



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

# Apparition of the Virgin Mary at CAYSASAY

PHILIPPINES, 1603

In 1603, a fisherman named Juan Maningkad recovered from his net in the Pansipit River, at Taal, Batangas, a 30 cm image of Our Lady of Caysasay, that shone with a heavenly light. After seeing the image Juan, who was a devout man, prostrated himself before it and venerated it; then he brought the image home. Soon the entire village came to know about his exceptional catch. The local authorities and the vicar, who represented the King of Spain, went to Juan's house to verify the story.

Subsequently the image was given in custody to Doña Maria Espiritu, the widow of the judge of the village, who had a special urn to preserve it. Afterwards, strange things began to occur. One day Doña Maria found the urn empty but the following morning the image was again in its place. The event was repeated several times, then Doña Maria reported it to the pastor. To inquire about the mystery of the image that was disappearing and returning to its place, the pastor decided to entrust some volunteers of the parish to keep watch next to the urn. With enthusiasm they sat in wait and in prayer and they saw the urn open itself, and with their eyes, they saw the glorious image come out and then reenter. At this point the pastor decided that the volunteers would have had to present themselves with some lighted candles and follow the image when it was going away. When this happened, the image led them to Caysasay, the place where it had been originally found. When the image returned into the urn, the pastor decided to transfer it from the house of Doña Maria Espiritu to the church of the city, where it would be safeguarded. However, the same thing happened also in the church, until when the image disappeared definitively and was not found again.

After several years, in 1611, two women named Maria Bagohin and Maria Talain, were collecting wood in the place where the image had been originally found and saw the image reflected in the spring of water which had gushed forth on the spot. They looked up and saw the image on top of a branch of a large jasmine bush, with two candles at its sides, among the kingfishers called casaycasay that the Spaniards at the time pronounced caysasay. The women ran into the city and reported everything to the pastor. At the end, the people and the pastor concluded that it was the desire of the Virgin to stay at Caysasay, thus they decided to build a chapel on the same place where the image had been found.

Also dating back to 1611 is the apparition of Our Lady to Juana Tangui a young housekeeper of the place, almost blind, and to about 30 women, as recorded by the ordinary of the church. That was the first Marian apparition of the country. Starting from the miraculous healing of the girl's eyes, that occurred during the apparition, the water of the well, now known as "Balon ng Sta Lucia" (Well of St. Lucy) and the adjacent stream, now known as "Banal na Tubig" (The Holy Water) are recognized to have miraculous healing properties, After 1611, an arch with pediment, now called "Banal na Pook" (The Holy Place), was built on the wells generally linked to the apparitions.



Fresco located in the Shrine where the miraculous discovery is reproduced



Statue of Our Lady of Caysasay



The Virgin Mary appears to some Filipino women and brings forth a spring of miraculous water that heals a semi-blind woman



The Shrine of Caysasay



The spring of miraculous water "Balon ng Sta. Lucia" (Well of St. Lucy), where many pilgrims go every year



The main altar where the precious small statue of the Virgin Mary is kept



The spring of miraculous water



One of the altars of the Shrine



Interior of the Shrine