

FOREWORD

IMPURITY

By Alice von Hildebrand

To set Rita Davidson's valuable book, *Immodesty: Satan's Virtue (A Martyrs of Purity Handbook)*, into the proper theological frame work, it is crucial to remember the key role that God has assigned to women in redemption. The liturgy is eloquent: "Oh God who has given a woman a key role in the history of redemption..." (XV Sunday after Pentecost) All we need do is to read Genesis carefully. In the ascending scale of creation, Eve came last; her body was not made of the slime of the earth, but taken from the body of a human person, giving it a special dignity. When waking up from his sleep, Adam saw this perfect companion and his response was enchantment: "blood of my blood, flesh of my flesh." Moreover, he declares her to be "the mother of the living" – a glorious title binding the woman and life. For her sake he will abandon father and mother.

When she gives birth to Cain, she joyfully exclaims: "With God's help I have brought a son into the world." No mention is made of Adam for the obvious reason that his role, while crucial for the production of Cain's body, has nothing to do with the creation of his soul, which makes him to be a human person. Of course, the same is true of Eve, but her role is nevertheless more crucial – for at the very moment of conception, God

“touches” her body and puts into it a soul which makes it to be a person made to God’s image and likeness. To be touched by God clearly gives to the female body a dignity and grants it a note of sacredness, for whatever God touches becomes sacred. This is crucial for our topic.

But alas, Eve yields to the tempting entreaties of the evil one, and eats of the forbidden fruit hoping thereby to become “like God” – she is tempted by pride. Moreover, the fruit “was good to the eyes” and awakened her concupiscence. She offers it to her husband who, without a single word of protest, eats it too. The consequences are disastrous; man has chosen to cut off his bond with his Creator and the punishment is death – but only the death of the body, not of his soul. The abyss that sin has created has cut off man’s life line with God. Unaided, he cannot bridge the abyss now created between him and his Creator. He desperately needs a Savior. Moreover - and this is our special concern – sin has dramatically damaged the beautiful love existing between our first parents; their eyes opened and they realized they were “naked”.

How are we to interpret this “nakedness”? Obviously, when God created our first parents, they were not covered by any vestment; their nakedness was a matter of course. No child is born with diapers. May I suggest that Genesis intimates that when Eve sinned, by the same token our first parents stripped themselves of the magnificent garment of purity they were born with, and they realized that their body, that had come all beautiful from God’s hands, was now cursed by concupiscence – and it is indeed a curse. Up to that time, Adam looked at Eve’s body with awe; all of a sudden he perceived the very same body as a source of intense bodily satisfaction. This tragic attraction, stripped of its marital meaning – that is, a love union between the male and female body – now became one of the greatest sources

of sin, and this is still true today. The trembling reverence that Adam had for Eve's body degenerated into a violent bodily temptation to fulfill a powerful and violent craving. Any confessor will tell you that impurity is probably the most "popular sin" (i.e., it is the vice that makes most victims). (Our Lady of Fatima told us as much. *Ed*) The only immediate solution that came to our first parents' minds was "covering" their body that had suddenly become an object of shame which calls for "hiding" – the proper response to what is lewd and base.

Why did the Serpent address himself to Eve and not to Adam – the strong sex? St. Augustine, one of the greatest and noblest minds in the Catholic Church, surprisingly gives us an answer which is, I believe, unsatisfactory. He claims that his choice was dictated because "*being the weaker sex*", she was the easiest one to defeat. There is, however, nothing in Genesis which justifies this claim. Even great minds can err. In fact the "weak" sex – while erroneously viewed as "inferior" to the male sex (for Aristotle makes the primitive mistake of claiming that in the marital embrace the woman is only "passive while in fact that is gloriously receptive) – turns out to be, in some ways, the stronger one. It was Chesterton who wrote that pleasure plays a greater role in men's lives than in women's (which I believe to be true) and men will more easily than women "*be defeated by it.*" The evil one knows this and will therefore aim his arrows at the "weaker" sex, encouraging them to use their "seductive power" to conquer the "stronger" party, imprisoning them in the powerful nets of sex. She then becomes a man's mistress (how meaningful). Let us recall Samson and Delilah.

Much of great literature has developed this tragic theme (e.g., Gogol's novel, *Tarras Bulba*). Nietzsche, who accidentally makes very powerful psychological remarks, wrote that before the French revolution women had much less authority than

men but more “influence” and, in fact, that the latter is more powerful than the former, which is limited to commanding actions. The history of the world confirms the saying of a wise French man – whose name escapes me – when he wrote that the moral health of any nation is to be gauged by the conduct of its women. How profoundly true. When women lose sight of and betray their noble and great mission, marriages are bound to collapse, condemning the family to a grave and shaking the very foundation of any society. This is what we perceive today and the picture is indeed dark and menacing. Women’s powerful influence is not determined by whether or not they become heads of state but by their key role as heart of the family, as wives and mothers.

Let us recall that the special nobility of the female body made from a living person; let us recall that she is gloriously called “the mother of the living”; let us recall how closely she collaborates with the Creator in the conception of a new human person; let us recall the sacredness that this honor gives her. To be a woman is linked to the noble awareness that she has a “noblesse oblige” and that a humble consciousness of her special nobility calls for “veiling”. Prudishness is a clever diabolical caricature of purity. It presents the body as a source of shame instead of perceiving it as a “secret” which is to be precious kept until God allows its unveiling in the great moment of a Catholic marriage – an unveiling blessed by God himself. Whereas we can say that there is a form of courage – motivated by the noble motivation of protecting the weak – particularly confided to the male sex, purity is a virtue particularly confided to women and that they are therefore called upon to live it and in so doing will protect marriage, the family, and the nation.

When impurity gains currency, woe to that nation. This is what history teaches us, but it is well known that

we never learn from history. When a nation clearly starts degenerating, the cause is not economical as some of our “great” politicians try to convince us; it is always moral. In fact it starts in grammar school, where children are taught that only empirical sciences give us valid knowledge; the rest is up for grab. Each one is to determine the “life style” best adapted to his personal needs.

Whereas men’s minds are being used by the Evil one to spread intellectual poison – atheism, materialism, relativism, subjectivism, Gnosticism are taught in schools and universities – Satan, whose power has been held in check thanks to the unfathomable gift of the Holy Virgin, is now realizing that he is “running out of time” and is making a last effort to defeat the woman. It is a sad fact that since original sin, the fate of the “weak” sex has been shocking, seen as a pure object of pleasure, used as a slave and thrown into the garbage can as soon as she no longer gives satisfaction. Shame on the “strong” sex!

Satan will now try to convince women that this shameful situation is caused by maternity, that it is the curse of women to conceive and give birth, that this fact has sealed their disgrace. He now uses every possible tool to make them revolt. He convinces them that they should be given mastery over their own body; they have a right to decide whether or not they wish to conceive and to be mothers, that the time has come for them finally to gain status of equality with the male sex. Simultaneously, Satan makes them realize that their most powerful tool is their sexual attraction that brings innumerable males to a pitiful moral defeat. Satan is now going to appoint fashion designers as their close collaborators, encouraging them to create new styles that are more and more “daring,” clearly aiming at making the female body objects of constant temptations for the weak male sex. We only need look at television programs. Whereas men are

dressed respectfully, the girls in the front row exhibit not only their legs but much of their thighs and their breasts in such a fashion that inevitably their message is not political but sexual. Their physical appearance will captivate the male viewers and guarantee which channel or which program will be watched. I can easily imagine how many of these attractive females will receive letters from appreciative males and that they will, when possible, make contact with these irresistible females. Worth noticing is that the less material is used, the more expensive the dress (if it can be called a dress) will be.

Granted the immorality in dresses has always existed but that like pornography and homosexuality is no longer sold “under the counter”, it is instead proudly advertised, this is moral decadence.

The valuable contribution of Rita Davidson is that, being an expert in this field, she is eloquent about informing us of the traps that immodest women’s clothing are clearly set to degrade society and bring about the collapse of marriage and the family. This is why it is my hope that this book will have a wide circulation.

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Month of the Most Precious Blood

EXCERPT FROM, “*Immodesty, Satan’s Virtue*” by Rita Davidson

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