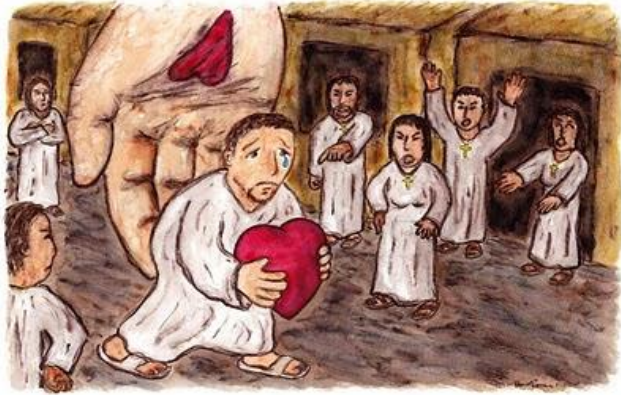


HARD BRAIN, SOFT HEART, SOFT BRAIN, HARD HEART.



"A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side.

(Soft brain, hard heart.)

So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

(Soft brain, hard heart.)

But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, `Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.'"

(Hard brain, soft heart)



Hard brain.

Our Lord keeps reminding us to put some muscle in our brains.

"Are you still without understanding?" he says to us, as he said to those first disciples.

A hard brain pays attention.

A hard brain weighs what it hears against the facts.

A hard brain is not gullible.

When a Christian leader stirs up anger and suspicion a hard brain asks,
“Does this sound like Jesus?”

A hard brain checks the prophet’s sheepskin for wolf hairs.

Soft heart.

A soft heart is tender toward God.

A soft heart is tender toward the forgotten ones.

A soft heart listens to the words of Jesus like a trusting child.

A soft heart sees Lazarus at its gate and shares what it has.

A soft heart reaches out to the wounded man on the Jericho road.

Soft brain.

A soft brain is a lazy brain.

A soft brain believes absurd “truths” without ever checking with the Master.

A soft brain claims to “believe in the Bible”, yet It rarely looks to see what Jesus actually said.

A soft brain is a sucker for false prophets.

Hard heart.

A hard heart talks, but never listens.

A hard heart is always cocked and ready to strike back.

A hard heart collects grudges like silver and gold.

A hard heart despises “Samaritans” who look different and talk funny.



So what's the point?

The point is that Christendom is beginning to split in two.

An invisible sword has come between the hard brains and the soft brains.

A flame is dividing the tender hearts and the hard hearts.

***"I came to cast fire upon the earth; and would that it were already kindled!
I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how I am constrained until it is
accomplished!"***

***Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division;
for henceforth in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two
against three; they will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother
against daughter and daughter against her mother, mother-in-law against her
daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law."***

Luke 12



Prayer: Oh Lord how we mourn the division among your people. How we hurt when our brothers and sisters harbor hard hearts toward us and revile the lost and wounded ones of this world. How we feel shame when we ourselves turn away with hard hearts. Lord make our hearts tender again. Give us the insight, the wisdom.... the hard brains... to realize when the deceiver is luring us to harden our hearts, when his ugly voice, his lies, his rage drowns out your call to love our enemies, to forgive, to heal. Soften our hearts since this is where we will find you, this is where we long to be. Bring us back to the joy of dwelling with you God of Love, Mercy and Compassion.

Maranatha Mirror



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