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English Literature

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Wormwood Letter Chapter 21-22

My Dear Uncle Screwtape,

I understand the importance in preserving the patient’s assumption that “His time is his own”. It is indeed a very crucial task. I have taken this into account and I will not let his thoughts anywhere near it. I will keep him in the shadows, wrap his thoughts in darkness, let him become oblivious, and most of all let his sense of ownership stay still.

The thoughts on ownership-in-Time which you have brought up make an excellent point! Humans indeed are always claiming to have ownership over everything, which includes their ridiculous belief of resisting chastity because of their ability to “own their own bodies”. I find this remarkably foolish, yet amusing. However, either way, it is indeed a thought to be encouraged and one which I will embed into the patient.

The patient is now continually focusing on the concept of ownership. I will keep on reminding him and cloud every single one of his judgments with that concept until he reaches the point where he believes he owns everything. I will even fill him with the desire to claim ownership over God! When this destination has been reached, the patient will be within my grasp. He will no longer center his confidence on God, instead it will be centered on himself. This will not only let him grow proud, it will also confuse him because he will not know the difference between owning an object as simple as a boot, and owning God. The patient will enter a state which he thinks is under his control, while in fact he has entered oblivion. This will slowly lead to our Enemy’s demise and our Father’s glory!

Indeed bringing sexual temptations as a subordinate attack on the patient has been an excellent move of mine. This happens to be a well thought out plan which I have devised. I will tell you Uncle that this is one of my main attacks towards the patient, for I am certain that it will lead to his downfall.

Uncle, you have mentioned that it is the “unexpected visitor” or the “friend’s talkative wife” that will throw him out of gear. I must say, that was very wise of you. It is indeed those kind of people that will affect him more. This will certainly be a tremendous contribution to my bulletproof plan in bringing the patient to our Home. I will wrap his brain with thoughts on those two types of people. This will drive him into utter bewilderment and puzzle his mind. He will no longer be able to handle my unpleasant temptations, and soon enough the patient will just surrender himself. He will eventually yield in to my temptations and allow me pull the strings for him.

I almost have forgotten to mention to you Uncle, my continuous efforts on implanting sexual temptations into the patient has brought progress. The patient has for some time now, been looking for an individual of the opposite gender to which he can show his affection. The sexual temptations have brought impact to this matter and has clouded his judgment, causing him troubles with selecting the appropriate individual.

Every female that the patient lays his eyes on doesn’t happen to be any threat for us. For every female he has been attracted to have some sort of chink in their armor. Despite the good that each of these individuals have, they have as much bad within them. These females all have a downside, a weakness if you may, that greatly supports our motive. For instance, one of these females, who happens to be strikingly attractive, is deviously able to conceal her obsession with money. A female prioritizing money over the male himself, how delightful! The second female on the other hand, does not have the insane obsession with money yet she is not a Christian! This is just fantastic!

However most importantly Uncle, the best news of all is that the patient has fallen in love! Love is a deadly doubled-edged sword as long as he is falling in love with the wrong person, and I will assure you that that is what will happen Uncle! Further details on the patient’s love life can be found in the attached report. I must apologize for the late submission, I have been greatly occupied by work lately.

My next move is to keep attacking him with the horrendous images of sexual temptation. Keep on emphasizing the importance of ownership and wait until the patient caves in. He will soon enough be infatuated by the wrong individual which will slowly lead him to our Father Below.

Your Affectionate Nephew,

Wormwood