

## MORNING PRAYER

30 October 2013

### LEKH LEKHA

#### Quiet Music

#### Theme of the day: Lekh Lekha

An old Jew saying from Talmud, says: know your roots, where you come from and you will know then you will be going to. Know your ancestors, i.e. know your origin, your provenance, search your roots, and you will know where you will be called to reach. In God's pedagogy it is an important direction inscribed in the Scriptures and as well in the nature.

#### Historical roots of the divine vocation of a human being:

Today, before listen to the word of God, allow me to introduce a short survey of the first divine call of the human being as it is told in the story of Abram, the first Patriarch of God's people (Gn. 12, 1-5), that starts with these two words: LEKH LEKHA.

To understand this text, we need to situate ourselves in Ur of Canaan. Terah is the father of the tribe and belonged to a culture reminiscent from Babel: with an authoritarian mentality, dominating over others, where individual freedom was not respected, and which come to disappear according to Gn. 11, 1-9, after the explosion of the languages.

On chapter 12, God emerge in the life of Abram then a nomad shepherd who was looking for grazing ground for his cattle. God emerge in his life with two untranslated words: LEKH LEKHA – in verbal translation: *“Va vers toi”, “Go to yourself”, “Vai ao cerne de ti mesmo”*; Go deeply within yourself, enter into the core of your being, search paths within you, in a colloquial way we would say: *“Assume life in your hands”*. And, as you cannot do it alone, in the context of your country and family, *“Go / Leave your country, your relatives, your father's home, and go to a land that I am going to show you”* (Gn. 12, 1-5). ”

LEKH LEKHA is the key call in Abram's life, which brings him to open new paths, a call which becomes the key/the root and background in Abram's human being and summarizes the core of our human and divine life. Lekh Lekha starts the first migration of the human being to the encounter of God who abides in him, at the core of his human-divine life. It confirms in him that the human being is not only created at the *image of God*, by creation and vocation, but called as well to become at *God's resemblance* (Gn. 1,2). By being created at the image of God Abram has in his AND, a seed of God's divine eternal and transcendent life (Gn. 1, 26): that he is called to make to grow and to give fruit along his life. His ADN, the divine blood circulating in him, forms in what we call nowadays, our *conscience*.

This reality was assumed by the early Christian Church when writing: "**Man is a being Capax Dei**" = abided by God. In Lyon (France), on the second century, Saint Ireneus affirmed "*God incarnated, so that man could become divine*". We all, men and women, are human and divine beings in evolution. Without God's alliance with us, without His blessing, we cannot reach the plenitude of our being. Laer on, Scriptures will show us God saying to Moses: "*Choose LIFE*".

The minimal we should now is that: There are several translations of these verses and that there is no hope of finding the original texts; that Lekh Lekha is a translation into hebrew done by Chouraki , the most outstanding rabbi of our time; that Abraham is the plural of Abram = father of multitudes, the ancestor of many nations. (Gn. 17,5).

Having given you this introduction, let us invoke the Spirit of God to enlighten us today:

#### **Initial prayer:**

**Holy Spirit, breath of Life! Holy Spirit breeze of Fire!  
Holy Spirit, our Comforter! You the One who bless us!**

1. Come Lord, come to visit us! Come to our hearts!  
Come Lord, to make us alive! Come we wait for you!
2. Come, gift of Sanctity! Come, Spirit of Truth!  
Come, gift of Charity! Come, we wait for You!
3. Come Lord, come to gather us together! Come Lord, to give us Strength!  
Come Lord, come to make us alive! Come, we wait for you!

#### **Psalm 23:**

**Refrain: The Lord is my shepherd; I have everything I need!**

The Lord is my shepherd.  
I have everything I need.  
He lets me rest in fields of green grass,  
and leads me to quiet pools of fresh water.

**Refrain**

He gives me new strength.  
He guides me in the right paths, as He has promised.  
Even if I go through the deepest darkness,  
I will not be afraid, Lord, for you are with me.

**Refrain**

You prepare a banquet for me,  
where all my enemies can see me.  
You welcome me as an honored guest,  
And fill my cup to the brim.

Refrain

I know your goodness and love  
Will be with me all my life  
And your house will be my home  
As long as I live.

Refrain

Glory to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was at the beginning, now and forever. AMEN.

**Prayer before reading Scripture:**

We praise and thank you glorious Lord ,  
for being present among us and in us.  
In us, you praise the Father with the voice of the Spirit  
Who you have given us.  
Lord may this voice of the Spirit revive us  
as we listen to the words of the Scripture,  
a manner that is worthy of fitting,  
appropriate to the meaning of the text  
and in harmony with what is revealed to us.  
Make us ready to recognize how we can correspond  
to the teaching and example proposed to us.  
For you are God, living and reigning forever and ever.  
AMEN

**God's Word:**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Gn. 1,26 : *"Then God said: "Now we will make the human being; they will be like us and resemble us".*

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Mt. 5,48: *"You must be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect".*

3<sup>rd</sup> Reading: MT. 12, 1-4 :*"The Lord said to Abram : LEKH LEKHA (follow your conscience), leave your country, your relatives and your father's home, and go to a land that I'm going to show you. I will give you many descendents and they will become a great nation. I will bless you and make your name famous, so that you will be a blessing!"*

*(Silent meditation)*

**Final Prayer:**

*Lord,*

*Help us to roundup our lives with silence:*

*The silence of expectancy and attention,*

*The silence of watchfulness and transparence,*

*The silence of poverty and humility,*

*The silence of patience and perseverance...*

*Lord,*

*Help us to understand the silence:*

*The silence of the first Creation,*

*The silence of the night,*

*The silence of sources and springs,*

*The silence of the sea,*

*The silence of infinite spaces...*

*Lord,*

*Help us to understand the distance we need*

*From aggression and noise,*

*From shouting words,*

*From verbose how to make silence*

*In the noise of our hearths:*

*At the centre of the noise of our hearts*

*So that we may create, deep within ourselves,*

*A space of silence,*

*Where we can penetrate into your own Word.*

*Lord,*

*Help us to meet You*

*In the silence of Your presence,*

*In the silence of Your love,*

*In the silence of Your grace.*

*You, the mystery of Silence,*

*You, source of silence,*

*You, the ocean of silence,*

*You, the fullness of silence.*

*You, silence of silences.*

*From: Jean Pierre Dubois-Dumée*

*(Silence pause)*

Going within ourselves to encounter God, let us pray together, with the words taught to us by Jesus Christ :

**OUR FATER**

*(each one in her own language)*

**Final song:**

**Magnificat, magnificat, magnificat, anima mea Dominum**

**Magnificat, magnificat, anima mea Dominum.**