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The paragraph

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?"

Can anyone of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?

So do not worry, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. **But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.** Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

Matthew 6:25-34

Why the paragraph

This is probably the first long scripture I heard about, before I ever read the Bible, and it's shaped—or at least, instructed—the way I live since.

While the message is a blessing, there're two extremely difficult things Jesus was asking us to do:

- Do not worry
- Seek God and His righteousness first

It's difficult to seek God and His righteousness. It's even more difficult not to worry. It's unlikely to seek God and His righteousness *first* yet not to worry about our lives in this world.

The Bible conveys messages.

Modern literature, however, does not lead to clarity but more confusion. No assertion, no offense, no enlightenment, no answer, and no truth—only observation, consciousness, feelings, beautiful, empty details, and discursive open-mindedness.

No fire, only smoke.

These writings are like cannabis, good for the moment, but nothing lingers afterwards, nothing shakes you to the core. They fearfully worship open-mindedness and convey chaos. They resist disclosure and become disposable.

When there's no real message, there's no memory or transformation.

This is why and how I write—to deliver real messages.



BIO

Almer Alice He was born and raised in China till the age of 22, when she was called to write in English. She attended the University of Iowa to learn creative writing after she graduated from a top medical school in China, and later obtained an MFA from California College of the Arts. Her writing has a rarely exuberant vitality, an almost delusional confidence of living solely on the grace of God, a persistent quest for eternity in floods of the passing-aways.

She was influenced by Chinese history and mythologies, writers of aestheticism such as F. Scott. Fitzgerald and Oscar Wilde, writers of minimalism such as Raymond Carver, and Christian writers like J.R.R. Tolkien, but most of all—the Holy Bible.