## Regarding the Influence Media and Movies Bring into Our Lives

I would like to share with you something that I have been noticing for a while now when looking at what the media we are completely overwhelmed with conveys to us. At first glance, we see that, generally, men strive to create an environment in the world that is peaceful and that everything goes as it should, respecting people's rights. At least, this seems to be done at first glance, and it is also shown through the media, such as social media, TV programs, shows, and movies. What I see, however, is that if I look a little deeper, it is not all like this. We all see how violence and sexuality are promoted more and more through these channels. Some think it does not hurt if done just for a pastime and fun. For some, this may be true, but we know that the minds of those who are growing up absorb everything and then try to follow it and practice it. I personally believe that the media plays a large part in the way in which society is influenced, especially among the youngest.

What I wanted to share with you, however, is something particular that I have been observing while watching science fiction movies. I personally am a fan of superhero movies and there are few that I don't even watch. I have seen almost all of the movies of the genre from big production houses such as Marvel and DC. What I am noticing is that lately, the plot has changed a bit. Why? Before, the superheroes were

simply vigilantes who tried to protect their cities from criminal threats, but now they are more focused on fighting against aliens who have delusions of grandeur and want to rule or, worse, destroy the world. In this case, all the superheroes unite and start fighting against those evil aliens. The viewers of these movies are mostly the little ones. When something is seen and reviewed several times, even if it looks harmless at first sight, it gets slowly inculcated into people's minds. We see that most of the antagonists would like to destroy the whole world. The interesting thing, however, is that they have certain qualities or "attributes" in common.

One of the major Marvel antagonists called Thanos, for example, wanted to bring "balance" and justice to the universe. He even made a third of the world's population "disappear" to carry out this desire. What I mean is that these antagonists have certain attributes or desires similar to those of God but are represented in a very negative way. God is the one who wants to bring justice and balance to the earth. He is also the one who, according to the Bible, will "rapture" His elect from the earth to protect them from things to come (1 Thessalonians 4:17). God wants to bring perfect justice. Many people ask where justice is and why it is not there. God will bring it at the right time.

There are other kinds of bad characters in these types of movies who want to destroy the entire universe and create a new one according to their liking. Of course, this type of character is depicted in a very bad light. Does this remind you of anyone? Of course, God wants to create a new earth and a new heaven to make those who have faith in Him live there in complete peace and justice. Life here on earth, however, ends and is not eternal. We must, therefore, focus on what is eternal and not cling to what is earthly only. Many people could argue this and make a point of wanting to defend the life we have here on earth, but the truth is that we will not live forever here. God is in favor of life, not death. He

wants to lead us to eternal life. The devil, on the other hand, even if it seems that he wants to defend life on earth, making us fight for earthly things as if they were forever, leads us to eternal death.

In the movies, however, this is portrayed differently. All these characters who would like to bring a change in the world are seen as the bad guys. This is because the attributes and partly the desires that resemble those of God are mixed up with many other negative and evil qualities that these characters have in the movies. So, the enemy perverts the image of God and shows it to us in a changed form so that people can be deceived and get the wrong idea of what He really wants and represents. So, we see antagonists with the attributes and desires of God, but in a way that is seen in the wrong way.

In the other genre of movies, however, violence, sexual content, and deception are promoted much more than before and as something normal and open, but now we focus on movies that seem more naive at first sight and that are aimed at a childish audience - those of superheroes and science fiction. With all this, I am not saying that watching these kinds of worldly movies is a sin in itself, but it depends a lot on how one lets oneself be influenced by what he watches. Everything must be done in the right way and with moderation, and a person must dedicate himself, above all, to studying and seeking what can help and edify his life – the word of God.

Other characters seen as antagonists and with similar attributes are those who possess the attribute of omniscience, control everything, and know the past and the future. Of course, some of them are described as simple people with manias who acquire some power, but at that particular moment, their personalities resemble quite well a part of God's personality. We can see a kind of subliminal message going on there. Most people won't be aware of that. I repeat that at first sight,

no one would recognize it, but when that person, having seen that kind of film for years without realizing the message that is in them, is confronted at some given moment in his life with the true message of the gospel, he could have negative feelings. All this because those were born when he saw the characters in the films using the attributes of God in the wrong way. This is how subliminal messages work. At the moment, no one notices it, but when the exact situation arises, a person acts accordingly.

Some may think I am exaggerating, but what I am observing did not happen once or twice. It happens in most science fiction movies. This is just one of the subtle ways in which God's name or purposes are belittled or misrepresented. As I said, I am not exaggerating, although it may seem to some that I am just looking for evidence in things that might only seem so. This would be true if the occurrence of such things is rare, but if someone really cares to pay attention, he will see that it is repeated over and over again. In almost every negative character in this movie, we can see something that resembles God. You can see it for yourselves. God is never exalted. We should also ask ourselves why all these similarities to biblical messages could be seen in sci-fi movies and why they are portrayed in this way. Is it a coincidence that this occurs?

Those of us who believe in the words of the Bible know that the devil has had a plan from the beginning to sabotage, if we can say so, and pervert what the good purpose of God is. He does not know exactly how God will operate and accomplish His will, but he knows His word. He knows there will be an end in which crucial things will happen, and men will have to make choices as they will have the last opportunity to believe and repent. The devil would like to prevent this from happening. What he really wants is for men to fight against God. There will be a battle that will take place in a place called Armageddon according to the book of Revelation (Revelation 16:13-16, 19:11-19). There, the Beast

(the devil) will unite the armies and kings of the earth to clash against the armies of God.

In my opinion, some people will not even know that they are fighting against God because if they really knew, they would not do it. They would give up and believe Him. On the other hand, they will probably be blinded, and what they esteem as a fight for victory will be a defeat. Because when someone gains for the world, he loses for God. This may be the reason why the devil is promoting all these subliminal messages through the media and that he is attacking the younger ones. Should we forbid them from seeing certain movies and shows? This is a question that we all have to ask ourselves, and maybe there are some things that we really should not let them see, but we have to have a balance as well. The matter is not only in not letting them see some things and forbidding others, although there must be a certain discipline. More than anything, the matter is in conveying more to them in a sound way what can really fulfill their lives and open their eyes to the truth so that they can by themselves discern what is good and what is not and desire the good.

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