Reflection on the Book of Tobit

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The Book of Tobit is a story about faith, suffering, and God's healing power. It shows how God works through His messengers, especially the Archangel Raphael. Raphael is not just a healer of physical illness, like restoring Tobit's sight, but also helps heal hearts, relationships, and faith. He leads the characters toward hope, renewal, and a closer connection with God.

Raphael's name means "God heals," and in the Book of Tobit, he carries out this mission in many ways. He gives Tobias practical advice, such as using a fish's organs to cure his father's blindness, but he also guides him on a journey of faith and self-discovery. Raphael's role shows that true healing is not just about the body—it also involves overcoming spiritual struggles.

The Book of Tobit highlights the struggles of both the older and younger generations. Tobit and his wife, Anna, have suffered greatly due to war, exile, and hardship. Tobit, though faithful, sometimes becomes bitter because of his struggles.

In contrast, young Tobias and Sarah deal with emotional pain rather than physical survival. Sarah feels cursed after losing seven husbands, while Tobias is unsure of his purpose. Raphael helps bridge these gaps, healing Tobit's blindness while also guiding Tobias and Sarah to a new beginning. This shows that God's grace heals past wounds and allows future generations to move forward.

The marriage of Tobias and Sarah shows how God's healing restores love and faith. With the help of the Archangel Raphael, their marriage is not only protected but also strengthened spiritually. Raphael's role teaches that true healing requires faith, trust in God, and overcoming challenges that threaten love.

Before meeting Tobias, Sarah had suffered greatly. She lost seven husbands, each taken by the demon Asmodeus on their wedding night. Because of this, she felt ashamed, hopeless, and even thought about ending her life. She believed she was cursed and would never find happiness. Her pain shows how fear and past struggles can stop people from experiencing love and joy.

Tobias was also unsure about his future. He was leaving home for the first time, taking on new responsibilities, and carrying his family's burdens. Even though he had faith, he lacked the wisdom to face these challenges alone. This is why Raphael's guidance was so important.

Raphael did more than travel with Tobias—he prepared him for marriage. He taught Tobias how to defeat Asmodeus, not just with a special remedy (the fish's heart and liver) but through prayer and trust in God. On their wedding night, Tobias and Sarah followed Raphael's advice and prayed together, asking for God's blessing. Their faith and surrender to God helped them overcome their struggles.

When Raphael cast out Asmodeus, he removed the fear and doubts that could have harmed their marriage. His actions show that a strong marriage needs more than love—it needs God's presence and protection.

With Asmodeus gone, Tobias and Sarah were finally free to start their life together in peace. Their story reminds us that relationships can heal, no matter how difficult the past has been. Love built on faith can overcome hardships, and with God's help, even the most broken situations can be restored.

I have a great example of how someone can find a wife or husband. My great-grandfather was single. He was 25. Everyone made fun of him for not being married. He decided he would find a wife within a year.

He got on a train to Warsaw and walked from carriage to carriage. In one of them, he saw a young woman he liked. They didn't know each other, but he bravely asked her, "Would you like to be my wife?"

She looked at him like he was crazy. But then she said yes.

They talked for hours on the train and planned to meet again. Three months later, they were married. In our family, their marriage was remembered as very, very good.

How did two strangers build such a strong relationship? The answer is simple. Grandfather asked, "Do you want to be with me?" Grandmother said, "I do." That was enough.

Because "if you truly want something, no harm comes to you." If you want to be with me, love me and forgive me. Let's learn love together.

Love is not just a feeling—it is a choice. Today, many marriages fall apart because people don't know what they really want. They feel disappointed. They never truly decided to love each other.

Illness often feels like a burden, something we want to escape. But through faith, it can also bring us closer to God. Many saints and spiritual writers believe that if we trust God in our sickness, it can purify our souls and bring us grace. It humbles us, separates us from worldly distractions, and reminds us that our true home is in heaven.

Sometimes, being sick can be better if it leads us to eternal life. Health and comfort in this world do not last, but saving our souls matters forever. Many people who ignored God when they were healthy found Him during their suffering. Illness can open our eyes to the truth—we depend on God. Many stories tell of people who, through their suffering, turned to God, changed their lives, and found their way to heaven.

Saint Raphael is the archangel of healing. But his healing is not just about curing sickness—it is about helping us follow God's plan. True healing means trusting God, whether He restores

our health or gives us strength to endure suffering. Healing is not just for our own good; it is a call to help others. Those who receive God's healing should share His mercy, bring hope, and guide others to Him. If you have been healed, now help heal others.

Sometimes, it takes a tragedy for us to turn to God. A few years ago, while working in Warsaw, I saw an accident where two motorcyclists crashed. I went to the ambulance and told them I was a priest and could help. The doctor said one of the boys wouldn't survive and let me see him.

I saw a terrified young man. When he saw me, he said, "Father, I don't want to go to hell. Help me." It was a powerful moment. I saw fear in his eyes, but his words showed faith and regret for his sins.

In such moments, a priest gives absolution and a final blessing. It would have been better if he had turned to God earlier, but God's mercy sent a priest to him at the last moment to forgive his sins.

God is truly good.

One day, a famous poet was asked what the saddest words in the world were. He thought for a moment and answered: "Too late." These are the saddest words in the world. Indeed, we often forgive too late, love too late, believe too late, and turn to God too late.

Once, Satan held a contest to find the best devil. Each participant had to explain how they would lead people away from God.

The first, a young devil, stepped forward and said, "I will tell people that God doesn't exist." Satan praised him for the idea.

The second devil said, "No, people won't believe that. I will tell them that hell doesn't exist, that it's just a fairy tale for children." Satan was pleased with this idea too.

Finally, an old devil came forward and said, "You don't understand anything. None of that will work. I know people well. I will go to Earth and whisper to them: 'There is still time. There is still time.'"

Satan was delighted with this idea.

The words "too late" are full of sadness. We often realize things too late—we forgive too late, love too late, believe too late, and turn to God too late. But life is not meant for regret. Now is the time to choose what truly matters.

The story of Satan's contest teaches us a dangerous lie: "There is still time." Many people ignore God, thinking they can turn to Him later. But later may never come. We don't know how much time we have.

Delaying things in life can be a problem, but delaying our faith can be eternal. We are not promised tomorrow. The best time to love, forgive, repent, and turn to God is now.

Let’s not fall for the devil’s greatest trick. Let’s live each moment as if it were our last—because one day, it will be.

There is a beautiful painting by Moritz The painting “Checkmate” shows a tense chess game between a young man and the devil. The young man looks distressed, realizing he is losing. The devil, confident and victorious, seems to have trapped him. The chessboard between them represents the battle for the young man’s soul. Some versions of the painting also show an angel watching, concerned for the young man.

This painting is more than just a chess match—it symbolizes the spiritual struggle between good and evil. The young man represents humanity, facing sin and despair. The devil appears to have won, making it seem like there is no escape.

Many of us feel like this young man at times—trapped, hopeless, and convinced that we have lost. But Checkmate teaches an important lesson: what seems like defeat is not always the end.

A famous story about this painting says that a chess master once studied it and realized something surprising—the game was not over. The young man still had a winning move!

This story is a powerful message about faith. No matter how lost we feel, God always gives us a way out. The devil tries to make us believe we are defeated, but with God, we are never in checkmate. There is always hope, always a chance to turn back to Him.

Checkmate is more than an artwork—it is a reminder that we are never truly lost. Even when life feels impossible, God still has the final move. All we need to do is trust Him and never give up.

Glorious Saint Raphael,

Heavenly healer and mighty warrior of God,

I come before you seeking your powerful intercession.

You are the angel of healing, sent by God to restore the sick and guide the lost.

I ask you to lay your hands upon me, bringing healing to my body, mind, and soul.

Remove all illness, strengthen my spirit, and fill me with God’s divine grace.

Defender against the forces of darkness,

stand by my side in the battle against sin and temptation.

Guard me from the enemy’s traps, strengthen my faith,

and help me to walk in the light of Christ.

Saint Raphael, guide me on the path of righteousness.
Give me wisdom to recognize evil, courage to resist it,
and perseverance to remain faithful to God.

Through your powerful prayers, may I receive health, strength,
and victory in all my spiritual battles.
I place my trust in your protection and in God's unfailing mercy.

Amen.