

## Manipulation of minds – The Puppet Theatre



**Jehovah, the puppets manipulator**

Jehovah behaves many times as a puppet manipulator, also called “*puppeteer*”. He treats people as if they were puppets in a “*Puppet Theatre*”. There are several examples:

. Jehovah persuaded Hophni and Phineas, sons of Eli to not listen their father’s rebuke, **FOR IT WAS JEHOVAH’S WILL TO PUT THEM TO DEATH** (1 Samuel 2:25).

. Jehovah hardened Pharaoh’s heart to pursue the Israelites, in order to **GAIN GLORY FOR HIMSELF through Pharaoh and all his army** (Exodus 4:21; 7:3; 14:4-8; 10:20-27).

. Jehovah also hardened the hearts of the Egyptians so that they went in after the Israelites **TO SHOW THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL** (Exodus 11:7; 14:17).

. Jehovah put a lying spirit in the mouths of the prophets of Israel because **HE HAD DECREED DISASTER FOR THEM** (2 Chronicles 18:20-22).

. In certain occasion Jehovah said he **WAS PREPARING A DISASTER FOR THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL AND DEVISING A PLAN AGAINST THEM** (Jeremiah 18:11).

. Furthermore, Jehovah revealed a morbid pleasure to destroy people for he said: **JUST AS IT PLEASED ME TO MAKE YOU FINANCIALLY PROSPER AND INCREASE IN NUMBER, SO IT WILL PLEASE ME TO RUIN AND DESTROY YOU** (Deuteronomy 28:63).

Therefore Jehovah induces men to error in order to chastise them after. With such tyrannical attitudes, Jehovah threw all the possibilities of salvation of those people, confiscating them, even the right of free will that he claimed to give in Ezekiel 33:11 and 18: 21-24.

Jehovah revealed all his petty character by manipulating the minds and hearts of men, and often without giving them any chance. In the Old Testament, people served Jehovah not out of willingness, but by coercion, that is, by fear of being killed.

In his "*puppet theatre*", which could also be called a "*theatre of terror*", Jehovah manipulates the hearts of the people, hardening or softening them, according to his predilections and favouritisms. In the episode of the plagues that fell on Egypt, the intentions of the manipulator of human minds became very clear.

If the main goal of Jehovah was the deliverance of the people in Egypt, there would be no need to harden Pharaoh's heart, for every time Pharaoh repented, Jehovah hardened his heart again, as we read in Exodus 9:12, 10:20 and 27, 14: 8.

So the real goal of Jehovah with his macabre attitudes was to make the Egyptians' ruinous spectacle known, to promote himself as a "*victorious god*" before the nations. That is why in Exodus 14: 4 Jehovah said thus: ... *I will harden Pharaoh's heart to follow the people of Israel; and I will be glorified in Pharaoh and in all his army; and the Egyptians shall know that I am Jehovah.*

This fame of Jehovah as a "*hard and implacable god*" came even to the inhabitants of Jericho, for the harlot Rahab said to the spies of Israel in Joshua 2: 9 and 10: "*I know that Jehovah has given you this land because **the fear of you has fallen upon us and all the inhabitants of the country** have already trembled because of you, for we have heard that Jehovah dried up the waters of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt*".

However, the fame and prestige of Jehovah cost a high price of blood because of thousands and thousands of innocent Egyptians who were killed by the plagues or drowned in the Sea.

The behaviour demonstrated by Jehovah so often in the Old Testament reveals his instigating character, with the purpose of inducing men to error, in order to have a pretext to punish them later. This is more than "manipulation". This is named cruelty!

Such manipulation of people as if they were puppets is simply "*Machiavellian*" and does not fit with someone who claims to be the Absolute God.

My conclusion is that the Absolute God Father is not the same as Jehovah, for we never see the Father or the Son manipulating minds and hearts to be "glorified" with the destruction of human beings.

### **The true God respects the free will of each person**

In today's "*theatre of humanity*", the protagonists have complete freedom to conduct their own lives according to the will of each one. There is no tyranny, no despotism, no manipulation, no slavery and no puppets.

Although many Christian theologians claim that God has control of everything in the Universe, I believe that **the true God does not control or manipulate anyone. The true God cares, but with freedom**, respecting the free will of each individual.

God the Father allows people around the world to be like fish in an ocean or animals in large forests, living with freedom and exposed to the influences of environment around the world. He does not close people in aquariums or cages because if he did so he could not select those who voluntarily want to be part of his kingdom.

The true God is like the father of the parable of Luke 15: 11-32, who allowed the rebellious son to depart and did not punish him when the son returned. On the contrary, the father received the son with joy and celebration to commemorate his return, without even threatening him not to be rebellious again.

At no time when the rebellious son was out, the father interfered to bring him back by force. The father waited until the son decided on his own the time to return to his father's house voluntarily.

So God the Father acts for all people. He makes the invitation and the person accepts or rejects, according to his own will.

Jesus, who is the personification of God the Father, said in Revelation 3:20 ... ***Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.***

In that text of Revelation, Jesus revealed his impartial character, giving equal opportunities to all men and women to choose their own destinies. It is important to note the part of the verse that says: *"If anyone hears ... and opens ..."*, which means that Jesus **does not violate anyone's decision**.

That *"door"* where Jesus calls from the outside is the heart of the person. That means that he who opens his heart and welcomes Jesus has fellowship with the Father. The communion is symbolized by the dinner mentioned in that same verse.

It must be considered that this *"door"* has no handle on the outside, that is, only the person inside can open the door according to their own will. This means that **Jesus does not violate our free will**.

Jesus is not a tyrant or a despot with us, nor does he open by force the *"gates"* of our hearts. Conversely, **he respects our choice** of path for which we wish to follow.

The true God is only limited to orienting us on the importance of pondering very well on our choices, because we will have to respond by the consequence of our attitudes, they have been good or bad. That is why we read in Galatians 6: 7 that ... *whatsoever a man sowed, that shall he also reap*.

### **Omniscience without Interference**

Jesus, the Son, has the same essence and nature of the Father. The God Father is omniscient as well as the Son is. That is why Jesus knew from the beginning that some of his disciples would betray him (John 6:64), but he never manipulated anyone to follow him or to leave him.

When many of the disciples went back and no longer walked with him, Jesus said to those who remained, ***"Do you also want to go?"*** (John 6:66 and 67). So Jesus always kept the **door open for those who wanted to go in or out**. He never took away the right of choice of his followers and thus continues until today.

So it was with Nicodemus, with the Samaritan woman, with the adulterous woman, with Zacchaeus, with the apostles, with the rich young man, and with the thief on the cross. Jesus always gave men the opportunity to walk through the narrow path that leads to life or the spacious path that leads to perdition (Matthew 7:13, 14).

However, to those who chose to follow him, Jesus imposed his rules: ... *"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me"*. (Luke 9:23).

Jesus' plan is to free man from the slavery of sin and bring him to the full freedom of the children of God, as Paul said in Romans 8:21.

True and full freedom can only be achieved through Jesus Christ. That is why Jesus said in John 8:36 ... *If the Son sets you free, **you will be truly free***.

There is no despotism or tyranny in the kingdom of God the Father, but mercy and grace. That one who follows in the footmarks of Jesus, does so consciously and of his own free will.

Sceptics criticize those who go through the experience of the new birth, saying in a pejorative way that they were made a *"brainwashing"*. However, what Christ does is not to alienate the individual, but to order his mind, that is, his knowledge and reasoning.

Those who are of Christ "have the mind of Christ," that is, they think like him, as Paul said in 1 Corinthians 2:16 ... *For who knew the mind of the Lord? Who instructed him? But **we have the mind of Christ***.

Having the mind of Christ means thinking in the same way as he thought and reacting as he reacted. If Jesus forgave those who did him wrong and did not discriminate against people, so should we do as well.

Many think that a Christian can be recognized from the outside, but it is in the minds of people that Christ most acts. That is why Paul said in Colossians 3:10 ... *and have put on the new self, which is **being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator***.

Jesus said in John 8:32, *"Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you **free**."* So the true freedom that enables each one to choose his own path occurs when man has his mind opened by the knowledge of the truth, which is Jesus.

He who is not open-minded by the knowledge of truth remains *"capped"* because of the paradigms and blocks created by the god of this century. That is why Paul said in 2 Corinthians 4: 4 that *the god of this age has **blinded the minds** of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God*.

Therefore, he who does not willingly submit to God remains under the dominion of the *prince of this world* (John 14:30 and 16:11), for there is no other choice. This means that the one who did not go through the new birth (John 3: 3-7) is still linked to the kingdom of darkness, for in 1 John 5:19 we read that the whole world is under the evil one.

Every human being has the opportunity to leave the kingdom of the *god of this world* at any time, during all the time of his life. However, after he died, there is no more how to change his eternal destiny.

God the Father **wants everyone to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth**, as we read in 1 Timothy 2: 4. However, God does not decide what we have to decide. He is always ready to receive us and help us in our limitations, as well as the father of the parable regarding the returned son, but God does not interfere in our decisions.

God waits until each one of us takes his own way, as well as the repentant son, who returned voluntarily to his father's house, after being disappointed with the way of life he had chosen. On the patience of God to wait until we make our choice, we read in 2 Peter 3: 9 ... *The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead **he is patient** with you, **not wanting anyone to perish**, but everyone to come to repentance.*

I would like to conclude this study with Ephesians 2:14, where Paul told us about reconciling a person with God, after breaking the barriers of meaningless religiosity ... *For he (Jesus) himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by **setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations**. His purpose was to create in himself **one new humanity** out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to **reconcile** both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.*

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