

THE “DAME-DIEU”!

The Astonishing Currentness of an Old Expression

Surprising are the paths to discovery. Thus, on a stormy evening last March, while I was looking through my book shelves for something that was not too hard to read and not too long, my eyes fell on *Le Sourire de l'Ange* [lit. “the angel’s smile”] by Jeanne Bourin.

Jeanne Bourin (1922-2003) is the author of well-known books in French (*La Chambre des Dames*, *Le Jeu de la tentation*, *Le Grand Feu*, *Compagnons d'éternité*, *Les Pérégrines*, etc.) Through her research and her literary work, she contributed greatly to “rehabilitating” the very poorly designated “Middle Ages” by showing that it was not the “time of darkness” as it has often been thought, but rather, an era of great light and intense Christian faith in which, in particular, the woman was not considered to be inferior to man but his equal, with the one and the other having exactly the same rights in many areas. It was afterwards, at the end of the Middle Ages and during the so-called “Renaissance”, that everything changed.

So, I was reading *Le Sourire de l'Ange*, which is both an autobiography of the author and the courageous and strong assertion of her Christian faith, when I came across a page on which she had written: “I began this chapter by underlining my devotion to the Holy Spirit, but I have not strayed from this very much, for it so happens that I discovered in various medieval chronicles an expression which seemed quite striking and which will enable me to finish off my commentary on women. In reference to the Lord who, by definition, is a pure spirit and can then have neither sex nor matter, I sometimes came across the designation ‘Dame-Dieu’. There you have what expresses better than any other proof the prominent role the woman had during the famous ‘Middle Ages!’” (Paris, Juillard-DDB, 1996, p. 124)

“*Dame-Dieu*” – what a wonderful expression springing forth from ancient history with an astonishing timeliness! But everything is not all that simple, and I, in turn, did a bit of research. Thus, the word “*Dame*” in the French of the Middle Ages would have been used in two ways: besides being, in the feminine, the most usual name given to the Virgin Mary who was commonly referred to as “*Notre Dame*” or “*Our Lady*”, as well as designating the wife of the local lord, it would seem that it was also, in

the masculine form, a synonym for the word “*Lord*” and could be used to designate God himself. (This may be surprising today, but we find traces of this masculine usage in the word “*damoiseau*” [squire], the old masculine form of the word “*damoiselle*” [damzel].) Thus, in the minds of the people of that time, the expression “*Dame-Dieu*” referred to the Lord and when someone exclaimed, for example, “*Que Dame-Dieu nous vienne en aide!*”, this really literally meant: “*May the Lord God come to our aid!*”

Finally, the word “*Dame*” could also be used alone as an interjection. So, just as we hear people today exclaim “*Lord!*” or “*Good Lord!*”, so too, in the Middle Ages one could hear “*Dame!*” In actual fact, the expression was in use for a very long time, for centuries even. It is perhaps no longer used in Quebec today, but I remember having heard it during my youth in Belgium. There are certainly still people who use it.

There you have the origin of the expression, its initial use, its primary significance and its gradual shift in meaning which, over time, reduced the word “*Dame*” to a simple exclamation with no longer any connection to its origin. Yes, but if we were to give to the old terms their actual meaning, then what a bright light emerges!

In this very time when the **LADY** (“*DAME*”) of All Peoples, who lived among us under the traits of Marie-Paule, was recognized and hailed as being **GOD** (“*DIEU*”), what a wonderful expression to designate her! What a dazzlingly bright contribution coming to us from a distant past! For in the 12th and 13th centuries, for example, when everyone had a very intense veneration to “*Our Lady*” and so many cathedrals and churches were built in her honor, it certainly must have happened that some people, at least in their minds, made the connection

between “*Notre-Dame*” and “*Dame-Dieu*” or “*Our Lady*” and “*Lady-God*”!

What an extraordinary little expression condensing all the Lady’s Mystery into one single word!

The **LADY** of All Peoples
having become **GOD**:

The “Lady-God”!

Marc Bosquart, April 13, 2018



In September 1967, Marie-Paule had been warned by Heaven that she was the **LADY** of All Peoples in person. As she looked at the cover of Raoul Auclair’s book with the picture of the Lady, she heard: “*That is you there!*” (*Life of Love*, vol. II, p. 558)

That was the beginning of a long and patient evolution in the knowledge and understanding of her Mystery, both for herself and for the members of her Work. And this evolution led us to define her on May 31, 2012, as being herself a constituent person of the Divine Quinternity, and therefore fully **GOD** in the same capacity as the Father, the Mother, the Son and the Spirit. (Cf. *Le Royaume*, no. 215, pp. 7-9.)