

Suggested Article for English Corner Discussion

1. Article 4-3: Tadpole (蝌蚪) talks to fish

Once upon a time, Tadpole and Fish were having a conversation. Tadpole said "Fish, I will leave you soon." Fish was surprised (惊讶) "Where are you going?" "I will go to another world." Tadpole replied. Fish sneered (嘲笑) "I don't believe in another world, here is our world: we were born here, we live here, and we will die here. Where could another world exist?" Tadpole responded (回应) "Yet there is, and it is a far better place. In that world there are sun, flower, and grass; everything there is beautiful, soft, and warm; it indeed is a far better place than this wet world." Fish still could not believe and even rebuked (指责) his friend "You are a stubborn (顽固) creature (动物). We live in the twentieth century; this is a new age and superstitious beliefs (迷信) such as yours should not exist (存在) anymore. You must get rid (除去) of such silly (愚蠢) thoughts." However Tadpole insisted, "There indeed is another world beyond this world of water!" Finally Fish started to believe and said "Please bring me along when you go to the other world". Tadpole answered "I can go there, but you can't". "How could this be? Why is it so that you can go there but not I?" Fish asked. Tadpole replied "This is because my body has structures (结构) which will allow me to breathe; therefore I can live when I go to the other world. You do not have such structures; when you get there you will die within a few minutes."

The above conversation resembles (相似) greatly that between a Christian and a non-Christian. The Christian says to the non-Christian: "Hello friend, I will leave you soon." The non-Christian asks "Where are you going?" "I will go to another world - Heaven (天堂)", the Christian replies. The non-Christian scoffs (嘲笑) "I don't believe in 'another world'. here is our world: we were born into it, we live here, and we will die here. Where could 'another world exist?" The Christian replies "But there is, and it is a far better world. In this world there are diseases (疾病), death, sorrows (悲伤), and tears (眼泪). But in that world there is light and no darkness, joy and no sorrows; sighing (叹息) will cease (停止) and tears will be wiped away (擦去)..." The non-Christian will not believe and rebukes the Christian "Your belief is out-dated.

We live in the new age of twentieth century and no one practices superstitions (迷信) anymore. You had better get rid of these silly thoughts of yours. But the Christian insists (坚持) "Indeed, there is a far better world beyond this one!" The non-Christian finally starts to believe and says to the Christian "Please bring me along when you go to the other world". The Christian answers "I can go, but you can't". "How could this nonsense (胡说) be? Why is it so that you can go there but not I?" The non-Christian complained (抱怨). The Christian explains, "This is because I have God's life (神的生命) in me; therefore when I go there I will live. You don't have God's life in you; even if you reach there, you will not partake (享受) or enjoy the blessings (祝福) of that world."

Yes, if a man is not reborn (重生), he cannot enter the Kingdom of God (神国). You must first have God's life, then you can enter His Kingdom. Take note of Jesus' saying "Unless a man is born again, no one can enter the Kingdom of God." (Gospel of John 3:5). Here Jesus emphasizes that a man "CANNOT enter the Kingdom of God", which means "even if you reach there, you will not be able to survive". Taken together, how needy (需要) is man of God's life! When you have His life, you will partake in (享有) His character (性格); when you have His life, you will understand His WORDS (神的话, 圣经); when you have His life, you can live in His Kingdom. Now we come to a question of utmost (至高) importance, which is how can a man be "born again" (重生). (Hint: Please come to learn from next week's lesson)

2. Questions for discussion:

- 1 Besides this Material world, is there a spiritual world?
- 2 What are Those of God's Characters ?
- 3 How can a man be born again? (Hint: This will be next week's topic of discussion)