

The Lord Will Come ... Perhaps Today ... Behold, I Come Quickly ... Rev. 22:7

No. 140 October 2023

## The Dirtiest Man Dies

## **Introduction**

The headline could not have been more alarming and intriguing. In large black letters, it was written, "The dirtiest man in the world dies". Amou Haji who was 94, died Sunday 23rd October 2022 in the village of Dezhgah, and according to the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), he had refused to bathe for more than 60 years. His life was chronicled in a 2013 documentary called, "The Strange Life of Amou Haji". The photos below show Amon at the door of his concrete block house. No matter how one looks at him he is a pitiful sight.





A normal minded person would think, "There must be something wrong with his mind" for he was not always like that. From that which can be learnt about him, when He was a young man he had either a wife or a deeply loved lady friend, but something happened and to an extent and giving up all hope of being loved he became the pathetic figure seen in the photograph.

Amou had a problem. He had no idea how dirty he was. His mind was so distorted he could not recognize the patheticness of his person. He had become desensitized to the filthiness of himself and his lifestyle. The normal individual could not help but feel repulsion and disgust at him. To eat road kill and use manure for cigarettes is gross, yet that was normal for Amou. He had seen himself in a car mirror but it did not register in his mind his physical condition.

## Amou and each of us

What Amou was physically is that which millions of people are spiritually, dirty with sin. It was dirt all others could see, but the dirtiness of defilement that separates man from God is a spiritual dirt that cannot be seen. Others would look at Amou and as much as possible stay away from him. Who would want to sit beside him or sleep in his shelter?

When we consider our spiritual dirtiness, while we cannot see it naturally, we need the Spirit of God to open our eyes to see our true condition. As we stand in the moral excelling glory of divine holiness we begin to see a little of how defiled we are. When Job had an understanding of the glory of God He said, "Behold, I am vile" (Job 40:4). Peter said, "Depart from me; for I am a sinful man" (Lk. 5:8). Despite spending two sets of 40 days alone with God when Moses saw the mountain quake and the fire on the mountain, he said, "I exceedingly fear and quake" (Heb. 12:21). Belshazzar thought there would be no consequences for mocking God, but one night when feasting he suddenly began to quake. He trembled because, on the plaster of the wall, a hand wrote, "MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN". He had come in a shaded way face to face with God. These men all learnt that they were dirty before God.

The scriptures record that the Lord spoke a parable about two men going to pray in the temple. One realized he was spiritually dirty and totally unfit to be before God. He prayed, "God be merciful to me a sinner". The other man was a very religious God-fearing, morally clean-living man who did not know the depth of his pride, disdaining attitude, lack of love, or presumptuousness before God. He did not realize how dirty he was. Concerning the man who confessed his unfitness for any blessing from God and cast himself totally on the mercy of God, went from the temple justified before God. The other went away as he came in, a dirty sinner. Religion does not make one clean.

One of the most annoying verses in the scriptures to an unsaved individual is Isaiah 64:6:

- a) "We are all as an unclean thing"
- b) "All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags"

The depths of dirtiness. How much he was like the average individual in the street.

There was a time when our forefather as a man created by God, had no bad habits or addictions, no brow lined with furrows, no sleepless nights worrying about what might happen. It was a blissful life as God's gentleman farmer.

Many live in mansions with beautifully manicured gardens but their spirit is encrusted with sin or, they may be in a homeless state, living in rejection of Christ as Saviour and spiritually they are the same. However, most live, in the estimation of humanity, clean lives. They pastor churches, they are good neighbours, they are honest workers, they are good parents, sons and daughters but there is no time for God in their daily living.

## **The Problem**

There are so many religious people in the world who hold up the law and, like the rich young ruler, think they have kept the whole law. They seek to live by the beatitudes but fail to comprehend that they do not see themselves as God sees them. It is natural to do a comparison of themselves to others who are more corrupt than they. However, the problem is, due to sin we all have distorted eyesight and cannot naturally see our true spiritual defilement before God. There are untold thousands who, in unquestionable honesty, are seeking to live a clean life, and thereby gain acceptance with God. They sincerely go to their church, are exceptional neighbours and certainly would not do anyone deliberate harm. They are endeavouring to do the best they can not realizing that all the doing has been done. On the cross at Calvary God executed on Christ the wrath of God that I deserved, the separation from God I deserved, and the sufferings of eternal wrath were endured by Christ, but He finished all that was needed to satisfy the righteous judgment of God, and God now says to each of us, it is through Christ alone there is cleansing from all sins. Each individual can be made clean before God, and by accepting His totally finished work, can know, "all has been done". As the little hymn was sung by us so long ago:

C\_O\_M\_E come, is all He asks of you,
Jesus paid it all, there's nothing left to do.

There on Calvary's cross, Christ died to set you free,
And all He asks of you and me is
C O M E come.

... Rowan Jennings

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