The proclaiming fig tree

A translation of https://campanitasdefe.com/2024/03/27/la-higuera-pregonera/

Summary. This little bell recapitulates the unexpected message of conversion that can be discerned from the modern science of chaos, as already explained in the little bells "Let's talk about chaos," "The reality of hell," "The improbable fig tree," and "The first little bell," which also points to the notion that we ought to be properly prepared for the second coming of Jesus Christ. The song "Yo creo que las higueras" (I believe that the fig trees) poetically summarizes these concepts and can be listened to in Spanish here. The song can also be heard and visualized in Spanish in a YouTube video by the end of the text.

The conference **Learn an urgent lesson from a chaotic fig tree!**, in English, as I shared it at **Ateneo Pontificio Regina Apostolorum** in **Rome** in 2013, summarizes the theme of this little bell and also of the following ones: <u>here</u>, <u>here</u> and <u>here</u>. The YouTube video of this talk can be accessed <u>here</u> and at the end of the text.

The blog <u>Presentation</u> provides information about the purpose of these little bells and the blog <u>Organization</u> shows how the entries are grouped by categories. This entry belongs to the categories "Jesus, the equilibrium, the hypotenuse and Y = X," "Heaven," "Hell," "Chaos and its fig tree," "Calls to conversion," "Eschatological remembrances" and "Nathanael."

As is well known, a few days before **His** death, **Jesus** entered **Jerusalem** riding a colt, and along the way people laid branches of trees (*palms*) to honor **Him** while shouting: "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" This happened on **Palm Sunday**, in the beginning of **Holy Week**, when **He** also went to the **Temple** to cleanse it, declaring that it should be a "house of prayer" rather than a "den of thieves." What perhaps is not be as well-known is what happened in the following days and prior to **His Passion**.

Holy Scripture, in the Gospels of Matthew and Mark (the citations are found in the little bell *The improbable fig tree*), tells us that Jesus spent Sunday night in Bethany (the "house of figs" in Aramaic) and that, early the next morning, that is, on Monday, He walked back with His disciples to the city. The account takes an intriguing turn when it describes that Jesus, while feeling hungry — perhaps the same hunger He experienced after forty days of fasting in the desert — and when approaching a fig tree by the roadside and seeing it without fruit, cursed it and wither it, in what seems to be an illogical act in Jesus given His patent mercy.

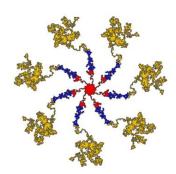
The poor tree was not in season, says Mark, but, even so, Jesus withered it to its roots, and Matthew adds, in a mysterious manner, that His disciples, too, could do the same — that is, that we can curse and wither fig trees — which is quite striking and puzzling. Although the two accounts differ slightly in the chronology and the wording of the curses — in Matthew, the miracle is instantaneous after He said, "May you never bear fruit again," while in Mark, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again," and the disciples noticed the effect of such words the following day while returning by the same road — in both cases, the disciples end up amazed at the power of the Lord, who concludes the event with a lesson on faith, on the faith that is unwavering, in such a famous citation that reminds us that faith moves mountains.

Two days after the powerful **cursing** of the *fig tree*, on **Wednesday**, and according to the chronology presented in the beautiful book "The Gospel of Jesus Christ" by *Leonardo Castellani*, the *fig tree* reappeared in the words of the Lord. As expressed in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke (with references again found in the little bell *The improbable fig tree*), once the *disciples* understood that Jesus would *suffer* greatly, they asked Him about the *signals* that would occur as a preamble of the *destruction of the Temple* and His eventual return, that is, His Second Coming, the Parousia. In His famous Eschatological Discourse on the Mount of Olives, Jesus responds describing the *signs* that would precede His glorious coming — *deceptions, wars and rumors of wars, plagues, famines and earthquakes, false prophets, love growing cold, a great tribulation, distressing signs in the sun, moon, and stars, apostasy, that is, and to summarize it, a continuous and widespread CHAOS prior to His return, when He will send His angels* to gather His *elect* — and He complements it all, doing a pause somewhat abrupt, adding a *parable* or *lesson* based on the *fig tree*.

In Matthew and Mark, Jesus says that we ought to learn a *parable* from the *fig tree*, arguing that when its *branches* — *branch* in singular, in the original Greek — become *tender* and they *sprout leaves*, *summer is near*, as a simile that when such *signs* become visible — including the *fig tree*, I believe — in the same way *His* return will be about to happen, even *at the doors*. In Luke, however, the *parable* is slightly different, for not only is the *fig tree* mentioned there but also *all trees*, with *Him* stating that when they *sprout* or *bud*, by seeing them, we can discern that the "*summer*" of the Kingdom of God is near.

Despite the named differences, which may appear to be just subtle, such accounts conclude with **Jesus'** categorical statement that when "**this**" happens, "**this generation will not pass away until all is fulfilled**," which is reinforced with **His** famous declaration: "**Heaven and**"

earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away." At the end, Matthew and Mark emphasize that the exact date of such a day remains unknown, saying that we ought to stay watchful, and the overall message of Jesus' discourse exhorts us to do good, so that we may avoid the chaos described in the signals and also the chaos of eternal punishment—the everlasting fire of the horrendous Gehenna ...

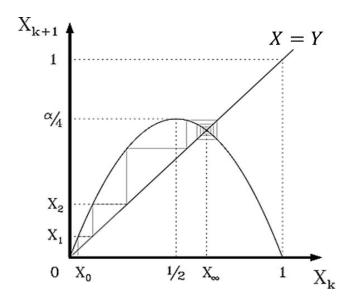


... One of the most celebrated discoveries of *science* in the 20th century is the so-called **Chaos** Theory. Reproducing here what is found in the little bells "<u>Let's talk about chaos</u>" and "<u>The reality of hell</u>," the *equation* used to introduce these concepts is the *logistic map*:

$$X_{k+1} = \alpha X_k (1 - X_k)$$

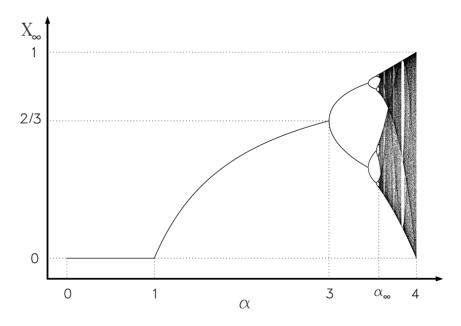
where X represents the **size** of a **population** (normalized between 0 and 1), say, of "*rabbits*," k and k+1 are successive *generations*, and α is a *parameter* whose value ranges between 0 and 4.

The *formula* describes what happens from one *generation*, k, to the *next*, k+1, and defines a *symmetric parabola* whose *peak* occurs when $X_k = 1/2$ and $X_{k+1} = \alpha/4$:

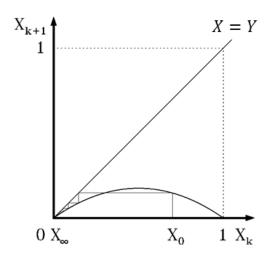


The *graph* shown, for a value of α equal to 2.8, illustrates the *evolution* of the *rabbits*, starting the process with a small initial *size* X_0 . As may be understood by reading the *parabola* successively — that is, by following the vertical-horizontal lines shown until reaching the 45-degree line X = Y — the *population* first grows to a value X_1 , then continues increasing to X_2 , and later on ends up *converging* to the shown value X_∞ , that as seen, is the *nonzero intersection* of the *parabola* with the *straight line*.

It turns out that the final destination of a *population*, that is, X_{∞} , depends dramatically on the value of the *parameter* α , that is, on the *peak* of the *parabola*, giving rise to a figure known as the *Feigenbaum diagram*, which defines an *infinite* variety of behaviors:



When α is between 0 and 1, the *logistic parabola* remains below the *threshold* X = Y - w whose length, by virtue of the **Pythagorean theorem**, is the *square root of two* — and the *population* converges to *zero*, to the *origin*:

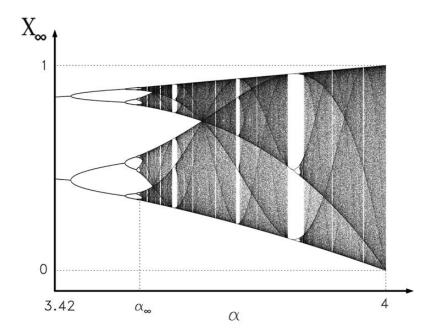


hence defining the *straight* region of the *Feigenbaum diagram*.

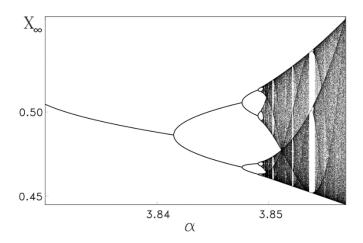
When α is between 1 and 3, the parabola exceeds the **threshold** X = Y, and the **population** stabilizes at the **nonzero intersection** of the **parabola** and the **straight line** X = Y, as seen in the first figure shown earlier, yielding a curved increase in the **Feigenbaum diagram**, until the point with coordinates (3, 2/3).

In an unexpected manner, when α exceeds 3 and up to a value of $\alpha_{\infty} \approx 3.5699...$, the *rabbit population* no longer stabilizes but instead *oscillates* in increasing *powers of two*, something clearly surprising that gives rise to a *chain of bifurcations*, that correspond to the successive crossing of infinitely many *thresholds*.

When α surpasses α_{∞} , as observed in exquisite detail here:



there appear in the *Feigenbaum diagram*, *repetitive* or *periodic* behaviors, which, in an admirable way, correspond to *any natural number* that is not a power of two. These emerge in the distinct vertical *white bands* seen above, where *miniature copies* of the object appear, *ad infinitum* — but only made of what is above its *straight region* — which resemble the *budding branches* of a *tree*, like the most prominent *protuberance* in the center of the widest *white band* and corresponding to *repetitions* every 3 *generations*:



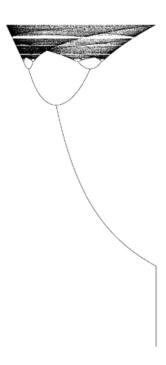
In addition to *oscillating populations*, in the tail end of the *Feigenbaum diagram* there appear, even more commonly, so-called *strange attractors* composed of an *infinite* number of discrete points located in countless *vertical lines* in the *diagram*, which, as may be seen, define *disperse* locations that have the void-like structure of *dust*. These objects, these *attractors*, describe "*rabbit populations*" whose successive sizes neither *stabilize* nor *oscillate* in any way, but instead occur *without repetition* forever, thus defining what *modern science* recognizes as *chaos*.

In this *chaotic* regime, much like in the *non-repetitive* expansion of an *irrational* number, the dynamics travel from place to place to place without *rest*, but subject to the peculiar feature that an arbitrarily *tiny* difference in the place the process *starts*, that is, in an initial *size* X_o , gives rise to a marked *divergence* in subsequent *populations*, which makes it impossible to *predict* accurately what would happen in the *future*. This phenomenon is known as the "*butterfly effect*," and such describes metaphorically that the delicate movement of the wings of the little animal could eventually influence the *weather*, in virtue of the *increasing divergence* of such an activity. Although *strange attractors* are the most prevalent structures in the tail of the *diagram*, they are in fact "*strange*" in the sense that by their *non-repetitive* structure and hence by their lack of *convergence* to a single value, none of them can contain the *zero*, which defines the straight region of the *diagram*.

The discovery that a *simple equation*, the *logistic parabola*, could give rise to such a vast spectrum of behaviors — both *repetitive* and *non-repetitive* and simply by varying the *peak* of the *parabola* — came as an *astounding* and *unprecedented* result in *science*, for the advent or emergence of the *Feigenbaum diagram* was completely *unexpected*, as it only came to light due to advancements in *modern computing*.

It happens that these discoveries are significant not only in *mathematics* but also in *philosophy*, as they challenge the necessity of *randomness* to explain and understand *complex* behaviors, as it occurs with the *strange attractors* in the *diagram*. In fact, this result led to a *new paradigm* for studying *natural complexity*, one that certainly has *physical* implications, for the increase of the *parameter* α , the *peak* of *parabola*, corresponds to universal behaviors related to the *heating of fluids* and to various systems undergoing successive *bifurcations*.

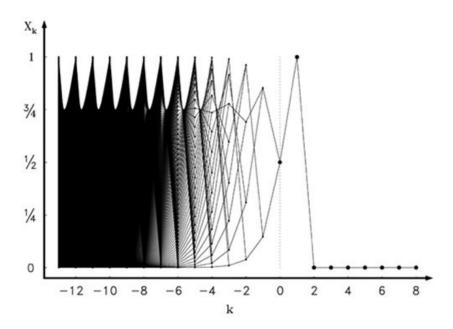
Notably, there is an *explicit order* in the way *bifurcations* appear, from left to right in the *diagram*, both in their *durations* and in the sizes of their *openings*, and since such turn out to be *universal* and apply to *any equation* containing a *single peak* (regardless of its exact location), there is a *profound order in the path towards disorder*, from the *straight* region — with α from 0 to 1 — to the *infinite* and *dusty attractors* at higher values of α . Such an asseveration was discovered by *Mitchell Feigenbaum*, and in his honor, the rotated version of the *diagram* — turned 90 degrees counterclockwise — is known as the *Feigenbaum tree*:



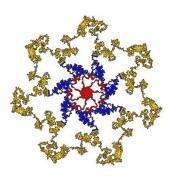
It happens, already concluding this summary, that the *tree* shown is actually a "*thorn bush*," for while considering the values of *alpha* at which the infinite *white bands* end, that is, the infinite "*buds*" in the *diagram*, now properly named as the *buds of a tree*, as for example at α_{∞} , there appear *populations* whose sizes define *histograms* that contain collections of uneven *thorns*:



And it happens, also in an entirely *unexpected* way, that not every sequence in the *greatest chaos*, that is, when $\alpha = 4$, generates *populations* having *non-repetitive* behaviors, for there also exist successive values of the *population*, exquisitely close to the values of the *chaotic attractor*, that nevertheless, end up either *oscillating forever*, settling into *stable periodic states* for any given period, or, remarkably, arriving to *zero*, to the *origin*, thus avoiding the *catastrophic* consequences of *the highest heat*:



As may be appreciated, *Chaos Theory*, which is more than just a theory for it is fully verifiable, provides, in addition to a new way of thinking, a collection of novel *diagrams* filled with fascinating *symbols* and far-reaching *ideas* ...



... After my <u>conversion</u> 35 years ago and my <u>love-filled reading</u> of the <u>Word of God</u> for the first time, the mysterious references to the <u>fig tree</u> settled deeply within me. I learned, with particular interest, how the <u>fig tree</u> and the <u>vine</u> were connected to the people of <u>Israel</u>, how the good king <u>Hezekiah</u> of <u>Judah</u> was healed by the prophet <u>Isaiah</u> using a poultice of <u>figs</u>, and how such readings suggested a possible interpretation of the <u>cursing</u> of the <u>fig tree</u>, for <u>Jesus' cleansing</u> of the <u>Temple</u> in <u>Jerusalem</u> was carried out with <u>righteous</u> and <u>holy anger</u>.

I had also learned that the *fig tree* first appeared in the **Bible** in the story of *Adam and Eve's* fall in *paradise*, when they ate from the *forbidden tree* and covered their *nakedness* with *fig leaves*, thus signifying their *death*, and ours as well. I knew all this, but the true turning point in my understanding, one I seek to summarize once more here, came when my first graduate collaborator, *Mark Bierkens*, taught me nearly 30 years ago that *feigenbaum* meant *fig tree* in German, to which I instinctively responded, "Oh my God!"

Attempting to synthesize what is found in the little bell "*The improbable fig tree*" and also in my book "*The Fig Tree & The Bell*," I will now try to explain the insights I observe *from science to faith*, and their profound implications.

The first thing is to note that, if we focus on the *spiritual* realm, that is, on the **Holy Spirit**, moving toward 0, *zero*, is particularly beneficial, for such dynamics correspond to us becoming *humble* and *meek*, to *surrendering* ourselves, to *losing our lives* for **Him**, just as the **Lord** asks of us, that is, so that we become **holy** — as it is geometrically symbolized by the desired *halo*:



Related to this, it must be observed that for our dynamics to reach such a *limit of purity*, free from *sin*, it is necessary that the *parabola* in question, that is, our own *parabola* defined by

our own "heat" α , be positioned below the first threshold X = Y. What does that one-to-one line represent? I say that such a straight line may be geometrically understood as Jesus Christ, in His silhouette equated with the cross, oh immense and immersive geometry! for such, the simplest line, is also the just line (what goes in goes out) and clearly the narrow gate, the gate, through which we may achieve the saintly zero.

This is so because *crossing* that **line** causes us to *ascend* into the *foliage of the tree*, distancing ourselves from the *school of love* at the *straight root* and losing, *in vain* and without **His key**, all *tranquility* — clearly our best *wager of faith* — whether by staying apart from the *essence*, by *staying put* on the *rebellious tender branch*, or perhaps *oscillating endlessly*, or maybe *wandering forever* within a *strange attractor*. The **line** X = Y, with its symbolic length equal to *the square root of two* ("Him and *you*," or "Him and I"), also represents the *integration* of *equilibrium* or the *hypotenuse of righteousness*, as explained in the little bell *lesus, the Hypotenuse*.

In this last sense, *strange attractors*, by moving endlessly from place to place but always missing reaching the *zero*, correspond to a state reminiscent of *hell*, a *painful* and *real* condition of *excessive heat*, which in its *infinite wandering* and subject to the *butterfly effect*, **never** arrives to the *virtuous* and *original celebration* at the **origin**. This is also true because the *leaves of the tree* could not only not cover the *nakedness* and *sins* of our first parents but also our *own*, since these *leaves* are made of *dust*, as was sealed consistently by **God's** decree to *Adam*: "for dust you are, and to dust you shall return."

When the *parabola* happens at the *greatest heat*, that is, when $\alpha = 4$, the range of the most *chaotic* state is at its widest, spanning from 0 to 1, but notably excluding the extremes, neither *zero* nor *one*. The *strange attractor* there is the state that occurs with largest probability — in fact technically "*almost always*," with probability one — but, as it was shown in the figure before the previous rosette, there exist *paths*, finely *interwoven* with the *attractor*, that ultimately end up arriving to *zero*, thus avoiding the disastrous consequences of the *great heat*, and this in a manner that evokes the concept of *purgatory*: that is, a *finite and purifying suffering* that is superlatively better than the one *irredeemable* and *infinite*, which passes arbitrarily close to the desired *zero*, witnessing the *merciful dynamics* countless times at arbitrarily *tiny distances*, yet never managing to enter the **origin**.

Oh, *nightmare*, *reproach*, and *condemnation* in the *infernal* state that *despises* the *light*! which, though it travels endlessly to great many places as a *great splurge* unleashed by the *flutter* of a *butterfly*, always does so trapped in *cruel dust* that, due to the *great heat* that crosses all the *thresholds* of the *Feigenbaum tree*, sparks *fearful embers*, *oh*, *your skin!*

As observed starting at $\alpha_{\infty} \approx 3.5699...$, the **thorns** in the **Feigenbaum tree** appear only in its **foliage** and such well symbolize the **thorns of sin** with which **Jesus Christ**, the **guarantor**, was unjustly punished with a **severe crown** that, however, does not prevent us from appreciating, by **His perfect dynamics**, always connected to the **Origin** (yes, with a capital **0**), **His radiant halo of holiness**. Such same **thorns** signify a severe punishment to **Adam** and to **us**, as stated in the decree that the ground will produce **thorns** and **thistles**, and because such explain well what **Scripture** says, that we cannot pick **figs** from **thorn bushes**, just as it happens with the **modern tree** that bears no **fruit**, but only **twisted branches** and **ill-gotten leaves**, which by lacking any cohesion, have the dispersed structure of **mortal dust**. How dreadful is the **spinal** in the **tree!** for **crossing** and **crossing thresholds** defines a blatant and unwanted **falsehood** that causes **grief** and **sorrow**.

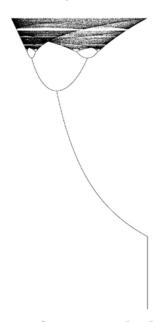
It is my understanding, since that sudden "Oh my God!" that the modern fig tree is the very same that Jesus cursed. I believe that this is so, because placing ourselves above the line, above the threshold, above the Just One, above the Holy One, above the gate, has been cursed from old, since the Book of Deuteronomy, in which it is explained that disobedience brings curses and death, while obedience blessings and life. Thus, coherently, this means that the best action we can make is that of conversion, our returning to the root of the tree, towards God, that is, coming down from our own fig tree, from what is impure, just Zacchaeus did, included his penitent correction, at the time Jesus called the little one by name, when he was perched on a sycamore-fig tree in order to see the Messiah passing by.

The key is in the **root**, says **John the Baptist**, for the **axe** is already at **the root of the trees**. As such, the **united** and **upright root**, denoting the **Church**, is the one that will remain. There, in the **obedient root**, beautifully connected to **Jesus Christ** by the concept of the **square root of two**, we find, in a prodigious manner, the disciple **Nathanael**, who — having been a man **without blemish** — was seen by **Jesus** under the **fig tree**, and just for that alone, **he** believed in **Him**.

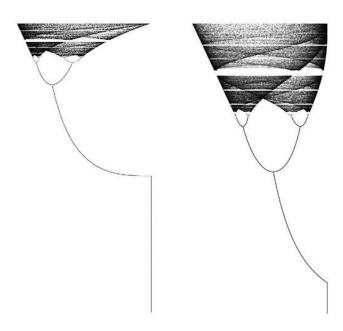
There beneath, in the **root**, are found all the **Saints**, all the **zeros** fully surrendered to the **Triune God**, the **teammates**, those who do not let themselves to be **deceived** or **attracted** by the **devil** towards the **strangeness** of **evil**, towards **sin**, who instead remain in what is **straight**, placed **under** the very **tender branch** that sprouts by crossing the **first threshold**, **X = Y**, protected there by the **precious blood** of **Christ**.

For we, as *disciples*, can "curse and wither fig trees," just in the same way Jesus, when the boat they were in was being tossed about, rebuked the wind, that is, the ruler of the power of the air, the very devil, who scatters sowing his chaotic disorder. As it is clearly evident in our modern times where everything goes, and even if the accuser whispers lies into our ears, in truth there are many trajectories that exhibit a notorious detachment from the truth, and, hence, it is always brilliant to arrive to the root of the tree, for it is there where we pass His judgment and therefore avoid being condemned.

Is this the *fig tree* that announces *the end of times*?



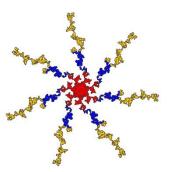
For my part, I *prepare myself*. Observe here its *tender branch* — as in the citation in Greek — and its *budding* of *dusty leaves*, which *we can see* with our own eyes. And take note also of the same *disordered* and *chaotic* behavior — *Feigenbaum-like* — in other *trees that sprout buds*, emerging from other *formulas* that yield graphs with a *single peak*:



to quote explicitly the words from the **Gospel of Luke**.

Of course, we do not know the *time* of the *visitation*, but there is no doubt that we have already been given <u>various signals</u>, as this unexpected but <u>insistent proclamation of the fig trees</u>, based on <u>modern science</u>, which reaffirms in a <u>resounding</u> manner, I say so with <u>joy</u> and <u>humility</u>, the preeminence of the <u>cross</u> and the victory of the <u>plus</u> over the <u>minus</u>, or of the <u>positive</u> over the <u>negative</u>.

How wonderful it is to delve into the consistent *signs* found in *two straight roots* — the one of the *fig tree* and the one of the *length* of X = Y in <u>an experiment of faith</u> — and to <u>dream</u> the *final yoke* at the exquisite **Wedding Feast of the Lamb**, when we shall be *married* to **Him**, the α and the Ω , **Jesus**, *name above all names*, **Ingovo**, whose letters add up to 888 (three infinities) in the Greek of the *singular tender branch* of the tree, the one who *carried* — out of **LOVE** — the *infinite pain* of all our *sin*, giving **His life** for *us* and thus opening the *door that guarantees* **Heaven** …



... This little bell concludes with a song, "Yo creo que las higueras" (I Believe That the Fig Trees), which seeks to express poetically what is included here. The structure of the song was inspired by a meaningful composition by the Cuban artist <u>Silvio Rodríguez</u>, to whom I dedicated the very first song that came to me in 1997, titled "El cedro y la higuera" (The cedar and the fig tree), as it appears in <u>The first little bell</u>.

The composition that I used as a template is the one called "Yo digo que las estrellas" (I say that the stars), in which the troubadour affirms, in coherence with this writing: "and I say that whoever lends himself as a pawn of poison is twice the fool, and I don't want to be a dancer at his feast." The beautiful music of my song is the inspired creation of Lázaro Alemán López, the dedicated musical director of Shanti Setú/Puente de Paz, the diaphanous vocals are by Leonel Mederos Bravo, accompanied by Jean Carlos Monpié on piano, with the editing, mixing, and mastering by Tony Carreras Figueredo.

I pray to **God** that this song, born essentially 30 years ago in the intersection of two fields of knowledge that many consider *disparate* and *irreconcilable*, may be **useful** to some, so that they may appreciate, in these times decidedly *complex* and *chaotic*, the **greatness** of **God**.

In turn, I implore our Mother, the Virgin Mary, root of the divine, to accept for her Holy Rosary the following mysteries of the fig tree: 1. Adam and Eve cover themselves with fig leaves upon realizing their nakedness due to sin, 2. King Hezekiah of Judah is healed by the prophet Isaiah using a poultice of figs, 3. Nathanael decisively accepts Jesus after He tells him that He saw him under the fig tree, 4. Jesus curses a fig tree without fruit and withers it to the root, and 5. Jesus proclaims the parable of the fig tree as a preamble of His return and as a demonstration of His power.

Blessed be the **Lord**, who is to come, perhaps **soon**. May we never forget that nothing is impossible for **God**, including making us **saints** at the **root** of the **fig tree**:



I BELIEVE THAT THE FIG TREES

To the teammates!

I believe that the fig trees today reflect the reproach, their dynamics are a splurge by fleeing, oh, from the school.

And I think, it's seen in them, in their chaos the vain ascent, for it is strange and extensive its cruel dust in embers.

I believe no one arrives except by a door that endorses, and the foolish oh without the key vainly loses any wager.

And I think it is a serious thing oh hell, oh your skin!, it is not a tiny foolishness butterfly missing the party.

I believe that it is brilliant to come down from the impure, one travels better secure the guarantor embraces us.

Some say go forward all goes, there is no condemnation, I remind them oh from science a false spinal that yields pity.

I believe that the modern one is the same that was cursed, that such provides a warning with its ill-gotten leaves.

And I see in its tender branch with no fruit, oh detachment, at the door is clear glimpse of faithful summer and just fire.

I believe oh in His judgement
I believe in Him, oh the straight,
I believe in His cross and silhouette
His geometry, oh immense.

And I see in the root of the fig tree, with no evil, holy yoke, reality is resounding: only His plus opens heaven.

I believe no one arrives except by a door that endorses, and the foolish oh without its key vainly loses any wager.

And I think it is a serious thing oh hell, oh your skin!, it is not a tiny foolishness butterfly missing the party.

I believe that the fig trees...

(November 2022/March 2024)



The song in Spanish may be heard and visualized *here*.

The video of my conference **Learn an urgent lesson from a chaotic fig tree!**, in English, which summarizes the theme of this little bell and also the one on the following entries: **here**, **here** and **here**, may be heard **here**.