

The Triumph of the Word and the Woman Over the Ancient Serpent The Mystery and Grace of the Incarnation



A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was with child and wailed aloud in pain as she labored to give birth. Then another sign appeared in the sky; it was a huge red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on its heads were seven diadems. Its tail swept away a third of the stars in the sky and hurled them down to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman about to give birth, to devour her child when she gave birth. She gave birth to a son, a male child, destined to rule all the nations with an iron rod. Her child was caught up to God and his throne. The woman herself fled into the desert where she had a place prepared by God, that there she might be taken care of for twelve hundred and sixty days.

Then war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels battled against the dragon. The dragon and its angels fought back, but they did not prevail and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. The huge dragon, the ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, who deceived the whole world, was thrown down to earth, and its angels were thrown down with it.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have salvation and power come, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Anointed. ... When the dragon saw that it had been thrown down to the earth, it pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle, so that she could fly to her place in the desert, where far from the serpent, she was taken care of for a year, two years and a half-year. The serpent, however, spewed a torrent of water out of his mouth after the woman to sweep her away with the current. But the earth helped the woman and opened its mouth and swallowed the flood that the dragon spewed out of its mouth. Then the dragon became angry with the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring, those who keep God’s commandments and bear witness to Jesus. It took its position on the sand of the sea. (Revelation 12: 1-18)

The Book of Revelation, sometimes called the Apocalypse, which means *revelation of divine mysteries*, abounds in symbolic and allegorical language; it is an apocalyptic prophecy not to be taken literally. The woman with a crown of twelve stars represents the people of God who, in the Old Testament, built on the twelve tribes of Israel, gave birth to the Messiah in the New Testament, built on the twelve apostles, thus establishing the New Israel. The New Israel, the Church of Christ, would suffer great persecution at the hands of Satan but would find refuge, as of old, in the desert, symbolizing the protection of God who triumphs over every evil. The book is an exhortation to the Church and to the individual Christian to stand firm in the faith in the face of the cross because victory over Satan has already been won by Christ, the Lamb of God, who conquered all evil, even death, and was raised up to heaven.

This ecclesial dimension attributed to the Woman of the Apocalypse took on an individual application to Mary as the Church's understanding of the role of Mary in God's plan of creation, redemption and the sanctification of mankind unfolded, leading to the definition of our dogmas regarding her: her Immaculate Conception, her Divine Motherhood, her Perpetual Virginity and her Assumption into heaven. St. Irenaeus presented Mary as the new Eve, paving the way for a deeper knowledge of Mary's role as Mother, not only of the Word-made-flesh but of the Mystical Christ, the Mystical Body of His Church, and of her role as Co-redemptrix and Mediatrix of Grace by way of the intimate and inseparable union of Mary with her divine Son in the hypostatic order of grace and redemption.

Blessed Mary of Agreda has given us magnificent insight into this passage in Revelation in her own visions on the life of Mary in her volumes entitled **The Mystical City of God**. In the message of Our Lady of America© given to Sister Mildred Mary Neuzil Mary appears like the Woman clothed with the sun (Son), **"so pure and so bright with the radiance of God's light shining in [the Divine Indwelling] and about [her]"** (Prayer to Immaculate Conception). Our Lady literally confirms her role as Mother of the Sacred Humanity and Co-redemptrix and Mediatrix of grace, and renews the promise of the Triumph of her Immaculate Heart, in union with the Sacred Heart of Jesus, over the ancient serpent. Man cannot separate what God Himself has joined together, Mother and Son, in the plan of salvation. Thus, she is essential, by God's will, to our salvation.

"I am the Mother of the sacred humanity, and it is my special work as co-redemptrix of the human race to help souls reach the sanctity of the Father in eternal union by showing them how to put on Christ, to imbibe His Spirit, and thus become one with Him."

**"I am Our Lady of the Divine Indwelling, handmaid of Him Who dwells within."
"My heart, my Immaculate Heart, is the channel through which the graces of the Sacred Heart are given to men." "My Immaculate Heart will win in the end, and the Spirit of Christ will dwell in the hearts of men. Those in whom this Spirit is not found will be condemned to eternal hell-fire."**

(Sister Mildred Mary Neuzil, *The Diary, OUR LADY OF AMERICA©*, Fostoria, OH, Pgs. 24, 23, 18, 23)

Blessed Mary of Agreda recounts her vision in Chapter X of **The Mystical City of God** as she describes the week of creation. On the first and second days, the angels were created and put to the test. Those who obeyed were glorified and those who disobeyed were hurled into hell. There Lucifer began a conference with his cohorts to devise every diabolical plan he could to revenge God and impede His Divine plan and the love He bore mankind. Some theologians believe the test to the angels was the presentation of God's Will for the Incarnation of the Son of God, the Word-made-flesh, true God and true man, and the extraordinarily privileged position of Mary, a mere creature of flesh, as the preordained Immaculate Virgin and Mother of the Word, a role that places her higher in heaven than the angels. The pride of Lucifer would not bend to worship a God who would stoop so low as to take on a human nature so beneath his own brilliant angelic nature, a God who would raise a mere creature of flesh higher than these angelic beings of pure spirit. **Lucifer would seek his revenge against God, all creation and mankind!**

... But incomparably greater than against all others is his rage against that most blessed Woman, who was to crush his head (Gen:3, 15). ... Against the Mother of the

Word incarnate he conceived such a furious rage, as no human tongue or intelligence can ever describe or understand. (Pgs. 116-117)

“...We will persecute this race of men and will deprive them of the reward promised to them. We will exert all our vigilance, to prevent them from arriving at the vision of God, which was denied us unjustly.... I will sow new sects and errors, and set up laws contrary to those of the Most High in all things. I will raise up from among men false prophets and leaders, who will spread these doctrines (Act 20, 30)... I will sow discord, excite wars, and set up nations against each other. I will raise up proud and haughty men to extend the dominion of sin... I will wage fierce war against the incarnate Word, for although He is God, He is also man, and therefore of a lower nature than mine. I will exalt my throne and my dignity above his; I will conquer Him and will humble Him by my power and astuteness. The Woman who is to be his Mother shall perish at my hands. What is one Woman against my power and greatness?” (The Mystical City of God, Pgs. 118-119)

So great was Lucifer's anger against God that he was willing to humble himself to ask God's permission to tempt and make war against Christ, the God-man, and the Woman who was to be His Mother, for neither Lucifer, nor anyone, can act outside of God's ordaining or permissive Will.

[God replied] “Even if the other men sin and subject themselves to thy will, this will not be possible in my Onlybegotten made man. Though thou mayest succeed in making men slaves of sin, Christ will be holy and just, segregated from sinners. And this Woman against whom thou hast such wrath, although She is to be a mere creature and a true daughter of man, is to be preserved by my decree from sin. She is to be altogether mine forever and on no account or title shall anyone else be allowed to have part in Her.” [Satan protested and God said] “I will give thee permission to tempt Christ, so that He will be an example and a teacher in this to all the rest of men. I also give thee permission to persecute the Woman, but thou must not touch Her in regard to the life of her body. It is my will, that Christ and his Mother be not exempt from temptation, and that They be tempted by thee like the rest of men.” (The Mystical City of God, Pgs. 120-121)

While Lucifer set about his evil work, God equipped the Woman for battle, giving her two wings of a great eagle: one, an **“infused science revealing to her vast mysteries and sacraments”**; the other, a **“new and sublime humility.”** The Woman took flight from the dragon and all earthly things into the desert--solitude and communion with the Divine. When the serpent sent a river of water after her to carry her away in its current, the earth assisted the Woman and opened its mouth and swallowed the river, for the earth of the Woman's body was not cursed with the sentence hurled against Adam and Eve, a sentence that has scarred all creation and wounded our nature with an inclination to sin. The earth of the Woman's body, her nature, was in perfect harmony with her soul and disposed to grace. Powerless over the Word and the Woman, the dragon set out to wage war against the Woman's seed, the Church and its members.

“Especially does he war against the virgins of Christ, and with a more particular hatred does he seek to destroy the virtue of virginity and chastity, this being the seed and the inheritance of the most chaste Virgin and Mother of the Lamb. ... All this passed in heaven and many mysteries were made manifest to the angels in the decrees of the divine Will regarding the privileges reserved for the Mother of the Incarnate Word.” (The Mystical City of God, Pg. 124)

Satan is Prince of this fleeting world, but Christ's kingdom is not of this world; it is of heaven. A look at our society makes it clear why Our Lady of America® warns us that **“Forces of Evil are enveloping the world,”**(Diary, Pg. 39) and that they are **“now particularly focused on the**

United States because of the Divine Mandate given to it to lead the world to peace. (Diary, Pg. 39) We are the nation dedicated to Mary's holy and Immaculate Conception, to her power and triumph over Satan, over evil. Our Lady has asked the United States to be **"the country dedicated to my Purity"**(Diary, Pg. 11) and to assume a leadership role in helping her bring Faith and Purity and the peace of Christ back to our world. Satan wars against virginity and chastity as the **"inheritance from the most chaste Virgin and Mother of the Lamb."** Then let us fight under Our Lady's banner of holy Purity. **"Be my army of chaste soldiers, ready to fight to the death to preserve the purity of your souls."**(Diary, Pg. 12). When God gave us His Son in the act of the Incarnation and Redemption, He also gave us His Mother. The inseparable hearts of the Son and the Mother are our two wings to conquer Satan and his cohorts and to fly away into the eternal vision of God from which they have forever been banned. The astounding love of God exposed on hay in the crib and the incomprehensible Love poured out on the cross must impel us to fall on our knees in quiet adoration and awe. May we sing with the angels, "Hosanna in the highest!" "Holy, holy, holy Lord!" May God's Trinitarian love burst our hearts with everlasting joy!

The conduct which the Three Persons of the Most Holy Trinity have deigned to pursue in the Incarnation and the first coming of Jesus Christ, They still pursue daily, in an invisible manner, throughout the whole Church; and They will still pursue it even to the consummation of ages in the last coming of Jesus Christ.



God the Father made an assemblage of all the waters and He named it the sea (mare). He made an assemblage of all His graces and he called it Mary (Maria). This great God has a most rich treasury in which He has laid up all that He had of beauty and splendor, of rarity and preciousness, including even His own Son: and this immense treasury is none other than Mary, whom the saints have named the Treasure of the Lord, out of whose plenitude all men are made rich.

God the Son has communicated to His Mother all that He acquired by His life and His death, His infinite merits and His admirable virtue; and He has made her the treasurer of all that His Father gave Him for His inheritance. It is by her that He applies His merits to His members, and that He communicates His virtues, and distributes His graces. She is His mysterious canal; she is His aqueduct, through which He makes His mercies flow gently and abundantly.

To Mary, His faithful spouse, God the Holy Ghost has communicated His unspeakable gifts; and He has chosen her to be the dispenser of all He possesses, in such wise that she distributes to whom she wills, as much as she wills, as she wills and when she wills, all His gifts and graces. The Holy Ghost gives no heavenly gift to men which He does not have pass through her virginal hands. Such has been the will of God, who has willed that we should have everything through Mary; so that she who, impoverished, humbled, and who hid herself even unto the abyss of nothingness by her profound humility her whole life long, should now be enriched and exalted and honored by the Most High. Such are the sentiments of the Church and the holy Fathers.

(St. Louis DeMontfort, TRUE DEVOTION TO MARY, Article Two, Pgs. 14-15).

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