

“No Greater Prayer than to offer Jesus to His Heavenly Father.” (Mary of Agreda)

609. In the course of these revelations, on the fifth day of the novena after the presentation and purification, while the heavenly Lady was in the temple with the Infant on Her arms, God revealed Himself to Her. She was wholly raised and filled by the Spirit. It is true, that this had been done to Her before; but as God's power and treasures are infinite, He never gives so much as not to be able to give still more to His people. In this vision the Most High visited anew His only Spouse, wishing to prepare Her for the labors, that were awaiting Her. Speaking to Her, He comforted Her saying; “My Spouse and My Dove, Your wishes and intentions are pleasing in My eyes and I delight in them always. But You will not finish the nine days devotion, which You have begun. I have in store for You other exercises of Your love. In order to save the life of Your Son You must flee. You must leave Your home and Your country, fly with Him and Your spouse Joseph into Egypt. You are to remain until I shall ordain otherwise. Herod is seeking the life of the Child. The journey is long, most laborious and most fatiguing. You shall suffer it all for My sake; for I am, and always will be, with You.

610. The most prudent and obedient Mother advanced no objection or doubt. She said: “My Lord and Master, behold Your servant with a heart prepared to die

for Your love if necessary. Over look My lack of merit and gratitude and I ask You not to permit My Son and Lord to suffer. You turn all pains and labor upon Me, who am obliged to suffer them.” The Lord referred Her to Saint Joseph, bidding Her to follow His directions in all things concerning the journey. She issued from Her vision, which She had enjoyed without losing the use of Her exterior senses and while holding in Her arms the Infant Jesus. She had been raised up in this vision only as to the superior part of Her soul. From it flowed other gifts, which spiritualized Her senses and testified to Her that Her soul was living more in its love than in the earthly habitation of Her body.

611. On account of the incomparable love, which the Queen bore toward Her most holy Son, Her motherly and compassionate heart was somewhat sad at the thought of the labors which She foresaw in the vision impending upon the infant God. Shedding many tears, She left the temple to go to Her lodging-place, without revealing to Her spouse the cause of Her sorrow. Saint Joseph therefore thought that She grieved on account of the prophecy of Simeon. As the most faithful Joseph loved Her so much, he was troubled to see his Spouse so tearful and afflicted, and that She should not reveal to him the cause of this new affliction. This disturbance of his

soul was one of the reasons why the holy Angels spoke to him in sleep, as I have related above, when speaking of the pregnancy of the Queen. For in the same night, while saint Joseph was asleep, the Angel of the Lord appeared to him, and spoke to him as recorded by saint Matthew:

Mt 2:13 Now when they (Three wise men.) had departed, behold, an Angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the Child and His Mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the Child, to destroy Him.”

2:14 And he rose and took the Child and His mother by night, and departed to Egypt,

2:15 and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt have I called My Son.”

Immediately the holy spouse arose full of sorrow. He went to Holy Mary and said: “My Lady, God wills that we should be afflicted; for His holy Angel has announced to me the pleasure and the decree of the Almighty that we arise and fly with the Child into Egypt. Herod is seeking to take away His life. Encourage Yourself, My Lady, to bear the labors of this journey and tell me what I can do for Your comfort, since I hold my life and being at the service of Your Child and of You.”

612. “My husband and My master,” answered the Queen, “if we have received from the hands of the Most High such great blessings of grace, it is meet that we joyfully accept temporal

afflictions. We bear with us the Creator of heaven and earth. He has placed us so near to Him, what arms shall be able to harm us, even if it be the arm of Herod? Wherever we carry with us all our highest treasure of heaven, our Lord, our guide and true light, there can be no desert; but He is our rest, our portion, and our country. All these goods we possess in having His company; let us proceed to fulfill His will.” Then most holy Mary and Joseph approached the crib where the Infant Jesus lay; and where He, not by chance, slept at that time. The heavenly Mother uncovered Him without awakening Him; for He awaited those tender and sorrowful words of his Beloved: “Fly away, O My Beloved, and be like the gazelle and the young stag upon the mountains of aromatic spices. Come, My beloved, let us go forth into the field, let us ride in the villages.”

Sg 8:14 Make haste, My Beloved, and be like a gazelle or a young stag upon the mountains of spices.



Sg 8:11 Come, My beloved, let us go forth into the fields, and lodge in the villages;

And the tender Mother added: “Sweetest Love, meekest Lamb, Your power is not

limited by that of earthly kings; but You wish in Your exalted wisdom, to hide it for love of men. Who among mortals can think of taking away Your life, O My God? Is it not in Your power to destroy all life? Since You give life to all, why should men take away Yours? Since You visited them in order to give them eternal life, why should they wish to give You death? But who shall comprehend the secrets of Your Providence?

Rom 11:34 “For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?”

Allow Me, then, O Lord and light of My soul, to awaken You; for when You sleep Your heart is awake.”

613. Some such sentiments were also expressed by Saint Joseph. Then the heavenly Mother, falling upon Her knees, awakened the sweetest Infant, and took Him in Her arms. Jesus, in order to move Her to greater tenderness and in order to show Himself as true man, wept a little. (O wonders of the Most High in things according to our judgments so small!) Yet He was soon again quieted; and when the most holy Mother and Saint Joseph asked His blessing *He gave it them in visible manner*. Gathering their poor clothing into a container and loading it on the beast of burden which they had brought from Nazareth, they departed shortly after midnight, and hurried without delay on their journey to Egypt, as I (Mary of Agreda) will relate in the next chapter.

614. I will here add what I have been made to understand as to the agreement between the Gospel of Luke and

Mathew. All of them were wrote under guidance and light of the Holy Spirit, *each of them knew what the other three had written, and what they had omitted to say in their Gospels*. According to God's Plan some of the events of the life of Christ were described by all four of the Evangelists, while again some other things mentioned by one were omitted by the others. Saint Matthew describes the adoration of the Kings and the flight into Egypt, while these events were not mentioned by saint Luke. However Luke writes about the Circumcision, Presentation and Purification, which are omitted by Matthew. Thus Saint Matthew, after referring to the departure of the Magi, immediately, without speaking of the Presentation, relates that the Angel appeared to Saint Joseph commanding him to fly into Egypt. The flight occurred after the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple. Thus, likewise, although Saint Luke, after describing the Presentation and Purification, immediately mentions that the holy Family lived in Nazareth, we must not conclude that that the trip to Egypt didn't happen.

615.

616. In this sweetness of God's Providence He gives sinners time, hoping for their conversions. Therefore, miracles must happen but rarely, and on special occasions for particular reasons, or when some end is to be served. Therefore, God reserves them for the revelation of His power at certain times. He makes Himself known as the Author of His works by bringing them into existence. Neither must we wonder that He should consent to the death of the innocent

children which Herod murdered; for it would not have been to their benefit to save them through a miracle, since by their death they were to gain eternal life, which vastly repays them for the loss of their physical life. If they had been allowed to escape the sword and die a natural death, many would eventually not have been saved. The works of the Lord are just and holy in all particulars, although we do not always see the reasons why they are so. But we shall come to know them in the Lord when we shall see Him face to face.