

Saint Veronica Giuliani

1660 - 1727

PARADISE

Saint Veronica Giuliani recounted a vision of Paradise in her *Diary* on March 6, 1694: “I would like to describe to you the harmony that I feel in my heart; but I fear of not being able to find words. Nevertheless, in obedience to you V. R. (Venerable Reverend) now I will write everything with accuracy. I experience this harmony in several ways. Sometimes, when I am in a state of much peace and quiet, I hear singing words of Paradise. I say: *words of Paradise*, because I clearly perceive, that it is Jesus my Spouse. Of these words, I don't spend time to say anything more; because it seems to me I have recounted them in the writings that follow.

“Other times, all of a sudden, I hear a harmony of songs, and it appears to me that they are heavenly musicians who are celebrating a feast for my most Divine Spouse. And, as I can perceive, He too joins with them, and, as the Supreme Cantor, with His divine song He goes to invite His spouse, that is my soul, who since a few of these invitations goes to her Beloved, and she too sings; but she cannot say anything else, except these exact words: *O my Spouse! My Love!* Promptly she becomes silent; and, by staying entirely quiet, she enjoys the loving harmony that Jesus her Beloved

sings to her. But these are brief moments; and, if they were to last too long, I do not know how one would not faint for the intensity of the sweetness.

“It seems to me that all this gives such strength to the spirit, but as much weakness to the body. I do not know what it is. If you V. R. (Venerable Reverend) are aware that it is some kind of deception, please warn me, and tell me what I must do to flee them. For I have tried hard, to see if I could divert myself from this sort of thing. I was never able to do it. They come so suddenly, and with such force, that it is something impossible to avoid. Until it passes, I cannot do anything, because, sometimes, it saps all my strengths, and I remain as if beside myself. Therefore I cannot help myself with anything. Actually, staying like this, the harmony I hear seems more melodious.

“I sometimes do not comprehend if they are sounds or songs; but I know that the sounds and songs that are heard daily here on earth seem to be like amusements of little children, in comparison to these I seem to hear. And as far as I understand, it appears that this harmony pulls my soul to a closer union with God. After it is passed, it leaves me with such longing to suffer that I cannot avoid flagellating myself.



“I heard this harmony five distinct times. The first time was when *I was internally recollected* which left me with a particular understanding of my own nothingness, and a great generosity to suffer. These were all the invitations of the Spouse, my Love. In His loving words, he brought forth for me precious joys of virtues; but all hidden, I mean internal things. It seemed that He made me understand my low self-esteem. But I understood everything from the harmony that I was feeling in my heart.”

