

Saint Gertrude

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PARADISE

Saint Gertrude, a remarkable mystic, considered herself unworthy of many heavenly favors, one day exclaimed: “Oh, my God, the greatest of Your miracles is that the earth sustains a sinner like I am! But Jesus answered her: ‘It is very just that the earth supports you, since even Heaven, in its magnificence, awaits with joyful excitement the blissful hour, when it shall have the honor to have you!’”. The Saint recounted: “On the Second Sunday of Lent my soul was overpowered by a marvelous flash of Divine light. I saw, O Jesus, Your Holy Face close to mine. In this beautiful vision Your eyes, bright like the Sun, were fixed directly on mine. I felt my soul and all my strengths penetrated by such sweetness that can be known to You alone. I desire to express what my smallness had tasted in that delightful vision, so that, if some of the readers would receive similar graces, they would be moved with sentiments of gratitude and I myself, recalling the hours of Paradise, would dissipate the fog of my negligence and bear witness to my everlasting gratitude to that Divine Sun, Mirror of Justice, that on me threw darts of Your brilliant rays! Because You did place near me Your Most Sacred Face, which propagates the abundance of beatitude, and radiates an incomparable

sweet light from Your Divine eyes. Passing through my eyes and penetrating the innermost part of my being, your light created in all my members an extremely wonderful effect, at first, almost emptying the marrow of my bones and then annihilating my body.

I felt all my being transformed into a divine splendor, which offered to my soul incomparable sweetness and serene joy. All the eloquence of the world would not be sufficient to express this sublime way to contemplate You, that I would have never believed it could exist, not even in the heavenly glory, if Your kindness, O my God, had not inspired me to acknowledge it as my most sweet experience. The joy of such a vision is so great, that special assistance is necessary to sustain the earthly creature, since it would be impossible for someone to enjoy such a favor, even for just an instant, and still remain alive. Had I to live one thousand years, just with the memory of what You made me experience, O God; I would taste indescribable joys.”

Another day Saint Gertrude, enraptured in ecstasy, saw Jesus surrounded by light. She threw herself onto His chest but was about to die under the Divine action. She immediately exclaimed: “O God, my weakness cannot bear the sight



of these wonders of Love!” Therefore the Lord diminished the splendor of that light and made Himself seen surrounded by a great multitude of Angels, who let the immense joy shine through. There appeared also the choir of the Apostles, then the one of the Martyrs and the Confessors, and finally the choir of the Virgins. While Saint Gertrude enjoyed that vision, she was able to contemplate a special light, which shined between Jesus and the choir of the Virgins; this light seemed to unite the privileged creatures to their Bridegroom.

