

# The Lord Rules the Universe with Ease

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February 6, 2022

*"The Lord rules the universe with no trouble, and most easily."*

*Spiritual Experiences no. 2234*

## INTRODUCTION

Isn't it a relief just knowing this?

Isn't it quietly reassuring and calming knowing that the Lord doesn't simply rule the universe...

...but does so with *ease*?

Intellectually we can accept that the Lord is all-powerful

- that nothing is too hard or difficult for Him

**...but how does this relate to our own lives?**

If the Lord rules the universe with no trouble...

can He make things easier for us?

and if He can, what types of things can the Lord make easier?

Our lives are built upon hard work, struggle, and effort.

Our brain expects certain things to be hard, difficult, or even impossible.

We strain both mind and body to accomplish all sorts of tasks...

often to the point of exhaustion

**So how can what's difficult ever become easy?**

## 1. THE POWER OF THE LORD

We read in our lesson, the famous words of Isaiah 40, that the Lord comes to us with a *"strong hand"*

And that His *"arm shall rule for Him"* (Isaiah 40:10).

When the Lord calmed the raging seas, there's no mention of Him *straining* or *struggling* to get the storm under control.

He simply rebuked the wind and said to the sea, *"Peace, be still!"* and there was a dead calm (Mark 4:39).

In all the Lord's miracles there is never any hint of the Lord

"straining"  
or "grimacing"  
or looking "worried"

**because the outcome was uncertain or too difficult.**

Again, intellectually we might say, *"Of course, that's because He's Divine, the God of Heaven & Earth."*

***NOTE: but what we're wanting to do today is release the finite restrictions we tend to put on God so that we can fully recognize what the Lord can do for us!***

The Lord's power is immense...

*"The smallest amount of Divine power is enough, every time it is called upon, to tame instantly the entire devil's crew, even if it consisted of millions..." (AC 8626).*

We can call on this power in the Word any time we want.

We don't see the visible effects of this power because the visual display of the Lord's power only appears in the spiritual world...

But we are *assured* of its power nonetheless:

*"The power of truth there is so immense it exceeds belief. The Word has so much power that it overturns mountains and hills there, moves them far away, throws them into the sea, and more. **Briefly put, the power of the Lord that comes through the Word is infinite**" (TC 209).*

## 2. DEFINE "DIFFICULT"

[Serena story - "Is that a lot of work carrying all that hair around?"]

We're not always the best judges of "difficult."

**Our list of what's "difficult" (or "easy") is quite different from the Lord's list.**

A Scripture teaching that puzzles a lot of people is this one:

*"Enter by the narrow gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it" (Matthew 7:13-14).*

Who *narrows* the gate and makes the way difficult? Lord or us?

Who's making it difficult?

*"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in..." (Revelation 3:20)*

**Q. Why does the Lord knock?**

**A. Because we need to open the door...**

- we need to either turn the doorknob, unlock it, or stop leaning against the door
- **so the Lord waits - won't force/compel, leave in freedom** (AC 6487)
- Lord leads based on what we "permit," "allow" (see HH 603)

We can make life *excruciatingly* difficult...

- by holding onto grudges
- by being unwilling to forgive
- by holding onto and protecting/defending a lie (a lot of work)
- by refusing to apologize or admit fault
- by refusing to look at the "plank" in our own eye (see TC 535)

**Lord wants to lighten our load - what's the point of carrying all that weight around?**

We've been created according to Divine order, an order that makes looking up, toward the heavens, easy...

*"The more we follow Divine order (the Divine design) in the way we live, the more wisdom and truth we receive from God...we come into wisdom because we come into the light of heaven..." (TC 69).*

So, we get many, many teachings that talk about all the people in this world who live simple, charitable lives...

...who accept the truths of faith **"...without difficulty"** (see AC 1992, 2863, 3263, 3768).

Why is it easy?

*"Because it pleases the Lord to lead people according to order, and it is **easier to lead one who is in order than one who is not in order**" (SE 1937).*

### **3. SWITCHING TO "DIFFICULT MODE"**

When things in our lives spin out of control or when we find ourselves confronted with a seemingly impossible situation...

Our brain switches into "difficult mode"

**...we assume that if it's hard...it will be difficult.**

But not all hard and challenging things are equal...

because what's "difficult" for one person might be "easy" for another.

Piloting a commercial passenger plane...

- or performing brain surgery
- or designing a skyscraper

...would be impossibly difficult for the person with no training or experience

**But with the right training and experience, these tasks become much easier.**

The same principle applies to our own spiritual lives.

*"It is well known that habits form a kind of second nature, and therefore what is easy for one person is difficult for another. This applies also to self-examination and confessing what we have found...What is easier for angelic people than lifting their eyes up to heaven? What is easier for devilish people than casting their eyes down to hell?" (TC 563).*

#### **4. A LIGHT BURDEN**

Much of the Lord's Word is a plea to us to *reexamine* what we consider to be hard and difficult.

You heard the teaching from HH today with the heading:

**IT IS NOT SO DIFFICULT TO LIVE THE LIFE OF HEAVEN AS PEOPLE BELIEVE...**

It goes on to say...

*"...it is simply a matter of recognizing, when something attractive comes up that we know is dishonest or unfair, that it is not to be done because it is against the Divine Commandments..."*

And what is the result?

"...if we get used to thinking like this, and form a habit, we are gradually united to heaven" (HH 533).

**[Pause]**

*"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden...take My yoke upon you...for My yoke is easy and My burden is light" (Mt. 11:28-30).*

**Where does the *real* difficulty lie?**

*"The **sole difficulty** lies in being able to resist the love of self and the world and to prevent them from **becoming dominant** (for this is the source of all evils) ..." (HH 359).*

**And...**

*in "not justifying evils and excusing them" (HH 533).*

***A tough lesson: don't "empower" evil by entertaining it***

We don't want to let evil intimidate us in such a way that we don't confront it for...

*"...active repentance is **easy** for people who have done it a few times...but **extremely difficult** for those who have not done it..." (TC 561).*

## **5. WITHOUT DIFFICULTY**

One of life's greatest challenges (and greatest rewards) is learning how to turn our lives over to the Lord.

The Lord is in charge - there are things we can't fix and that's okay.

He has things under control, even when it seems things are out of control!

The Lord's Divine Providence regards our *whole* life, not single events.

And so He rules the universe with ease.

He doesn't struggle with our problems.

**He lightens our load so that what was once difficult no longer feels that way.**

*Have you not known?*

*Have you not heard?*

*Has it not been told you from the beginning?*

*Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?*

*It is He who sits above the circle of the earth,*

*And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers,*

*Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,*

*And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.*

*Have you not known?*

*Have you not heard?*

*The everlasting God, the Lord,*

*The Creator of the ends of the earth,*

*Neither faints nor is weary.*

*He gives power to the weak,*

*And to those who have no might He increases strength.*

**Isaiah 40**

**AMEN.**

*Lessons: Isaiah 40 (selected verses); HH 533; SE 2234; Mark 4:35-41*