

The Sorrowful mysteries

1. The Agony in the Garden²⁶⁶ (From "The Hours of the Passion" 9pm Hour)

[Luisa relates:] My afflicted Jesus, I feel drawn into this garden as though by an electric current... I understand that You, [acting like a] powerful magnet of my wounded heart, are calling me, and I run, thinking to myself: "What are these attractions of love I feel within me? Oh, maybe my persecuted Jesus is in such a state of bitterness that he feels the need of my company." And I fly to him.

But upon entering this garden, to my surprise horror overtakes me. The darkness of the night, the intensity of the cold and the slow motion of the leaves that rustle like weak voices, announce sorrows, sadness and death for my sorrowful Jesus. The sweet glittering of the stars, like attentive gazing eyes that weep, reproach me for my ingratitude, and I tremble. I gropingly go in search of Jesus and call out to him: "Jesus, where are You? How is it that You call me and do not reveal yourself, You call out to me and yet You hide."

The night is filled with terror, fear and profound silence pervade all things... I attune my ears and hear a laboured breath, and it is Jesus himself that I find... But He has undergone such a grim change! No longer is He the sweet Jesus of the Eucharistic

²⁶⁶ One may select from any one of the following meditations.

MOST HOLY ROSARY

DIVINE WILL PRAYER BOOK

Supper whose face shone with radiant and enrapturing beauty, but He is cloaked with sadness – a mortal sadness that has disfigured his divine beauty... He has already entered into a state of agony, and it appears that he may die. I worry to think that I may no longer hear his voice... I embrace his feet; I become braver and approach his arms and, placing my hand upon his forehead to sustain him, I softly say to him: "Jesus, Jesus!" And He, shaken by my voice, looks at me and says:

"Child, are you here? I was waiting for you. Do you wish to know the cause of My sadness – that which oppresses Me the most? It is the total abandonment of everyone. I was waiting for you to allow you to witness My sorrows and let you drink, along with Me, the chalice of bitterness which, in a little while, My Heavenly Father will send Me through an angel.²⁶⁷ We will drink from it together, as it will not be a chalice of comfort, but one of intense bitterness; I am in need of a few loving souls who will

drink at least a few drops of it. This is why I called on you – that you may accept this chalice, share in My sorrows and assure Me that you will not leave Me in this great state of abandonment."
(From "The Hours of the Passion" 9pm Hour)

[To Luisa Jesus reveals:] "My child, do you want to know what it is that torments Me more than My executioners? Indeed, the executioners' tortures are nothing compared to this! It is eternal love which, wanting primacy in all things, makes Me suffer all at once and in My most intimate recesses what the executioners will make Me suffer little by little. Oh, My child, it is love which prevails over Me and in Me in all things. Love is the nails for me, love is the scourging, love is the crown of thorns – love is everything for Me. Love is My perennial Passion, while that [torments inflicted on Me] by men is in time. Oh, My child, enter into My Heart, come and dissolve yourself in My love, as only in My love will you comprehend how much I suffered and how much I loved you, and you will learn to love Me and to suffer for love alone."

²⁶⁷ Jesus' invitation to Luisa to partake of his chalice of bitterness introduces the reader to the redeemed human being's ability to assist him in his work of Redemption, the fruits of which are progressively actualized in souls. Throughout the Passion recount to him in his Passion and offer him "reparation", "compassion", "help", "comfort", etc. This cooperation in Jesus' Passion does not compromise his *sole mediatory action* in the work of Redemption (1 Tim. 2:5). Jesus, the sole mediator between God and man, accomplishes the work of Redemption through the cooperation of the two natures in his one divine Person, by absorbing, sublimating and divinizing within himself all souls. In absorbing within himself all souls, Jesus elicits from them a voluntary sharing in his Passion which he, in turn, offers to the Father. It is in this sense that the redeemed may be said to cooperate with Christ in his work of Redemption.

(From "The Hours of the Passion," 10pm Hour)

[Luisa relates:] Beloved Jesus, goodness itself, my heart can no longer bear it. I look at You and I see that You continue to agonize. Blood flows from your body in large rivulets and with such abundance that unable to remain standing, You fall into a pool of Blood... O my love, my heart breaks in seeing You so weak and exhausted! Your adorable face and your creative hands press against the ground and are smeared in your own Blood. It seems to me that in exchange for the rivers of iniquities souls send You, You offer rivers of Blood to drown these sins in

MOST HOLY ROSARY

DIVINE WILL PRAYER BOOK

it, and with your Blood You offer to each soul the seal of your forgiveness. But, O my Jesus, please stand up. What You suffer is too much. Your love has done enough!

And while my beloved Jesus seems to be dying in his own Blood, love gives him new life. I see him move with difficulty. He stands up and, soaked as He is with Blood and mud, it seems as if He wants to walk but, not having strength, He strains as He drags himself. Sweet life of mine, let me carry You in my arms. Are You perhaps going to your dear disciples? But what sorrow your adorable Heart experiences in finding them asleep again!

And with a trembling and feeble voice, You call upon them: "My sons, do not sleep! The hour is near. Can you not see this sorrowful state to which I have been reduced? Oh, I ask for your help; do not abandon Me in these extreme hours!"

(From Luisa's 11th volume, January 22, 1913)

[To Luisa Jesus relates:] My daughter, My first Passion was that of love of atoning for man's first step toward sin that leads him to evil and deprives him of love... Love made Me suffer more than anything else, as it made Me restore this lack of love to all souls. Such love crushed Me more than if I were under a press. It inflicted on Me as many deaths as there are souls in need of divine life.

Man's second step toward sin is that of defrauding God of his glory. So, in order to restore to God the glory denied him by man's sins and that which all souls owe him, the Father led

Me to suffer the Passion of sin in such a way that each sin brought with it a special passion. Although I endured My Passion in one event, I atoned for all sin by suffering as many passions as there are sins committed until the end of the world. By this means, the Father's glory was restored.

The third effect produced by man's sin is weakness. For this reason I wanted to endure My Passion at the hands of the Jews, that is, My third Passion, in order to restore to man his lost strength.

So, with the Passion of love, love was restored and reacquired its proper place; with the Passion of sin, the glory of the Father was restored and reacquired its proper place; with the Passion of the Jews, the strength of souls was restored and reacquired its proper place. I suffered all this in the garden, and the sorrow and the atrocious convulsions inflicted on Me were so intense, and the deaths so many that I truly would have died if the Will of My Father had not sustained Me.

2. The Scourging at the Pillar²⁶⁸

(From the 21st Round in the Divine Will)

[Luisa relates:] My tormented Jesus, they now bring You once again before Pilate where new sufferings await You. After sentencing You to be scourged,²⁶⁹ they remove your clothes and tie You to a column to whip You barbarically. I embrace your

²⁶⁸ You may select from one of the following meditations.

²⁶⁹ Jn. 19:1: "Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged."

MOST HOLY ROSARY

DIVINE WILL PRAYER BOOK

divine feet so that my "I love You" may resound in every blow You receive, in every piece of tattered flesh they tear from your body and in every wound open up in You. I cry out, "I love You" to implore you to remove from us the rags of the human will and cover us with the garment of your Divine Will, so that we may seek and experience nothing apart from your Supreme 'Fiat'.

My scourged Jesus, although you are already unrecognizable, your enemies' cruelty remains unappeased. My heart cannot bear to see You undergo so much torture. Oh how I long to rescue you from all this with my, "I love You, I adore You, I bless You and I thank You," with which I entreat You to establish on earth the Kingdom of your Fiat. For only your kingdom can put an end to the suffering your enemies force You to endure and which I am compelled to witness with continual sorrow. They now crown You with thorns, put on You a tattered purple robe, place a reed in your hand and mock You as a false king.

O my Jesus, my life, may my "I love You" adorn every thorn that pierces your head; I entreat You to remove from us the false crown and tattered purple robe that our human will has placed on us, and remove from our hands the reed of so many empty works that wields a false authority over us. Grant us the crown of your Divine Will, its royal purple robe that is reserved for your true children and your Fiat's true scepter of command that rules and exercises dominion over our souls.

reflecting upon the Passion of our Lord, and in so doing, Jesus appeared to me and said:

"My daughter, one who meditates continuously on My Passion and unites himself to My Passion and sorrow, so pleases me that I feel comforted for all that which I suffered throughout the course of My Passion. By continuously meditating on My Passion, such a soul arrives at preparing for Me a continuous banquet... Therefore, if in the course of My Passion the executioners tied Me with ropes and chains, such a soul frees Me of them... If they despised Me, spat on me and dishonoured Me, such a soul appreciates Me, cleanses Me of the spittle and honours Me; if they stripped and scourged Me, such a soul heals and clothes Me; if they crowned Me with thorns, mocked Me as a king, embittered My mouth with spittle and crucified Me, such a soul that meditates on all of My sorrows, crowns Me with glory, honours Me as its King and fills my mouth with sweetness... And every time the soul acts in this way, I requite it by offering it a new life of grace. Such a soul is My [continuous] banquet, and I become the soul's continuous banquet. So that which pleases Me the most is the soul's continuous meditation on My Passion."

3. The Crowning with Thorns²⁷⁰

(*From Luisa's 11th volume, April 24, 1915*)

[To Luisa Jesus reveals:] "My daughter, the pains which I suffered were incomprehensible to the created human mind. Far

(*From Luisa's 7th volume, November 9, 1906*)

[Luisa relates:] Finding myself in my usual state, I was

²⁷⁰ You may select from one of the following meditations.

MOST HOLY ROSARY

DIVINE WILL PRAYER BOOK

more painful than this crowning of thorns, were all the evil thoughts of all souls that pierced My mind in such a way that not one of these thoughts escaped Me. Indeed, I felt them all within Me. Not only did I feel the piercings of the thorns, but I experienced the disgust of the sins these thorns represent.”

And I looked at my beloved Jesus and beheld his most sacred head surrounded with a vast array of thorns that penetrated his head from the back. Jesus contained the thoughts of all souls, which proceeded from him and entered all souls, and then proceeded from all souls and returned to him, remaining, as if, linked together – the evil thoughts of souls were united to the most sacred thoughts of Jesus... Oh, how Jesus suffered! He then added:

“My daughter, only souls who live in My Will are able to offer Me true reparation and relieve Me from such sharp thorns. Indeed, such souls who live in My Divine Will which encompasses all things, find themselves in Me and in everyone; they descend into souls and rise up to Me; they offer Me all possible reparations and comfort Me; they convert the darkness of sick minds into light.”

(From “The Hours of the Passion”, 12pm Hour)

[Luisa relates:] O my Jesus, I ask your forgiveness in the name of all for all the times we have crowned You with thorns, for all the drops of Blood we made You shed from your *most sacred head*, and for all the times we have not corresponded to your inspirations. For the sake of all these pains You endured, I ask You, O Jesus, to grant us the grace to never again commit

sins through our thoughts. I also intend to offer You everything You suffered in your most sacred head, so as to offer You all the glory that souls would have given You, had they made good use of their intellect.

4. The Carrying of the Cross²⁷¹ (From “The Hours of the Passion,” 10am Hour)

[Jesus reveals:] “Beloved Cross, I finally embrace you. You were the longing of My Heart and the martyrdom of My love. O Cross, up to this very moment I awaited you; My steps were always directed toward you. Holy Cross, you are the goal of My desires and the purpose of My existence on earth. In you I concentrate My entire being and in you I place all of My children. You will be their life, their light, their defense, their safeguard and their strength. You will assist them in everything and will bring them gloriously to Me in Heaven. O Cross, pulpit of wisdom, you alone will teach them true holiness, and you alone will make of them heroes, athletes, martyrs and saints. Beautiful Cross, you are My throne. Since I must depart from this earth, you will remain in My stead. In dowry, I bequeath to you all souls to protect and save them. To you I entrust all souls!”²⁷²

With these words You eagerly allow the Cross to be

²⁷¹ You may select one of the following meditations for this mystery.

²⁷² The expression of Mary “saving” souls finds its proper significance in her cooperation with Christ’s Redemptive work (cf. footnote 160, pp. 367).

MOST HOLY ROSARY

DIVINE WILL PRAYER BOOK

placed on your most sacred shoulders. O beloved Jesus, the Cross is too light for your love, but the weight of our sins adds to it, thus making it enormous and as immense as the expanse of the heavens. And You, my wearied and good Jesus, feel crushed under the weight of so many sins; your soul is horrified at their sight and experiences the pains of each sin; your sanctity is shaken before the ugliness so much sin produces. As the Cross weighs upon your shoulders, You stagger, You pant and a mortal sweat passes throughout your most sacred humanity.

O Jesus, my love, I don't have the heart to leave You alone; I want to share the weight of the Cross with You. To comfort You in bearing the weight of our sins, I cling to your feet. In the name of all creatures, I love You for those who do not love You, I praise You for those who despise You, and I bless You, I thank You and I obey You on behalf of all... I promise to offer You my entire being in reparation for any offense You may receive. I console You with my kisses and continuous acts of love to offer You [my loving] acts in reparation for the offensive acts souls thrust upon You.

(From "The Hours of the Passion," 11am Hour)

My children and close hell.²⁷³ O Cross, it is true that you are My battle, but you are also My victory and My complete triumph. Through you I will bestow upon My children abundant treasures, victories, triumphs and crowns.

5. The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus²⁷⁴ (From "The Hours of the Passion", 19th Hour)

[To Luisa Jesus relates:] "My child, you have anticipated My love. This is My Will: that all those who love Me should be crucified with Me. Oh yes, come and extend yourself upon the Cross with Me, and I will give you life in exchange for My life, and I will always regard you as the beloved of My Heart."

And now You extend yourself on the Cross, looking with so much love and sweetness at your executioners – as though extending to them a sweet invitation to hasten your crucifixion – who hold in their hands the nails and hammers to crucify You. And although feeling repugnance, with inhuman fury they grab your right hand, hold the nail on your palm and, with blows of the hammer, drive it through to the opposite side of the Cross... O my Jesus, the pain You suffer is so overwhelming that You shudder; the light of your beautiful eyes is eclipsed and your

[To Luisa Jesus reveals:] Beloved Cross, My love, My precious bed. You were My martyrdom in life, and now you are My rest. Please, O Cross, receive Me into your arms without delay. I eagerly await you. Holy Cross, through you I will accomplish all. O Cross, hurry, fulfill My ardent desire of offering up My life for souls; I wish to seal their Redemption by means of you, O Cross. Oh, delay no longer, as I earnestly long to extend Myself upon you to open the [gates of] heaven to all

²⁷³ Inasmuch as the gates of hell will be closed only at the General Judgment, the expression, "...close hell" (*chiudere l'inferno*), assumes a two-fold significance: Jesus longs to keep souls from being lost, and to release the just souls from "Abraham's Bosom" who awaited the opening of the gates of heaven, which were definitively closed after their release.

²⁷⁴ You may select one of the following meditations for this mystery.

MOST HOLY ROSARY

DIVINE WILL PRAYER BOOK

most sacred face, though bruised and bleeding, turns pale...

everyone!

(From "The Hours of the Passion", 12pm Hour)

[Luisa relates:] O my Jesus, I kiss your *left foot*. I thank You for all the steps You took during your mortal life, and for all the times You drove your poor limbs to the point of fatigue, as You went in search of souls to lead them to your Heart. Therefore, O my Jesus, I offer You all of my actions, steps and motions with the intention of offering You reparation for everything and everyone. I ask your forgiveness for those who do not operate with upright intentions; I unite my actions to yours so that they may be divinized, and I unite them to all the works You did in your most sacred humanity, so as to give You all the glory that souls would have given You, had they operated in a holy way and with upright intentions.

O my Jesus, I kiss your *right foot*, and I thank You for all You have suffered and do suffer for me, especially in this hour in which You hang on the Cross. I thank You for the excruciating lacerations the nails continue to form in your wounds which, under the weight of your most sacred body, tear open more and more. I ask your forgiveness for all the rebellious and disobedient acts of souls. I offer You the pains of your most sacred feet in reparation for these offenses, so as to give You all the glory that souls would have given You, had they been submitted to You in everything.

O my Jesus, I kiss your *most sacred left hand*. I thank You for all that You have suffered for me and for all the times You have appeased the Divine Justice by offering satisfaction for

I kiss your *right hand*, and I thank You for all the good You have done and do for everyone. In a special way, I thank You for the Favors of Creation, Redemption and Sanctification.

I ask your forgiveness in the name of all, for all the times we have been ungrateful for your blessings and for our many works done without an upright intention. I intend to give You all the perfection and sanctity of your own works in reparation for all of these offenses, so as to give You all the glory that souls would have given You, had they corresponded to all of your blessings.

My dear Jesus, I kiss your *Most Sacred Heart*. I thank You for all that You have suffered, desired and yearned for, and for your love for everyone, with thanksgiving for each one in particular. I ask your forgiveness for all evil desires and bad affections and tendencies. I ask forgiveness, O Jesus, for the many who place your love after the love of others and, to give You all the glory that these have denied You, I offer You everything that your most adorable Heart has done and continues to do.