

The Power of Sharing

And I saw the dead small &
great stand before God.

St John in his Revelation tells us of the vision he had of the dead small and great standing before God. Poor and rich they were all the same. Death was the common denominator of each and of all. He saw them standing before the judgement throne of God. Not by the standards of their earthly life were they to be judged but by the standard of God.

We live in an age when it appears that it is too much effort to think. To project the mind as St John must have projected his is just too tiring. Perhaps for many too unrealistic. For many far too uncomfortable. For many not profitable for others not popular.

In this life, so mechanized in our time, we find that in all of our industrial undertakings we have certain standards we have to adhere to. Else our efforts result in chaos. The engineer has his

delicate instruments calibrated to measure
thousands of an inch. The carpenter has his
square, level and compass, and blueprint.
So through all of life we can trace a
standard by which men must abide
to carry out their physical effort that the
end result may be something of use to
society.

Dr. Hilda Neatby in her book "A Little
for the Mind" pointed out the great charm
existing between our educational practices and
the end result - a mind or minds well trained
to think. And Phillips Brooks has this to say -

St. John must have been a man whose
mind was so trained to think and reason
that he could project that mind beyond
the veil of death and bring back to us
the Revelation set down in the New Testament.

Our greatest scholars admit they do not
understand all of the Book of Revelation but
this they are all agreed upon. St. John for
a moment pulled aside the curtain of death
and gave a slight clue to its mystery. A dimly
understood feeling that each of us possess as
a loved one passes on and behind that
curtain, we can almost see the curtain
tremble for a moment with his passing.
St. John gave meaning to that mysterious journey.

He goes further. He says "I saw the dead small and great stand before God."

We have just been given a glimpse of the power to think in the recent journey into space of a mechanical apparatus that drew its power from ^{another} ~~the~~ sun and travelled 132 M. miles and still responded the control of ^{earthly} ~~earth~~ operators ~~on earth~~. Man put his mind to work on such matters and as he put his mind to work God gave him glimpses of what might be.

Man had first to put his mind to work and despite the scoffing and derision he had to develop his theory and God gave him encouragement by showing him that this was the right way or that it was wrong. And so the scientist set up a gauge for his work. Not, is it comfortable for me, is it profitable is it popular, but rather "is it right!" So his standard was set and by that criterion he judged his work.

"I saw the dead small and great stand before God." Phillips Brooks in one of his sermons "Standing before God" draws the picture of the Revelation of St. John. Here were all men of all ages of all countries of all beliefs standing before the judgement of God. The rich the poor, the comfortable, the adventurer

To all in this new environment, ~~who in~~ ^{at least} whose in
earthly life on earth had perhaps never judged
any of their own actions outside the standard
set by their society of whether it was profitable,
comfortable, or popular, comes a startling new
standard "Is it right?" on every side the
perplexed soul hears the question "Is it right, Is it
right?" Perhaps for the first time the confused
soul has had to really think "Is it right?"

To the soul that has ^{striven} through the
earthly life to know the will of God, to
think about Him, to use the conscience borne
standard each of us have of our Heavenly Father.
The soul that has endeavored to rise above
more self and selfishness and think its way
to God. This soul stands too in its ~~other~~
before God. The two stand in judgement
together. For the one it is misery & perplexity for
the other fulfillment of a lifelong search. For
the one a strange new environment in which
questions it has asked are answered by the question
"Is it right?" For the other a coming home
an entering into the fulfillment of a life-long
quest an entering into oneness with God. Is
this the hell and the heaven each soul
makes for itself when called together small
and great to stand before God?

Greater than anything else in education,
vastly greater than how many facts and
reverses a teacher may have taught his pupil,
there must always be this other question,
into what presence he has introduced him,
before what standard he has made his pupil stand:
for in the answer to that question are involved
all the deepest issues of the pupils character & life
Philip W. Crosby

Every thought of man depends on
what you first think of God. Make your
thought of God large enough and there
is no thought of man too large for
you to think within it