

## **O Lord, Why Hidest Thou Thyself in Times of Trouble?**

Psalm 10

People ask: Is God alive? Where does He live? Throughout history humankind has tried to answer these questions. How can we understand God in view of the prevalence of injustice and prospering wickedness? Many historical events show us the victory of the hypocrites over the pure-hearted. Why is this, if God lives?

Because of the human fall, God cannot come directly amidst us. He, against His desire, became deus otiosus. He hides Himself behind the wall of suffering, as the origin of life beyond death, as the omniscient being beyond the wall of ignorance, and as the Lord of Justice beyond the wall of sin.

We cannot meet Him without true penance, without noticing our ignorance, without experiencing the reality of death. God who appeared to Noah, Moses, David, and Mary did so when these people emptied their minds and were ready to receive His signals.

Jesus as the incarnation of God was ridiculed, mocked, and insulted, because God could not help hiding Himself as mentioned above.

Therefore Jesus was put to indictment. His wonderful promises were nullified in front of the cross. Seemingly, he could not even save himself on the cross, let alone save the world! Jesus appeared to be going the opposite way (to hell!) from what he promised (the kingdom of God).

But was God dead?

He was beyond the reason of the fallen man, beyond morality, and beyond fanaticism. We cannot meet him through our customs, our traditions, our logic. He is hiding Himself behind tribulation, behind ignorance, beyond sin. "...but we glory in tribulations also..." How can we be like this without becoming self-torturing psychotics? In Christian life we cannot find God if we do not face tribulation. Without participating in tribulation our belief in Jesus will be useless. It will be no more than a fiction.

To believe in God is to find His hiding place through fighting Satan and overcoming tribulation. This confrontation can be won only in accordance with God's desire, God's feeling, and God's wisdom, not with out own human desire, feeling, and wisdom.

God's sending His only son to this cross seemed to be ignoring even the basic loving relationship between Him and Jesus, but He wanted to teach about Himself this way, hiding against His desires.

If we do not understand such a situation, then we tend to be idol worshippers, always soliciting visible happiness from God. And we may want to go our own way into the heathen world, abandoning the Judeo-Christian God.

God hides Himself whenever we are in tribulation, not because he wants to avoid us but because He wants us to overcome our problems and to find Him beyond them. If we evade the tribulations, we cannot meet the living God even if we live for a thousand years on earth.