

God's Holiday

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Going on holidays this month? Many are busy with the business booking tickets and reserving holiday accommodation. Those who can manage to take a break will, I trust, have a good change and feel great benefit from their relaxation.

To those who will not be going away this year, there is a comforting thought in the fact that God isn't taking a holiday either! In fact, once you think of it, the idea of God,—the Almighty Creator, the External Spirit, whose fulness fills all that there is—the idea of this God going on holiday is ludicrous. For one thing, He would have nowhere to go!

And yet, isn't it true that sometimes we treat God as if He was on holiday?—so far away, in fact, that His ideas do not count, His interest is suspect and His will irrelevant? So we ignore God. Yet, when you come to think about it, to forget God is not to banish Him. We can no more do without God than we can do without breathing! We often are not conscious of our breathing, but we never forget to breathe. Similarly, while we may be all too infrequently conscious of God's presence, He never fails to sustain us. God never takes a holiday—from us.

Perhaps it is worth asking ourselves whether we ever seek to take a holiday from Him. Not that we consciously would admit to this, but when we change our location, when we achieve promotion, or get seconded to a different department, do we let the routine of religion and the application of Faith slide? It is easily done, as is evidenced in one writer's words who wrote: "I became increasingly interested in my studies..... I 'come to' after three years to discover that I had ceased saying any private prayers at all. My personal life with God had become almost nil." I remember taking a holiday where one of the attractions was a telephone so that contact could be established in case of emergency. This illustrates what I mean by 'taking a holiday from God.' We want to be left undisturbed but with an option we can use in case of emergency. Also quite laughable—when you come to think of it. I can no more get away from God than I can get away from myself and, to recall words written earlier, the man who tries to take a holiday from God has "nowhere to go."

Let our last 'thought' be the realisation that 'holiday' comes from 'Holy day'. That so often it is a religious festival that lies behind our holiday. Because a day had to be devoted to the worship of God, men stopped their normal occupation and, to some extent, thought about some divine truth, and in this way were refreshed.

So at vacation time, while we are having a well earned rest, or covering up for those who are on leave, let us give appreciative thought to the God who never takes a holiday.

A Prayer :

Almighty and Eternal God, before whose presence your creatures sing "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty" accept, I pray, the adoration of my heart. I thank you that you are constantly at work in holiness and love; that there is no rest in the divine order of things, but a regular outpouring of sustaining power. Lord, let your grace flow unhindered into my heart, that here, too, your endeavour will be unceasing and your Being praised.

A Prayer for Holidaytime :

We thank you, O God, for times of vacation when we can rest and break the monotony of regular duties. For the majesty of mountains; for the magnificent sweep of the ocean's horizon and the palms on the seashore; for time to relax with relatives and friends, to laugh and enjoy home cooking, we give you thanks.

Lead us to spare some thought, some words, some work for those who never take a holiday, for the poor, for artisans who desire more work, not more unemployment.

So bless our holidays, that through the refreshment we receive others shall also benefit.

A Prayer for those who travel :

Grant, we pray, O God, that those who travel shall do so in safety. Help those whose work it is to protect and provide transport for others, that they themselves shall know your protection.

We pray for roadways staff, for workers on the railways, for those who pilot aircraft and sail in ships, for those whose daily work is 'maintenance' and other supporting roles. Keep minds alert; skills sharp and an element of devotion in even the most routine task, that in such ordinary ways your will be done.

TNAI REPRESENTATIVE ABROAD

We are happy to announce that Mrs. S. Zachariah, Assistant Director of Nursing, Maternity Hospital, Kuwait, has graciously accepted to be the official representative of TNAI in Kuwait. We are sure that by this arrangement our members abroad will be able to take more active part in the activities of their parent Association.

We do hope that our members in other countries will follow the same system which will be beneficial for the members as well as for the Associations.

Secretary