

Maximising Redemption: God gives good & bad

He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Matthew 5:45.

God Gives Both Good and Bad

We should accept that that we can not win each and every battle. There will be times that we live under good and just governance, and other times we will live under inconsistent or cruel governance.

Job 12:13 "To God belong wisdom and power; counsel and understanding are his... *Job 12:16* To him belong strength and victory; both deceived and deceiver are his... *Job 12:22* He reveals the deep things of darkness and brings deep shadows into the light... *Job 12:23* He makes nations great, and destroys them; he enlarges nations, and disperses them.

Both "good" and "bad" leadership has its reason. Often the best comes out of individuals when the worst is being displayed by its "leaders". Again, we have choices and should not leave all responsibility with the powers that be. So if, for example, your government insists on tax cuts for the rich and depriving the poor of core services and food; then the affluent have the option to invest their saved tax dollars philanthropically. In some ways, this might be more efficient in determining what will most improve the position of the global community e.g. youth off the street programs, vaccines, or literacy programs. Hugh Mackay in his book "Generations" talks about a need for an ongoing negotiation between the rights and responsibilities of the individual against regards to the needs and welfare of the broader community. In unhealthy societies excessive focus on individualism leads to hedonistic and narcissist cultures to the detriment of the greater good; conversely repression and human rights abuse occur in tyrannical societies that lose sight of the needs for accountability to its individuals. In these days of global interdependence there is a fractal pattern that takes this beyond the relationship of the individual to the state (or church for that matter) to the relationship between a nation/religion/ethnic group and the broader global community. That same fractal pattern goes down to the interplay of individuals within a family to the impact of the family on the individual.

And again, we see the need to integrate our "dark side" and acknowledge both how the individual impacts and is impacted by the other. How reasonable is it to blame only the feminine side for the sins of this creation? If shunning, violating, suppressing, or bullying the feminine was going to fix sin, then how come it isn't fixed already? I believe that the biblical God of the Book of Truth never intended for women to be treated as harshly as they have been (He might have known it was going to happen, but that doesn't mean that is what He wanted). If repressive patriarchy was going to work then the problems of this world would have been fixed a long time ago. However, retaliatory feminism is also doomed for failure. Maybe it's time to look for collaborative pat-mat (patriarchal - matriarchal) solutions.