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## INTRODUCTION

Why God has blessed bread it is understood but why also a wine?... Bread is a product of human thought and human hands. The nature cannot compose it in natural environment. On the contrary, wine is formed by evolutionary determined biochemical process of alcoholic fermentation. Ethyl alcohol is also present in naturally matured sweet fruits. God when blessed a wine, has not known, that it is very harmful drink? He has not known that the wine contains an alcohol? Whether God has not known, that alcohol is a kind of poison particularly harmful for humans? The God was foreseeable and has given us a specific set of enzymes for its metabolic removal. Why God has blessed the alcohol, however? This is a question for theologians and biologists. Some discussion on this question could be very interesting, and worth encouragement. The set of articles presented in this issue of KOSMOS deals with ethyl alcohol and biochemical and physiological consequences its excessive drinking leading do alcoholism. They have been written by biologists and physicians, which do not work on alcohol effects in laboratories but are the observers of alcoholism phenomenon only. They propose an independent contemporary interpretation of this theme. We would like to emphasize that amount of publications concerning harmful effects of alcohol on human organism grows

continually from year to year. For the most part of articles have been written by employees of The Municipal Centre of Prophylaxis and Addiction Medicine in Łódź (the city in Poland – about 500 thousand people). That Center has been organized for the direct medical care of alcoholics. The organization of physician's work in this Center develops in the course of the specific adequate therapy for difficult patients. Alcoholism is a specific problem in all over the world. The physicians and physiologists, biochemists and pharmacologists would like to increase their knowledge connected with this phenomenon. The present articles are of the monographic character and some of them take into the account also serious social problems of alcohol addiction. The authors wanted to popularize these problems too, in conviction that alcohol is the very adverse substance for human organisms. We desire to apologize the readers for any possible mistakes and faults in our texts. The inadvertences appear particularly often, when the articles are written by the different authors. We thank in advance for all friendly comments, and will accept them with humility and understanding.

