

the sinfully consumptive behavior of an economically powerful but deluded and enslaved human minority, whose waste and by-products of a toxic lifestyle have defiled the whole nest of humanity.

Addiction and Denial

These consumer-addicts are not criminals of the same order as their pushers. Although their consumption is immoral, they suffer from a diminished capacity to comprehend this because they are in an intoxicated condition. Their pathological consumption usually begins as a venial sin, but once addicted the addiction takes over. As the saying goes: First the man takes a drink, then the drink takes a drink, then the drink takes the man. These addicts are sick and need detoxification. They are possessed and need deliverance. They are rebels who need repentance and sinners who need salvation. They are failures who need forgiveness and liars in denial who need to hear the Truth that can set them free. Addicts are slaves to their pushers. Living in denial, addicts imagine their pusher as a friend or figure of providence and protection. They cannot imagine living without their addiction, and so they go on allowing these evil-doing parasites to feed off of them. Addicts live on illusion and protect their slave masters.

To the addict, God's prophet boldly declares: "You are the pathetic addict-slave of a cruel master." But convicting and rebuking addicts will not solve the problem. We must offer them salvation. We must intercede to set them free! We must also go after the pushers themselves where they seem safe within their bureaucratic, occult, institutional, social, economic, and false religious structures. God (Jahu Sabaoth) goes before his fearless people in the destroying of evil order, tearing down edifices and strongholds, liberating slaves, ending human sacrifice, and cleansing and restoring the holy places of the Lord. God's people should not be the slaves of false gods or enslavers but liberators!

As Catholics, part of a living tradition of Judeo-Christian asceticism, we should not have participated in crimes of consumption against humanity, nature, and God. Two thousand years of a vital ascetic Christian witness in the world might have even prevented this crisis of our biosphere. As Catholics we realize that grace is unmerited, not won by works of righteousness, but morality is one appropriate response of thanksgiving to God's grace. God calls us to worship Him in the beauty of holiness. Morality is a prerequisite to holiness. Moral temperance requires that even our natural desire for good things must be controlled as to quantity, time, and circumstance. Gluttony is the sin of destructive consumption.