

CHAPTER IV

The Most High Continues His Favors to Most Holy Mary on the Fourth Day.

38. The favors of the Most High to our Queen and Lady continued with the eminent sacraments by which his powerful arm continued to dispose Her for the approaching dignity of becoming his Mother. The fourth day of this preparation had arrived, and at the same hour She was again raised to the abstractive vision of the Divinity, but with new effects and more exalted enlightenments for her most pure soul. The divine power and wisdom has no bounds or limits; to his operations only our will, or the limitation of our created nature, offers resistance. But in the will of most holy Mary the divine power found no hindrance, for all her works were executed with the plenitude of sanctity and the pleasure of the Lord, obliging Him and, as He himself said, wounding his Heart with love (Cant. 4:9). Only insofar as most holy Mary was a mere creature was the power of the divine arm limited, but within these limits it could act without bounds, restriction or measure, offering Her the waters of wisdom for Her to drink from the most pure and crystalline founts of the Divinity.

39. The Most High manifested to Her in this vision by most special enlightenments the new law of grace which the Redeemer of the world was to establish, the Sacraments contained in it, the end for which He would establish and leave them in his new Church of the Gospel, the gifts and blessings prepared for men, and his desire that all be saved and reap the fruit of the Redemption. And so great was the wisdom which most holy Mary drew from these visions, wherein She was taught by the highest Teacher and the corrector of the wise (Wis. 7:15), that if by any means man or angel could describe it more books would have to be written of this science of our Lady than all those which have been composed in this world concerning all the arts and sciences and all the inventions of men. And no wonder her science was the greatest of all in a mere creature, for into the Heart and mind of our Princess was poured forth and proffered the ocean of the Divinity which the sins and evil disposition of creatures had confined, repressed and circumscribed. It was concealed within its own source until the proper time, which was none other than the hour in which She was chosen as Mother of the Onlybegotten of the Father.

40. Together with the sweetness of this divine science our Queen felt a loving yet piercing sorrow which this very science continued to renew. She perceived in the Most High the ineffable treasures of graces and blessings which He had prepared for mortals, and She saw the weight of the Divinity as it were inclined toward the desire of seeing all men enjoy them eternally. At the same time She saw and considered the wicked disposition of the world and how blindly mortals impeded the flow of these treasures and deprived themselves of participation of the Divinity itself. From this resulted a new kind of martyrdom, full of grief for the perdition of men and the desire of remedying such lamentable loss. This caused Her to offer up the most exalted prayers, petitions, sacrifices, humiliations, and heroic acts of love of God and men so no one if possible would henceforth damn himself, and so all would recognize their Creator and Redeemer and confess, adore and love Him. All this took place in this very vision, but since these petitions were of the same kind as those already described I do not expatiate upon them here.

41. Then the Lord manifested to Her on the same occasion the works of creation performed on the fourth day (Gen. 1:14-17). The heavenly Princess Mary learned how and when the luminaries of heaven were formed in the firmament for dividing day and night, and for indicating the seasons, days and years; how for this purpose was created the great light of heaven, the sun, presiding as the lord of the day, and joined with it the moon, the lesser light, which reigns over

the darkness of the night. In like manner were formed the stars of the eighth heaven so they would gladden the night with their brilliance and preside with their various influences over both the day and the night. She understood what the material substance of these luminous orbs was, their form, their size, their properties, their various movements, and the uniformity as well as the inequality of the planets. She knew the number of the stars and all their influences exerted upon the earth, both in regard to the living and the lifeless creatures, and the effects and changes which they cause in them by these influences.

42. This is not in conflict with what the Prophet says, that God knows the number of the stars and has called them by their names (Ps. 146:4), for David does not thereby deny to His Majesty the liberty of conceding to a creature that as a privilege which He possesses by nature. It is plain that since this knowledge is communicable, and would redound to the greater excellence of Mary our Lady, it would not be denied to Her. Has He not conferred upon Her greater favors, and has He not made Her the Queen of the stars and of all other creatures? And this knowledge was as it were only a consequence of her dominion and sovereignty over the powers, influences and movements of all the celestial orbs, since they were commanded to obey Her as their Queen and Lady.

43. In consequence of this command which the Lord gave to the celestial orbs, and in accordance with the dominion which most holy Mary obtained over them, She possessed such power that if She commanded the stars to leave their positions in heaven they would obey Her instantly and would hasten to the regions which She chose to designate. The same is true of the sun and the planets, for all would pause in their course and suspend their operations to execute the command of Mary. I have already said above (21) that sometimes Her Highness made use of this sovereignty, for as we shall see farther on it happened a few times in Egypt, where the rays of the sun are exceedingly strong, that She commanded the sun to moderate its heat and not to molest or fatigue the infant God, its Master; and the sun obeyed Her, causing inconvenience and suffering to Her because She desired it, and yet respecting the tender years of the Sun of justice whom She held in her arms. The same happened also with other stars, and once She detained the sun in its course, as I shall mention later on.*

44. Many other hidden sacraments the Most High manifested to our great Queen in this vision, and what I have said and will say of all these mysteries leaves me dissatisfied and with a heart as it were torn asunder, since I can say little of what I understand, and I understand much less of what really happened to the heavenly Lady. Many of the mysteries concerning Her are reserved for the last day when her most holy Son shall proclaim them, since now we are not capable of receiving their revelation. Most holy Mary issued from this vision still more inflamed and filled with the Divinity, entirely transformed by the knowledge of the attributes and perfections of God, and her advance in virtue kept pace with her progress in divine favors, multiplying her prayers, her solicitude, and her merits by which She hastened the Incarnation of the Word and our salvation.

INSTRUCTION WHICH THE HEAVENLY QUEEN GAVE ME.

45. My dearest daughter, I desire thee to busy thyself much in meditating and pondering upon that which thou hast understood of my doings and sufferings at the time when the Most High gave me such a deep insight into his goodness which drew Him as with an infinite force to enrich

* cf. *Transfixion* 678 [Ed.]

men, and when He showed me the lack of correspondence and the dark ingratitude of mortals. When I turned from the consideration of this most liberal condescension of the Most High to the perception and understanding of the foolish hard-heartedness of sinners, my soul was pierced with an arrow of mortal anguish which remained for life. And I desire to tell thee another mystery: Many times the Most High, in order to heal the affliction and consternation of my heart in this sorrow, sought to console me by saying: "Accept Thou, my Spouse, the gifts which the blind and ignorant world in its unworthiness despises and is incapable of receiving and understanding." With these words the Most High was accustomed to set free the currents of his divine bounty, which rejoiced my soul more than human powers can comprehend or tongue explain.

46. I now desire thee, my friend, to be my companion in the sorrow which I suffered and which is so little noticed by the living. In order to imitate me therein, and in the effects of this most just grief, thou must deny thyself, forget thyself entirely, and crown thy heart with the thorns of sorrow at the behavior of mortals. Weep thou in seeing them laugh at their eternal damnation, for such weeping is the most legitimate occupation of the true spouses of my most holy Son. Let them seek their delight only in the tears which they pour out because of their sins and those of the ignorant world. Prepare thy heart by this disposition so the Lord can make thee a participant of his treasures, and this not so much to make thee rich but so His Majesty can fulfill his most generous love toward thee, and for the justification of souls. Imitate me in all I teach thee, since thou knowest this is my desire in favoring thee.