncover the nakedness of your father or mother, she is your mother, you must not uncover her nakedness” (Leviticus 18:7)

We may think that the above holy words have no relevance. Because we can not even imagine such things.

But some incidents came under my attention totally erased this way of thinking. Those were the incidents in which the sons sexually contacted with their mothers who had given birth to them painfully. In the first case, the son was a drunkard and he did his revenge to his mother by raping her.

In the second case, the son who was above 18 years old had intercourse with his mother who had been a mental patient. I was happened to know about a youth who keep sexual contact with animals. Recently we have heard about a doctor who became millionaire by selling C.D.s(Compact Disk for storing data) containing scenes of sexual relationship between ladies and trained dogs.

Let us think of the images or idols before we come across the divine laws and regulations which are existing as lanterns and guidelines in the way of human life.

The origin of the idols are described in the book of Wisdom in holy Bible.

“ The invention of idols was the origin of fornication, their discovery, the corrupting of life. They did not exist at the beginning, they will not exist forever, through human vanity they came into the world. And hence a sudden end has been designed for them.

A father afflicted by untimely mourning makes an image of his child so swiftly taken , and now he honors as a God what yesterday had only been a dead man, bequeathing mysteries and initiations to his dependents. Then in the course of time, the Godless custom hardens, as is observed as law by command of princes , the carved images receive worship”
(Wisdom 14:12-16)

The priests argue that the statues enshrined in Roman Catholic Churches are not idols. But the Wisdom of King Solomon teaches us that they are idols and don't bow before them. We have learned from the earlier chapters that the statues in the Roman Catholic Churches are the fulfillment of the prophecies of prophet Jeremiah.

“ Listen, the cry of the daughter of my people sounds through out the land, ‘ Yahwey’ no longer in Zion? Her king no longer in her?
(why have they provoked me with their carved images, with these nothings from foreign countries?) “ Jeremiah 8:19.

we have realized that the daughter of God's people means the Roman Catholic church. Because among all the Christian communities(over 4000), the statues are enshrined only in Roman Catholic church, prophet Jeremiah warns that this thing provokes God. The custom of bow before the statues have been traditionally followed in Roman Catholic churches. Since the believers of the Roman Catholic church hold firmly their traditions, probably this wrong custom may continue up to God's Great day of Wrath. Since Christ had advised to worship God in spirit and truth, he won't approve the method of worship by enshrining and worshipping the statues of Christ. We read in Bible that Christ gave bread and wine after blessing , to the disciples saying that they are his holy Body and holy Blood. But we can never find in anywhere that Christ gave his disciples a statue or a picture after blessing for installation.

If we think it off deeply, we can understand that the method of enshrining and worshipping the statues (Idols) of Christ is equal to question the divinity of Christ. Because Christ is God. God should be worshipped in spirit and truth. According to Christians, the worship through Holy Mass is the noblest and righteous method of worship.

The book of Baruk in holy Bible very clearly describes about the idols and idolatry. We can realize that there are 3 types of idols from the book of Baruk.

1. Idols equivalent to scarecrows in melon-patch

The book of Baruk in holy Bible points out this type of idols. There are no holy deities causing this type of idols. Only man's imagination is the cause of construction of such images.

In ancient times, there were communities who did idolatry by doing offerings and bow before the idols created by their imagination. It is not necessary to say that all such deeds are sins before God. When Mosses had taken some time to return from mount Sinai, the Jews made the model of a young bullock and worshipped and that incident is an ideal example for this type of idolatry.

2. Idols of false Gods

The second type is "false Gods" or images of invisible powers who can not lead man in to righteousness. The "false Gods" means demons. They are also known as "pseudo deities". "you provoked God and so were delivered to your enemies since you had angered your creator by offering sacrifices to demons, not to God"
(Baruk 4:7)

There will be one invisible force causing this type of image. Sorcerers doing witchcraft and black magic used to enshrine them and have been worshipping them and seeking their help. Examples of such demon worshippers are the Babylon people who were destroyed by God's anger. In ancient days, sorcerers used to murder human being and sacrifice them for pleasing the demons.

In revelation 9:20-21, we read about the idols of false deities. Worshipping and doing offerings to such idols invite God's anger. In the neighbouring countries which were part of Asia and also in some African countries, there existed this type of idolatry.

We read in holy Bible that during the time of invasion by the Israel, they had burnt such idols and killed the worshippers by sword. But some people, due to their ignorance, include the righteous Hindu deities and the images in temples standing as symbols of holy deities, in this category. This way of thinking is not right, but is sin too.

“If God places no trust in his servants, if he charges his angels with error, how much more those who live in house of clay”. (Job 4:18-19). Here, the reference ‘servants’ indicates the holy deities. Because we find in Isaiah 42:1 like this. “ Here is my ‘servant’, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight: I will put my spirit on him.” Here ‘servant’ indicates Christ. We can see the holy deities equivalent to angels in status, in Job 4:18-19 indicated by ‘servants’.

3. Images of the holy deities and Snakes of Fire

This type of images are based on the invisible heavenly forces who have heavenly body. Eg: The images of Cherubs installed on either side of the Ark of the Lord placed in the temple of God in Jerusalem.

The images of the righteous deities placed in Hindu temples are also included in this category.

The idol of the Snake of Fire

Even though the Israel people built and raised the idol of the Snake of Fire in the desert, they didn't commit idolatry by executing offerings or bow before that idol. They didn't burn incense or light the lamps before it. [we have learned from chapter 12 that the Snakes of Fire are of heavenly body.] They only looked upon the idol with confidence to escape from Snake-bite; according to the holy words of God.

Those who looked were saved. The idol of the Snake of Fire was only a symbol to escape from the Snake-bite.

The Cherubs installed on either side of the Ark of the Lord according to the instruction given by God was a symbol indicating the presence of God in between them.

We can see in Roman Catholic churches, the statues of St. Mary. This is an ideal symbol to indicate that St. Mary is also having a heavenly body like angels and inhabits in the heaven with the angels.[St. Mary didn't lose her physical body. The physical body transformed into the heavenly body]. But since Christians burn incense and light lamps before it, idolatry is there in Christian religion. We have seen that the images of the Cherubs were lying on their knees and worshipping concentrating the ark of the Lord. Just like that, if the statue of St. Mary be also in such a position that facing the opposite side of the

people and lying on the knee and worships God, then it will be helpful to eradicate idolatry from Christian religion.

In wisdom 14:12-21, God strictly prohibits man from create and worship idols of human being who had become part of the soil. But in Roman Catholic Churches, still there exists the wrong procedure of enshrining and worshipping those who are not heavenly bodies[whose physical body decayed], violating the prohibition given by God.

This wrong procedure is the fulfillment of Jeremiah 8:19

“Listen, the cry of the daughter of my people sounds through out the land, ‘Yahwey’ no longer in Zion? Her king no longer in her?

(why have they provoked me with their carved images, with these nothings from foreign countries?) “Jeremiah 8:19.

In the above holy words, the daughter of God’s people indicates the Christian religion. The images indicate the statues and pictures installed by Christians to submit incense and light.

“No invention of perverted human skill had led us astray no painter’s sterile labour, no figure With assorted colours, the sight of which sets fools yearning and reverencing the lifeless form of some embreathing image hovers of evil and worthy of such hopes , are those who makes them, those who reverence them and those who worship them”

(Wisdom 15:4-6)

It is clear from the above words that we should not make images and pictures and worship them. Since they lack life, it is prohibited to worship them and even make them for installation. Because in Wisdom 15:17 , we see like this: “ He himself is worthier than the things he worships; he will atleast have lived, but never they” (Wisdom 15:17).

Pictures kept in albums, printed on publications, cards and calendars are not idols; They are only symbols.

We can not see any idols in Muslim mosques. No image of Mosses or prophets as well as pictures can be seen in Jew Synagogues.If we step into a Hindu temple, there also we can see the method of worshipping God in spirit and in truth. Because we can not see the idols of Brahmavu, the creator of the heaven and the earth and Prajapathi(Christ), the son of mind of Brahmavu. But we can see there the idols of the holy deities who are the sons of mind of Prajapathi and possess the heavenly body.

A column of rock is installed for worship in Hindu temples where Lord Shiva (one of the sons of mind of Prajapathi) is being worshipped. This is known as “Shivaprathishta”. Hindus worship God by anointing the “Shivaprathishta”. This is an ancient and noble method for worship. In the correct sense, Hindus follow the method of worship which Lord Shiva adopts to worship God.(Brahmavu). This method is a noble one. Because we can see in Bible, Jacob who worships God by anointing the pillar rock.

“Rising early in the morning, Jacob took the stone he had used for his pillow and set it up as a monument, pouring oil over the top of it. He named the place Bethel.....”

(Genesis 28:18-22)

In another occasion, while God spoke to Jacob in dream, God said to him.

“ I am the God of Bethel where you poured oil on a monument and where you made a vow to me. Now get ready to leave this country and return to the land of your birth”

(Genesis 31:13)

We have realized that we can install the idols of the heavenly bodies who inhabit in heaven, as symbols. “ You shall not make yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything in heaven or on earth beneath or in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them” (Exodus 20:4)

In the English translation, copies of Holy Bible, we see the word “heaven” common to both the holy temple where God inhabits and the sky of the earth. In Exodus 20:4, the “heaven” means the sky of the earth. Here, if heaven means the holy Temple of God (7th heavenly world- ‘Sathyalokam’ in Hindu doctrines) where God inhabits, then the idols of the Cherubs would not have been installed on either side of the Ark of the Lord.

We have seen that there is nothing wrong in installing the idols of Cherubs in such a way that the believers can not submit incense or light. But another thing is more important than this. It is nothing but to enshrine the rules and commandments given by God in churches so that the believers can view it and keep it in mind.

Because, it will help the believers to keep away from sins likewise mentioned in the beginning of this chapter.

The holy words of Christ is memorable here.” If you want to be saved, then keep the rules of God”. (St. Matthew 19:17). The divine laws known to everybody. But the portion of the divine rules called “the twelve curses” is also equally important.

We read the “twelve curses” by God in the book of Deuteronomy chapter 27 sentences 15-25. “ Cursed is the man who carves an image or casts an idol- a thing detestable to the Lord, the work of the craftsman’s hand- and sets it up in secret..”

Then all the people shall say “Amen”.

“Cursed is the man who dishonors his father or his mother”.

Then all the people shall say “Amen”.

“Cursed is the man who moves his neighbour’s boundary stone”.

Then all the people shall say “Amen”.

“ Cursed is the man who leads the blind astray on the road”.

Then all the people shall say “Amen”.

“Cursed is the man who withholds justice from the alien, the fatherless or the widow”.

Then all the people shall say “Amen”.

“Cursed is the man who sleeps with his father’s wife, for he dishonors his father’s bed”.

Then all the people shall say “Amen”.

“Cursed is the man who has sexual relationship with any animal”.

Then all the people shall say “Amen”.

“Cursed is the man who sleeps with his sister, the daughter of his father , or the daughter of his mother”.

Then all the people shall say “Amen”.

“Cursed is the man who sleeps with his mother-in-law”.

Then all the people shall say “Amen”.

“Cursed is the man who kills his neighbour secretly”.

Then all the people shall say “Amen”.

“Cursed is the man who accepts a bribe to kill an innocent person”.

Then all the people shall say “Amen”.

“Cursed is the man who does not uphold the words of this law by carrying them out”.

Then all the people shall say “Amen”.

(Deuteronomy 27:15-25)

“Idol, a thing detestable to Yahweh” seen in the first rule is meant for the idols of demons. It is not pointing to the idols of the heavenly bodies who inhabit in the seventh heavenly world(“Sathyalokam”). We have seen in the first chapter that the righteous holy deities(sons of mind of Prajapathi(Christ)) inhabit in the seventh heavenly world.

The Christians can accept the Muslims and Jews as models for installing God’s Rules in the churches. The idols existing only as symbols retaining the memory of the holy heavenly body causing that particular idol. If we enshrine the idols of heavenly bodies in churches in a proper way, that will indicate the presence of God. If we write and install God’s rules in churches, they will also surely serve as lanterns and guidelines for human life along with indicating the presence of God.

Since God insisted to say “Amen” by whole people, the importance of the above 12 rules are beyond our speculation.

The Christians used to argue that statues in Christian churches are not idols and those present in Hindu temples are idols. But if we check wisdom 14: 12-16, we can understand that the statues installed in Christian churches deserve first place among all the idols in this world.