

How to Make Decisions

by Alfonso Ultima, Ph.D.

Sometimes it is difficult to know what it is GOD wishes you to do. There can be days--weeks, years, even!--where He seems distant, when the great words of our infinite creator do not seem to have easy applicability to everyday life.

Even if you are someone who has spoken directly to GOD, face to face, as I am, the ways of the world make one feel lost and helpless. At times when I feel this kind of emptiness or indecision, I recall the words which were first spoken to me and meditate on them thoroughly for guidance. He said:

I AM GOD I MADE THEE AND THOU BELONGEST
UNDER MY BIDDING I AM YOUR INFINITE CREATOR
YOU ARE LIKE MY CLAY I GAVE YOU SUBSTANCE
AND NOW YOU ARE LIKE BRING ME TREASURE
BRING ME JEWELS AND GOLD AND ARTWORKS AND
FRESQUES BRING ME SILVER VESSELS BRING ME
BRASS INSTRUMENTS AND GLITTERING LOGS BRING
ME GREAT AND SMALL RICHES BRING ME
MONUMENTS BRING ME ALTARS BRING ME
TESTIMONIALS BRING ME BOOKS BRING ME TEXT
BRING ME WORDS BRING ME RATIONALITY BRING
ME FEAR BRING ME RAGE BRING ME JOY BRING
ME LAUGHTER BRING ME CONTEMPLATION BRING
ME FOODSTUFFS BRING ME DRINKS BRING ME

DESIRE BRING ME THESE THINGS NOW AT ONCE
NOW NOW NOW NOW NOW NOW NOW NOW NOW
NOW NOW NOW NOW NOW

Whenever I recall these words, I am ~~again~~ as struck as I was the first time I heard them by their simple beauty. This is the first step to a faithful decision-making practice: appreciate the beautiful. Let the mere elegance of the WORD OF GOD wash over you. For me, thinking of His voice gives me supreme peace, and it is necessary to let that peace take a hold of you. For it is only through peace and trust in GOD that we can be rational animals.

Once I have relaxed in this way, I can begin to approach the intricate meanings behind His words. At first, it would seem as though little of what GOD is saying has direct applicability. (It is not blasphemous to have such thoughts, ~~this~~ for doubt is a part of ~~f~~ faith.) One must ~~xxx~~ go through the passage carefully again at each point asking yourself "what has what GOD says have to do with me?" or "now what does this mean for the here and now?" During this phase I like to keep notes, though this is hardly necessary for everyone.

GOD says

I AM GOD THAT DEMANDS THESE THINGS
FROM YOU BRING THEM ONCE TO ME NOW
GOLD AND GEMS AND BLOOD BRING THEM

AND

and I realize that when He says this He actually needs something from me, that he is asking us for gifts, and that it is something we must do. GOD says

TERROR AND STRIFE BRING ME INMEASURABLE
LOSS BRING ME BRACELETS BESTREWN WITH
RUBIES I AM THE INFINITE BEING I AM ALL
YOU MUST DO AS I COMMAND BRING ME
HIGHER MATHEMATICS BRING ME MAPS OF
DISTANT LANDS

AND, after much prayer I understand GOD wishes that I return to Him the treasures of the world, which rightfully are his and belong beside him in his chamber.

It is not always easy to discern what it is GOD wants from us. However, if we listen carefully we discover He is in fact telling us precisely what it is we need to do. When we have come to understand what GOD is saying to us, we can then look around as if with new eyes. Our sense of indecision and hopelessness ~~for~~ are now a far-off dream, for it is clear what we are to do even with the everyday objects in our lives. We find ourselves on a path that leads to harmony with everything around us; a harmony which will persist when we all, each of us, return to the face of GOD and offer ourselves and our gifts up to him.