

Tuesday 5 May 2020

Job 9,8-9: *"God alone stretches out the heavens and treads on the waves of the sea. He is the Maker of the Bear and Orion, the Pleiades and the constellations of the south."*

Col.1,15-16: *"The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible."*

Living in the same world as did Job, under the same laws of nature and moral obligation, we like him know that creation as well as the life we call our own speaks of the One with whom we have to do. The testimony of everything that came to be is fundamentally this: 'What God says goes, and it alone does!' It is with him that we all have to do.

It's unavoidable that we do. But is it good? Job in the midst of his great suffering struggled much with this question. There was a mystery there he could not from his side penetrate. Job got no comfort from acknowledging the Creator and the power of his word. He wished God could be made to answer him, could be made to say the word that would redeem. But he realised that in the grand divine set up of things the divine answer to Job's suffering might just be a divine, utterly unchallengeable, 'so what?'

Yes, God was the cause of all, sustaining and ruling. But to what end were all things caused? To the end that he (Job) should be miserable in the midst of what God was causing, tormented by a sense inside him that that was not what he was made *for*?

Job insisted that there is an answer in him with whom we all have to do about the end for which all things were caused into being and that this end had to be good. But know he did not.

We who know Christ and that *"in him all things were created"* know, as those to whom the mystery was made known. *"For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross."* (Col.1,19-20)

As Job insisted that he with whom we have to do be a Redeemer even as he is the Creator, so Christ revealed to be the case.

*"Let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator."* (1Pt.4,19)