



THE APPEALS OF OUR LADY
APPARITIONS AND MARIAN SHRINES IN THE WORLD

Apparitions of the Virgin Mary in FÁTIMA



PORTUGAL, 1917

Un 1917, the Virgin Mary appeared in Fátima, near the Cova da Iria, 6 times to three children respectively 10, 9, and 7 years old – Lucia de Jesus dos Santos, Francisco Marto, and Jacinta Marto.

FIRST APPARITION: 13 MAY 1917

The three children were playing in the Cova da Iria when they saw two bright flashes of light, like lightning, and soon after they saw the Mother of God upon a holm oak tree. She was "a Lady dressed all in white, more brilliant than the sun, who diffused a light brighter and more intense than a crystal glass filled with pure water, pierced by the rays of the most ardent sun," described Lucia. Her face was indescribably beautiful, she was "rather sad, not happy, but serious" with "a tone of sweet reproach. Her hands folded, as if to pray, resting against her bosom and directed upward. From her right hand dangled a Rosary. Her dress seemed to be made only of light. The features of her face, Lucia was unable to describe, because it was impossible to fixate on the celestial vision, which dazzled. In that moment the Blessed Mother began to speak to them by saying "Do not be afraid, I will not harm you." Lucia asked, "From where does Your Ladyship come?" The Blessed Mother replied: "I am from Heaven" (and the Madonna raised her hand to indicate the horizon up above. And Lucia asked: "And what does Your Ladyship want from me?" The Madonna replied: "I have come to ask you to come here for six consecutive months, on the thirteenth day, at this same hour. I will tell you who I am and what I want at that time. And I shall return here again a seventh time." Then Lucia asked her "And will I, too, go to Heaven?" Our Lady replied: "Yes, you will." Lucia: "And Jacinta?" Our Lady: "Yes, she will go." Lucia: "And Francisco?" Our Lady: "He too shall go, but he must recite many Rosaries." Lucia: "My Maria das Neves already in Heaven?" Our Lady: "Yes, she is already there." And once again Lucia asked: "And Amelia?" Our Lady: "She will remain in Purgatory until the end of the world." The Blessed Mother then said to all three: "Do you want to offer yourselves to God, to endure all the sufferings that he may send you, as an act of reparation for the sins by which He is offended and as a supplication for the conversion of sinners?" Lucia: "Yes, we want to." The Blessed Mother: "Go forth, therefore you will have to suffer very much, but the grace of God will be your comfort." Pronouncing these last words the great God, etc., she opened her hands for the first time, communicating to us—as written by Sister Lucia—a very intense light, similar to a glare, came out of those words, which penetrated us in our heart and into the deepest part of our soul, and allowed us to see ourselves in the way the Light, and we saw our dearty than if we were to have seen ourselves in the best of mirrors. Then, because of an interior impulse, also communicating to us, we fell to our knees and repeated internally: "O Most Holy Trinity, I adore Thee my God, I love Thee in the Most Blessed Sacrament." Shortly thereafter, Our Lady added: "Recite the Rosary every day to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war." She then began to elevate serenely, rising toward the East, until she disappeared into the immensity of the horizon. The light that surrounded her seemed to open a path through the stars.

SECOND APPARITION: 13 JUNE 1917

Even this time the visionaries noticed once more a light. This time there were about 50 people who noticed and testified to have seen that the light of the sun was obscured during the whole conversation and that, when the Virgin appeared, the lady branch of the holm oak tree seemed to bend down as if it were under a weight. Then Lucia began asking: "What does Thy Ladyship want from me?" The Blessed Mother replied: "I want that you all will come here on the 13th day of the next month, that you say your Rosary every day, and that you all learn to read and write. Later I will tell you what else I want." Lucia asked for the healing of a sick person. Our Lady answered: "If he converts, he will be cured within a year." Lucia: "I would like to also ask You to take us to Heaven." The Blessed Mother said: "Yes, I will take Jacinta and Francisco there soon. But you will stay here for a while longer. Jesus wants to use you to make me known and loved. He wants to establish in the world the devotion to my Immaculate Heart. To those who embrace it, I promise salvation and these souls will be loved by God as if they were flowers placed by me to adorn His throne." Lucia: "Am I to remain here alone?" The Madonna: "No, my daughter. And suffer so much! Do not be discouraged. I will never leave you. My Immaculate Heart shall be your refuge and the road that shall lead you to God." "In the moment in which she said these last words, she opened her hands and communicated to us a second time the glare of that immense light. In it we saw ourselves as subjects in God. Jacinta and Francisco seemed to be in the part of that light which flowed up toward Heaven and I in that part which was spread upon the earth. In front of the palm of the Madonna's right hand was a heart surrounded by thorns, which appeared to be piercing it. We understood it was the Immaculate Heart of Mary, so ourselves by the sins of mankind, that desired reparation." When this vision vanished, the light still wrapped in the light that she herself irradiated, rose up from the shrub effluently, definitely, towards the East, until she disappeared completely. A few of the more nearby people noticed that the buds from the top of the shrub were bent in that same direction, as if the Lady's garments had trailed across them. Only a few hours later did they begin their natural position.

THIRD APPARITION: 13 JULY 1917

At the onset of the third apparition, a small puff of a cloud seemingly rested upon the holm oak tree, the sun became hazy and darkened, and a refreshingly cool breeze began to blow. The visionaries again took notice of that intense light and the Blessed Mother who rested upon the tree. Lucia: "What does Her Ladyship want from me?" Our Lady: "I want that you three come here on the 13th of next month, and that you continue every day to recite the Rosary in honor of Our Lady of the Holy in order to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war, because only you will be able to merit it for us." Lucia: "I would like to ask

You to tell us who You are, and to perform a miracle so that everyone will believe that Your Ladyship appears to us." Our Lady: "Continue to come here every month. In October I will tell you who I am, what I want, and I will perform a miracle that all shall see in order to believe." Lucia then presented a series of requests for graces and favors. Among the petitions requested at this time was also the one of healing the paralytic son of a Mrs. Carreira, but the Blessed Mother replied that she would not cure him or take him out of his poverty unless he prayed the Rosary every day with his family. The Blessed Mother replied by advising always the practice of the Rosary with which they will obtain those graces within the year, and then she exclaimed: "Suffer for yourselves for sinners, and say often, especially when you make some sacrifices" "O my Jesus, if for love of Thee, and for the conversion of sinners and in reparation for sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary, that I offer this sacrifice to Thee." During this apparition the Blessed Mother revealed to them the first part of the secret, the vision of Hell, as Lucia describes: "As she was these last words, she again opened her hands—as she had done in the previous two months—a reflection of light emanating from them seemed to penetrate the earth, and I saw like a great sea of fire, and immersed in this fire were the Demons and souls, as if they were either black or bronze transparent embers of human form, which were floating in the incendiary, worked up by the flames that emerged from they themselves, together with the clouds of smoke, falling down everywhere—similar to the falling of sparks in great fire—without weight or equilibrium, between screams and groans of pain and despair, which were terrifying to us and made us tremble with fear. The Demons were discernible by their horrible and revolting figures of frightening and unrecognizable animals, but transparent like black embers in a charred fire. During this vision of Hell, Lucia emitted a scream and said that it had not been for the Blessed Mother's promise of bringing them to Heaven, they would have died of fear. Then the Madonna revealed to them the second part of the secret that was about the message of a chastisement and the way to avoid it: "You have seen Hell—where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them, God wants to establish in the world the devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If you will do that which I will tell you, many souls will be saved and they will have peace. This war is going to end, but if they do not cease offending God, another one, a worse war, will begin during the reign of Pope Pius XI. When you see a night illuminated by an unknown light, it is God giving you a sign that He is ready to punish the world for its evil sins, by means of allowing war, famine and of persecutions to the Church and to the Holy Father. To hinder all this, I shall come to ask for the Consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart, and for the Communion of Reparation on the First Saturday of every month. If the people heed my requests, Russia will convert and there will be peace; otherwise, she will spread her errors throughout the world, promoting wars and persecutions against the Church; the good people will be martyred, the Holy Father will have much to suffer, diverse nations will be annihilated. In the end—my Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me, who will then convert, and a period of peace will be conceded to the world. In Portugal, the dogma of the Faith will always be preserved, etc." Tell this to no one. Yes, you may tell it to Francisco." (Francisco was only to see the Virgin, but he was unable to hear what she said.)

The third part of the secret told in Fátima's Cova da Iria on the 13th of July 1917 is reported here, as described by Sister Lucia herself: "After the two parts which I have already presented, to the left side of Our Lady, and a little bit above, we saw an Angel with a sword of fire in his left hand scintillating, it emitted flames so that it seemed it could set the world on fire; but they extinguished upon contact with the splendor that Our Lady emanated towards him from her right hand; the Angel, pointing to the earth with his right hand, in a loud voice exclaimed: "Penance, Penance, Penance!" And, in an immense light that to God, was saw: something similar to how people passing in front of a mirror are seen—a Bishop dressed in white, for whom we had the intuition that it was the Holy Father. Various other bishops, priests, men and women religious, climbing up a steep mountain, upon which there was a great Cross of red tree trunks as if it from oak still with its bark; the Holy Father, before arriving there, passing through a big city had destroyed and nearly shaking with an untidy strife, afflicted by pain and suffering, he was praying for the souls of the cadavers that he encountered on his way; having reached the top of the mountain, on his knees and bowed down at the foot of the great Cross, he was martyred by a group of soldiers who fired off shots and arrows at him, and in the same way one after another did the other bishops, priests, religious, lay, and men and women of various ranks and positions. Underneath the two arms of the Cross were two Angels, each with a crystal aspersorium in hand, into which they collected the blood of the Martyrs, and with it they sprinkled the souls that were drawing closer to God." After a moment the Blessed Mother continued: "When you recite the Rosary, say after every mystery: O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who are in the most need of Thy mercy." Lucia: "Does Her Ladyship want anything else from me?" The Blessed Mother: "No, today I ask nothing more of you." And, as always, she began to soar upwards to the East, until vanishing into the immense distance of the heavenly sky.

FOURTH APPARITION: 19 AUGUST 1917

On the 19th of August, the day in which the fourth apparition would have occurred, the visionaries were not able to be present because they were kidnapped by the Magistrate of Ourém, who wanted at all costs to know the secret, and so he imprisoned them, even threatening to throw them into a cauldron of boiling oil. The children, however, said nothing. The Blessed Mother then appeared on the 19th of August, this time in a small town called Valinhos where the visionaries were. A clap of thunder was heard, and a flash of lightning seen, and again the people saw a small white cloud on a holm oak tree. Lucia began to speak and asked: "What does Your Ladyship want of me?" The Blessed Mother: "I want that you three continue to go to the Cova da Iria on the 13th day and that you continue to pray the Rosary every day. The last month, in October, I shall perform the miracle so that everyone may believe." Lucia: "Your Ladyship, what would you like to be done with the money that people leave at the Cova da Iria?" Our Lady: "Make two stretchers: one carried by you with Jacinta and two other girls dressed in white, and the other one to be carried by Francisco with three other boys. The donations from the stretchers is for the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, and whatever

exceeds it is needed for the chapel which they must build." Lucia: "I would like to ask You for the healing of some sick people." Our Lady: "Yes, I will cure some of them within the year." Assuming a very sad appearance, she again urged them to practice mortification, and at the end she said: "Pray, pray very much, and make sacrifices for sinners, for many souls go to Hell because there is no one who will make sacrifices and pray for them." And, as before, she began to rise towards the East.

FIFTH APPARITION: 13 SEPTEMBER 1917

This time the visionaries again noticed the flash of light that accompanied the Blessed Mother as she seemingly rested upon the tree. Lucia then began to speak and asked her: "What does Her Ladyship want from me?" The Madonna: "I want to tell you that a chapel must be built here in my honor, that I am the Queen of the Rosary; continue to always pray the Rosary every day. The war is about to end and the soldiers will soon return to their homes." Lucia: "I have many things to ask of you—if you would heal some of the sick and convert some sinners." The Blessed Mother: "Some yes, others no. They must amend their lives, people must be forgiven for their sins." Then Our Lady became very sad: "I wish I could no longer offend the Lord our God, for He is already very much offended." Lucia: "There is nothing more you want?" Our Lady: "Nothing more." Lucia: "Then neither will I ask of You anything more." Then as the Blessed Mother began to leave them, she opened her hands and directly cast radiant beams of light that were reflecting into the sun as she was drifting off into the horizon. Lucia cried out: "Look at the sun!" Then in succession three scenes appeared to the visionaries, the first symbolizing the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, then that of the Sorrow Mysteries, and lastly the Glorious Mysteries. Only Lucia saw all three. Francisco and Jacinta saw only the first. First, beside the vision of Our Lady with the Child Jesus and Our Lady of the Rosary. It was the Holy Family. The Virgin was dressed in white, with a blue mantle. Saint Joseph was also dressed in white, and the Child Jesus in a light red. Saint Joseph blessed the crowd by making the Sign of the Cross three times. The Child Jesus did likewise. Then followed the vision of Our Lady of Sorrows and Our Lord Jesus Christ, suffering with pain on the way to Calvary. The Blessed Mother did not have the sword piercing her heart. Our Lord made the Sign of the Cross to bless the people. Lucia could only see the upper part of the body of Our Lord. At last appeared, in a glorious vision, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the crowned Queen of Heaven and Earth, with Baby Jesus in her arm. Meanwhile, the approximate 70,000 people present were witnessing the Miracle of the Sun. It had been raining during the entire apparition. When the conversation between Lucia and the Blessed Mother ended, at the moment in which Lucia cried out: "Look at the sun!"—the clouds parted, allowing the sun to be seen as an immense disk of silver. It was shining with an intensity never before seen, but it was so blinding. All this took place in only an instant. The immense ball began to "dance." Like a gigantic ball of fire, the sun spun rapidly. It passed for a brief moment, and then began to vertiginously spin upon itself again. Its borders became scarlet red and it left the sky, like a turbine, scattering red flames of fire. This light was reflected on the ground, on the plants, on the bushes, on the very faces of the people and on their clothes, which took on diverse and brilliant tones and hues of color. After it performed this bizarre movement three times, the globe of fire seemed to tremble, shake, and plummet down upon the terrified crowd. All this lasted approximately 10 minutes. Finally, the sun returned in a jagged manner back to the original point from which it had fallen, remaining once again shining and calm, with its same everyday radiance. Many people had noticed that their wet clothing, completely drenched from the rainfall, had suddenly dried. The Miracle of the Sun was also observed by numerous witnesses who were far away from the apparition site, up to a distance of about 40 kilometers (25 miles).

SIXTH APPARITION: 13 OCTOBER 1917

This time the visionaries again noticed the flash of light that accompanied the Blessed Mother as she seemingly rested upon the tree. Lucia then began to speak and asked her: "What does Her Ladyship want from me?" The Madonna: "I want to tell you that a chapel must be built here in my honor, that I am the Queen of the Rosary; continue to always pray the Rosary every day. The war is about to end and the soldiers will soon return to their homes." Lucia: "I have many things to ask of you—if you would heal some of the sick and convert some sinners." The Blessed Mother: "Some yes, others no. They must amend their lives, people must be forgiven for their sins." Then Our Lady became very sad: "I wish I could no longer offend the Lord our God, for He is already very much offended." Lucia: "There is nothing more you want?" Our Lady: "Nothing more." Lucia: "Then neither will I ask of You anything more." Then as the Blessed Mother began to leave them, she opened her hands and directly cast radiant beams of light that were reflecting into the sun as she was drifting off into the horizon. Lucia cried out: "Look at the sun!" Then in succession three scenes appeared to the visionaries, the first symbolizing the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, then that of the Sorrow Mysteries, and lastly the Glorious Mysteries. Only Lucia saw all three. Francisco and Jacinta saw only the first. First, beside the vision of Our Lady with the Child Jesus and Our Lady of the Rosary. It was the Holy Family. The Virgin was dressed in white, with a blue mantle. Saint Joseph was also dressed in white, and the Child Jesus in a light red. Saint Joseph blessed the crowd by making the Sign of the Cross three times. The Child Jesus did likewise. Then followed the vision of Our Lady of Sorrows and Our Lord Jesus Christ, suffering with pain on the way to Calvary. The Blessed Mother did not have the sword piercing her heart. Our Lord made the Sign of the Cross to bless the people. Lucia could only see the upper part of the body of Our Lord. At last appeared, in a glorious vision, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the crowned Queen of Heaven and Earth, with Baby Jesus in her arm. Meanwhile, the approximate 70,000 people present were witnessing the Miracle of the Sun. It had been raining during the entire apparition. When the conversation between Lucia and the Blessed Mother ended, at the moment in which Lucia cried out: "Look at the sun!"—the clouds parted, allowing the sun to be seen as an immense disk of silver. It was shining with an intensity never before seen, but it was so blinding. All this took place in only an instant. The immense ball began to "dance." Like a gigantic ball of fire, the sun spun rapidly. It passed for a brief moment, and then began to vertiginously spin upon itself again. Its borders became scarlet red and it left the sky, like a turbine, scattering red flames of fire. This light was reflected on the ground, on the plants, on the bushes, on the very faces of the people and on their clothes, which took on diverse and brilliant tones and hues of color. After it performed this bizarre movement three times, the globe of fire seemed to tremble, shake, and plummet down upon the terrified crowd. All this lasted approximately 10 minutes. Finally, the sun returned in a jagged manner back to the original point from which it had fallen, remaining once again shining and calm, with its same everyday radiance. Many people had noticed that their wet clothing, completely drenched from the rainfall, had suddenly dried. The Miracle of the Sun was also observed by numerous witnesses who were far away from the apparition site, up to a distance of about 40 kilometers (25 miles).

SEVENTH APPARITION: 15 JUNE 1921

The Blessed Mother returned to Fátima, as promised, for a seventh time, on the 15th of June in 1921, to encourage Lucia during a difficult moment in which the Lord, as He did to Abraham, had returned to the Bishop of Leiria, Dom José Alves Correia da Silva, invited her to leave everything, her beloved hill country and her beloved family, in order to unconditionally follow Him towards an unknown destiny. Lucia was torn and anguished, for she had no one to whom she could ask for guidance, and so Heaven came to her aid. The Virgin Mother, who had promised that she would never abandon her, came to give support to her soul, making good on the promise she made on the 13th of May 1917, of returning for a seventh time. Lucia herself describes that encounter: "Thoughtful and swift, once again You came down to earth, and it was then that I felt Your amiable and maternal hand touch my shoulder. I lifted my gaze and I saw: it was You, the Blessed Mother, who gave me Her hand and showed me the way your lips parted and the sweet melody of your voice restored light and peace to my soul." I am here for the seventh time. Go, follow the path upon which the Bishop wants to guide you. This is the will of God."