

PARADISE IS A WORLD OF BEAUTY

God's Purpose is to create an ideal world where truth, virtue and beauty reign. Needless to say, the dark forces foster falsehood, vice and ugliness. Falsehood and vice are well-understood terms, but ugliness may need explaining.

One mistake commonly made is the tendency of spiritually-oriented people to live in ugliness side by side with truth and virtue, with many people admiring them all the more for it. Since ancient times, there have been numerous virtuous souls who have served their fellow human beings but have been content to live in squalor. If forced by circumstances, it cannot be helped that these individuals experience stark privation. But when it is not necessary and such an austere life is led by choice, it is not a good thing.

There have always been quite a number of religious who lead ascetic lives as a means of self-discipline. They themselves believe this is commendable, as do their followers and admirers. Such thinking, however, is erroneous. Beauty, the most important element, is neglected; and a life of truth and virtue without beauty is incomplete.

In view of God's Abundance, our foods, our houses and our apparel should be as wholesome, attractive and comfortable as circumstances permit. The inner life of each of us requires this because it is part of God's Plan. Beauty is necessary to the soul. As it brings joy and a sense of wholeness not only to yourself but to all who come in contact with it, it can be called a kind of virtue. The higher a civilization is, the more conscious it should be of the value of, and need for, beauty. (...)