



**"You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand."
Psalm 16:11**

"Not all dragons are evil, but all dragons are dire. And the last is more to be feared than the first." – D.



Taken from "A Dragon Comments - The Human Propensity to Sacrifice Virgins, and Other Oddities."

Hleahator,

It is good to hear from you after all this time. 100 years should not keep us from renewing our friendship of old.

I was deeply concerned at the content of your first missive to me in so long a time. Your human is one of lovely voice and beauty, and it would be a great loss to the human body of Christ should she give into the lure of such a temptation.

Humans have, for the most part, forgotten that singing is primarily a gift to be used to glorify and praise God. The singing of a mother to her children, the soft lilt of a maid to her lover, a man serenading his beloved, a hymn of praise, a chorus of joy or a child singing to an imaginary friend; all are reflections and of the glory and character of God.

The keenness of this loss is greater in recent times as the singing of praise and adoration to God has become a very "profitable" enterprise, and as the purses and coffers of those who use their voices as tools in this industry fill to overflowing.

It is a natural desire for your human to want to provide for herself, and it is no sin for her to use whatever skills or abilities that God has blessed her with to reach this end. But she, as we are, is constrained to use these gifts within the confines that God has set for each of our species. The crux of the matter is that the tenets and beliefs of what they call the "Music Industry" have misled humans to view singing as a tool to be used to gather wealth.

Many of those so gifted by God with pleasant voice have succumbed to the lure of great riches through the mechanism of paid performance. It has even gone so far as to be common amongst some local bodies of Christ that their young people are lured into this future mire through their singing in the congregation, sometimes encouraged to this very end by their elders!

My human has shown me, and I have seen and heard for myself, how a number of popular secular musicians and vocalists started their rise into this sphere from a humble beginning in the church of their youth. For some, it was apparent from the beginning that this was their course; but for others, their course was altered by lust to lead to this end.

It is a great loss to the human body of Christ that the greed for wealth and power that the secular music community generates amongst its members has extended into the church. How sad that believers could be so beguiled into accepting such an obvious perversion of the will and gifts of God to humankind!

It is different for us. We recognize that our voices were created to sing and to speak praise and glory to God, from the very beginning of our kind in the Land that was since hidden. To us it would seem that only one whose mind was bent could conceive of asking or demanding remuneration for this obedience and joy.

While it is customary to provide for the feeding and sheltering of guests, this provision has nothing to do with whatever joy and entertainment that the guest may or may not bring to the host. If God has given a particular one a greater gift of voice, it is to His joy and glory that this is done, and it is to His praise, glory and joy that the gift is used to bring others into the joy of his presence.

It is interesting that, in his discourse on spiritual gifts in I Corinthians 12, 13 & 14, the Apostle Paul does not make mention of any spiritual gift related to the making of music whether through vocalization or instrumentation. This alone is enough to discount the cries of those that would argue that "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading the grain." applies to the those in the "gospel music field", as they put it.

Paul even goes on in I Corinthians 9 to use this law to expound on why he and Barnabas refused charity and worked to provide for their own needs! "What then is my reward? Just this: that in preaching the gospel I may offer it free of charge, and so not make use of my rights [as an apostle] in preaching it."

Humankind is easily beguiled into paths that lead only to death and sorrow. It is not surprising that your human is being enticed by this seduction, through her need, vanity and pride. Speak to the Creator for her, Hleahator. It is to her benefit, as well as to your own, that God has linked you together; and it can only bring both of you lasting joy for you to ask Him to give her wisdom and strength to resist the Great Enemy.

I asked my own human how he judges this matter for himself, and I was pleased to hear how he is gaining in wisdom (though to ask him to judge himself, you would think that he was the least wise of all men. He is maturing, and that is good.). In answer to my inquiry, he set out some rules that he uses to judge those who claim to sing for God:

1. Am I able to listen to their music, without the lyrics, compare it to the popular music of the day, and hear a definitive and clear difference? Or, is there no difference between the "profane" and the "prophet"?
2. Are the lyrics clearly founded on, and reflect the tenets of the Scriptures? Or, are they unscriptural, poorly written, and/or designed to lull the listeners into a group mindset and frenzy?
3. Do the performance and the arrangement of the music and lyrics give all of the glory to God? Or, do they titillate the audience by showcasing their skills, and so seduce their listeners into worshipping the "created" rather than the "Creator"?
4. Do the performers groom and dress themselves modestly, both in how they present themselves physically, and in the style and the value of their clothing? Or, is it "Jezebel at the window" instead of a properly trimmed and fueled, steadily burning lamp in the darkness?
5. Is their personal lifestyle one that exemplifies the testimony of Christ? Or, is the "world" more apparent than the "Word"?
6. Do they travel and subsist on the grace of God offered through the provision of those who they minister to, and do they offer recordings of their ministering at a modest cost? Or, does the evidence of their desires reflect more of the "thrill of the Midas", than of the "will of the Mightiest"?
7. Are they content with little recognition and obscurity in their service to God? Or, do the "Gospel Music Awards" appear to top their list of life goals?

He summed it up by saying "If they're in it as a profession for Christ, they're very likely to not be in it to offer the world their profession of Christ."

It is hard for us as dragon kindred, to understand some of the desires and foibles of the fallen human race that we share this world with. Where we would easily accept that an ability is a gift to be used to glorify our Creator; humans, even those transformed by the adoption of God, can be easily misled into "turning a golden voice into a gilded vice".

I would continue to pray for your human's deliverance from this pitfall, as will I and the Others on this side of the Great Western Waters. Sing to her and so bring her closer to our Creator, as has been our task from the Beginning.

I am pleased and gladdened by this communication with you, my friend and brother. May our Creator bless you Hleahtor, and grant you to continue until He that made us returns to His Kingdom.

Truly Yours in Friendship,

Theophilus Braesbaec, D.D.W., M.H.R.