

Saint Teresa of Ávila

Part 2

1515-1582

PURGATORY

In her *Autobiography* we find also written: “One day I was told that one of the Fathers died; he had once been our provincial, but at the time of his death he was at the head of another Province.

“I had earlier much correspondence with him and I felt obliged towards him for the many kind favors he had done for me and I felt it my duty to thank him. The news of his death grieved me very much; because notwithstanding he had been a very virtuous man, I was yet concerned for his eternal beatitude.

“He had been in fact Superior of the Order for twenty years and I am always fearful because I regard very risky the position of a Superior and his responsibility for the care of souls. Therefore filled with concern I went to a chapel and I offered for him all the good that I was able to do in my life; and since this seemed to me too little, I prayed the Lord to make up with His merits all that was still lacking for this soul, to be liberated from Purgatory. As I prayed to God with the greatest possible devotion and I implored the Lord, it seemed to me like the deceased was coming to my right side rising from the depths of the earth; and I saw with immense joy how he flew towards Heaven!

“When he died he was already in very advanced age, but now he seemed a man of thirty, indeed even younger and

his face was radiant. This vision soon passed, but I felt so consoled that never again the death of this priest could sadden me, although many would grieve him, because he had been much loved indeed in his life! The joy that my soul experienced was so great that I remained completely serene in regard to this death, and I could not have the slightest doubt about the reality of this vision, indeed I was certain and it was evident to me that there had not been the slightest deception or illusion. Fourteen days had passed since the death of this priest. Nevertheless I did not cease to entrust him to the Lord and I encouraged others to do the same; however I could not do it with as much zeal as if I did not have that vision; since God permits me to see such an event of a soul then later my desire to entrust him to His Majesty is to me as spontaneous as if I would want to give alms to a rich man.

“Since this monk had died in a place very far from us, then only later I learned what kind of end of life the Lord had granted him. It was so edifying that all those present were amazed at his full consciousness at the point of death, for his tears and his great humility.”

