

## LIVING TOWARDS THE PERFECT SOCIETY

Kathlyn Q. Barrozo Class of 1991, University of Santo Tomas B.S. Medical Technology

We often hear of people living it up in society. They go to the most talked about events and get seen in the company of other well-known personalities. They move in powerful circles and are members of influential cliques. However, it behooves us to wonder at times whether they truly are happy being how they are and what they are.

Most often, the answer is NO. These individuals may move in circles that ordinary mortals like us do not dare familiarize ourselves with, much less become members of. They might be able to enjoy the greatest privileges there are on this planet but they are also humans like us. They get tired and get lonely. Sometimes this happens at the unlikeliest times and places.

That's when we can say that our Lord is a Just God. He does not always give in excess of what we deserve. Others may seem to have more in society than we could ever hope to even get, but society has a way of limiting itself, strangely.

Living a high existence in society does not always guarantee happiness. There will be limits, and they often come unannounced. Even the rich and famous suffer from society's ills such as drug abuse, crime, separation, broken families. It can be ironic sometimes how the most powerful and influential among us are also beset with problems that ordinary mortals can not really fathom for them to be facing. Yes, society is still made up of humans, no matter how high that society may be. Humans have frailties that show. Those are frailties that break down even the heavily fortified of fortresses we build all around us. Money can buy you mountains, but it can never buy you the power to create mountains, specifically the ones that are as perfect as the One Maker has made His mountains to be.

Money can buy influence and a certain kind of power over others, but it can not earn you the respect of others. Respect is something freely given and not bought. Such is the law of society.

You might attend the hippest events in town and be seen with the right crowd for the major part of your life. But how much have you invested into belonging to a spiritual society where your money and influence are only as powerful as the rug you step on? Strive to be happy in a society where there's no grief and anxiety but only genuine happiness. Be good, and society will become better for you. That society is one beyond this life and one we will all be called to eventually. While we still can, let us "invest" into a membership for that "society".

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

- 1. What "society" do you think the writer is talking about?
- 2. How can we invest in that "perfect society"?
- 3. Can the way we live our lives on earth become effective tools for us to reach that "perfect society"? Why or why not?
- 4. Are you happy with your life in the society you currently belong to? Why or why not?
- 5. In your opinion, are all people in high society happy with what they have? Why or why not?