

## From Grundtvig's sermon in the Vartov church August 2 1840.

"7de Søndag efter Trinitatis 1840" (GPV I, 435f).

[My translation].

[In this sermon Grundtvig talks about the separation of power and love. Modern man has separated these two items. In that way some modern Christians believe in a loving God and some believe in a God of power. But this is a false and illusionary conception according to Grundtvig. There is a intimate connection between power and love. Love comes from the powerful agent. This love can only come from the powerful agent and those who are subordinate should trust those who are above them. The virtue, true character and destiny of the powerful agent consist in caring for and benefiting those agents which have been placed in his care].

Der har nemlig aldrig været nogen Tid, da man i Almindelighed havde en saadan Gru for enhver afgjort Overmagt, som i vore Dage, og vel kommer det ei sjelden af den Selvraadighed, man ei længer bekæmper som en Last men oplækker som en Dyd.

Everywhere in these days we see a general and pervasive fear of and feeling against any sort of strong superiority and absolute power. Such a fear has never been as strong as in our days. This fear comes from a mentality of illusionary self-confidence and the illusion of wilfulness. In the old days this was rejected and fought as a vice. To-day it is praised as a virtue and the young ones are brought up to feel this wilfulness and illusion of self-confidence.

men den har dog nok sin Hoved-Grund i den Alderdoms-Svagthed, og Frygtsomhed, hvoraf Menneske-Slægten nu øiensynlig lide-,

The human race is now old and tired and much weakened and has acquired an unnatural fear of power and this is one of the main reasons for this vice of self-wilfulness.

thi der har været andre Tider paa Jorden, da Selvraadigheden var anderledes stærk, uden at man dog enten sporede den- Gru for al klar Overmagt baade aandelig og legemlig, baade i Himlen og paa Jorden, ja, selv for det blotte Skin deraf.

Contrary to the old days we see to-day a strong fear of absolute power, domination and superiority. Modern man is against this idea of power, excellence and domination be it bodily or spiritual, in Heaven or on earth, with God or among human beings. He cannot even tolerate the faintest appearance of this superiority or superior power.

Denne slaviske Frygt ved hvert Glimt af afgjort Overmagt, der vel er modbydeligst hos dem, den driver til at formægte al Overmagt i Aandens Verden, hade og undergrave al synlig Overmagt i Legemets Verden.,

To-day we see this slavish and unworthy fear of any sign of strong superior power. This fear and this hatred against power and superiority is a disgusting thing. It makes people deny any absolute power in the world of the spirit and of the body. Because of this fear they try to attack and undermine power and superiority in Heaven and on earth.

men er dog ogsaa sørgelig nok hos dem, der skiælvende kaste sig i Støvet overalt hvor de see, eller formode Overmagt,

This unnatural fear makes people either attack the power or they subject totally and unworthily to the demonstration of force and power. So they act as like they were fearful and unworthy slaves and not men.

denne slaviske Frygt, som er den sande Kilde til det almindelige Skrig paa Frihed og paa meer og meer Sikkerhed mod Overmægtens Misbrug,

From this pervasive slavish, self-humiliating and unworthy fearfulness follows the common popular violent cry for freedom. They demand ever more individual protection, individual rights and security against absolute power. They think that this absolute power is a threat to them. They think that the agent of this absolute power abuses his superiority and power.

Den ---er det ingen Sag at gjøre latterlig, men synes en Umuelighed at /helbred-,

It is easy to see that this popular pervasive fear is illusionary and ridiculous. This fear should be healed and removed but this seems to be almost impossible.

og dog maa den helbredes, hvis Jorden ei skal forvandles til et Helvede for os Alle, med Graad og Tænders Gnidsel, eller dog med stum Fortvivelse,

If this fearfulness is not healed and removed our life will turn into a condition of hell on earth.

Og Gud være lovet, endnu er der Kraft til Lægedom hos J esus Christus; Lægedom- Kraft i Hans Ord og Evangelium for alle menneskelige Sygdomme, saa de ikke skal være til Døden, men Guds Søn æres ved dem.

But God be praised! There is a healing power in Jesus Christ, in His words and gospel. This power can still heal our diseases. Our present disease [of fearfulness of power] is not onto death but to the praise of our Lord, the son of God.

Og den Lægedoms-Kraft, som skal helbrede Trældoms-Frygten, i en vis Grad hos Alle og tilbunds hos hans sande Troende, det er Kierligheds-Ordet paa Almagtens Læber: mig ynkes hjertelig over denne Skare.

Everywhere we see to-day this fear of the slaves. The words and gospel of Christ can heal this fear fully and totally with the true Christians and true believers and partially with the rest of humanity. The absolute divine power says to us: - I pity this gathering of human beings. In these words we can understand that love comes from the agent of absolute power and superiority.

Ja m. V. at den eneste sande Overmagt, Almagten er menneskekiærlig, det er en Sandhed, som k,un behøver at blive levende, for at helbrede alle Christne for Trældoms-Frygten,

My friends! The almighty absolute power loves man. This gospel can heal all true Christians from the unworthy and irrational fear of the slaves.

og for at neddæmpe den saavidt hos alle Mennesker med Hjerter, at i det daglige Liv kan tilbagevinde sin tabte Rolighed; thi saaledes / " y " , omgaaes jo under alle Himmelegne .de Svage' med de Stærke, og det svagere Kiøri- med det Stærkere, som har afgjort Overmagt, uden al Frygt- /naar de/blot tro at Ki-rlighed er forenet med Magten/

This fear will be diminished with all human beings and will totally be removed from the hearts of the true Christians. In this way our daily life will regain its lost tranquillity and normality. Everywhere we see that the stronger agents have a certain relation with the weaker agents. Everywhere we see that the stronger sex has a certain relation with the weaker sex. Everywhere we see that the stronger agent cares about and loves the weaker agent. The stronger agent has a definite absolute power and superiority but the weaker agent has no fear of the stronger agent. The only important thing is that the weaker agent believes that superior love is always connected to superiority and superior power.

og saaledes vandrede vore Fædre fra Slægt til Slægt trygge for deres K- pges Ansigt, skjøndt han med sin Enevolds-Magt kunde knuse Enhver af dem,

In this way our forefathers trusted in the love of their kings who had absolute power. They lived before the king's face and felt secure in his presence - even though he could easily have destroyed all of them with his absolute power.

Thi de troede paa Hans Kierlighed, de modtog mange Beviser derpaa og elskede Ham igien og Kierlighed driver Frygten ud. -

They had a deep feeling of trust in his love. They experienced many signs and proofs of his love. They loved their king because he had loved them first. Love drives out all feelings of fear and fearfulness.

Og kan Forbindelsen mellem/Magt og Kierlighed; hvor den dog aldrig kan blive fuldkommen eller ganske sikker, berolige enhver af os,

There is always a certain intimate connection between power and love. When we see this connection we have no more fear. This connection is never absolutely perfect in our human world but it is quite perfect in the relationship between God and us.

skulde da ikke den fuldkomne uopløselige Forbindelse mellem Guds Almagt og Menneske-Kierlighed ikke berolige os alle,

God has absolute power and he loves us. With God there is a perfect union of power and love. We believe in God because He has absolute power and because He has this love for us. Our fear is removed because of His power and because of His love.

ei blot over Guds Almagt, men tillige over al Magt i Verden, som staaer i den Almægtiges Haand" ligesom Troen paa Enevoldskongens Kierlighed beroliger os over Magten hos hans Tjenere og Embedsmænd!

When we see absolute power in this world we should not be afraid. Instead we should be joyful and relieved. We should trust the love and care of our absolute king. He is the instrument of God. Our king cares for us and protects us against any abuse of power of his own servants and officers.