

The Desert Leading Us to the Kingdom

THE RETURN TO THE PROMISED LAND

All of us are journeying towards the land of the Kingdom while waiting to have access, some day, to the eternal Kingdom. As such, our journey greatly resembles that of the Hebrew people who left the land of Egypt to march towards the Promised Land of Israel. However, first of all, God had them go through the desert. Why the desert? Because that is the land of detachments. The people had to leave behind in the desert what it had taken from Egypt: the habits, the traditions, the idols... It had to learn once again to depend only on God and to love Him with all its heart.

We who are advancing towards the Kingdom of the Seventh Day, we too have a desert to cross, less physical, obviously, than it is psychic and spiritual. We too must detach ourselves from what the last centuries have given us and taught us; not because this was bad but because everything in the Kingdom will function in a very different way and we must prepare ourselves for this. This time of the crossing – this *“time outside of time”*, as Raoul called it, which extends from the end of the Sixth Day to the beginning of the Seventh –, we must take advantage of it and let God strip us or detach us, so as to form us for the Kingdom to come.

A GUIDE FOR THE CROSSING

God, knowing the dangers and difficulties the Hebrew people would encounter, gave it a guide, Moses, in order to help it during the crossing. Moses was great not because of his human knowledge but because of his humility and the fact that he was close to God. He was the one to whom God entrusted His law and His will. It was to Moses that God spoke face-to-face and it was through him that He worked miracles and wonders.

The times we are living are unique in the history of humanity. Never has there been a time that was so perilous and so troubled. Never that the moral level been so low. And God who loves us so much and who desires our salvation more than we ourselves do, was not stingy in the means to be taken to lead us to the Kingdom. To exceptional times, exceptional measures. That is why, this time, God did not send messengers or prophets to lead His people; He sent the Co-Redemptrix in person, the Daughter of the Immaculate, the Queen of the King, that is, Mother Paul-Marie, and she was not spared the severity of the hardships of the crossing. On the contrary, she experienced it more than anyone else.

“A SERIES OF SUBTRACTIONS”

A television host said one day that the desert was *“a series of subtractions in order to retain only what is essential.”* This definition sums up marvelously well what the life of our foundress was. For her, the *“subtractions”* were very, very numerous in every respect. One need only read *Life of Love* to realize this: detachment from her religious vocation, from her children, her family, her lady friends, her health, her work. At one point in her life, her spiritual director was even taken from her although she greatly needed him. She was forced to leave the Legion of Mary which was so dear to her. Then, there was the loss of her reputation because of the media, the detachment from her will and, at the end of her life, the loss of her autonomy.

In spite of all of that, Marie-Paule wrote in 1990: *“The sufferings, the crosses in so many forms, they are flowers that God holds out to us; and they either bloom and give off their perfume*

if we willingly accept them, or they fade and die if we turn from the hand offering them to us.

“In His benevolence, God unceasingly grants us graces, but we do not correspond with them. It is the multitude of little things, much more than resounding deeds, that establishes holiness.” (*Vie d'Amour, Appendice IV, p. 10*)

And, at the very end, when Marie-Paule had finished crossing her desert, she then realized that she had nothing left except what is essential, that is, the daily Eucharist and a consuming Love.



Sister Louise Hélié

THE RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED UPON MARIE-PAULE

So, when we are deprived of the joy of going to Spiri-Maria to pray, let us remember that Marie-Paule also experienced the same trial for many years. She was obliged to stay at the Residence of the Lady without being able to go to the chapel, to the point of shedding tears at times because she had no other choice but to look at her Jesus via television, filmed by a surveillance camera.

Likewise, when the health authorities imposed a curfew on us, preventing us from going out and circulating about, did we think how, having to wear the long white dress imposed upon her by the Lord, this prevented Marie-Paule from going out into the city or to any other place for decades?

Finally, on the more difficult days, let us remember that Marie-Paule loved us so much that she did not want to deprive us of what was essential so that she saw to it that anyone who so desires can have the Real Presence in his or her home and follow the Mass on Radio Love, without forgetting either her books of *Life of Love* which are a guide and a comfort to us in our daily sacrifices and renunciations.

“NO ONE IS ABOVE THE MASTER”

In the article quoted earlier, Marie-Paule wrote: *“Jesus and Mary are my strength and the motivating force of my life. I live only for them and in them, knowing that all the solutions will come to me through them, they who are always so attentive to their Work of love, which they guide with wisdom and goodness...”*

“The members of the Army of Mary strain towards the summit of the cross and are on the cross, for this is the hour of the immolation. The immolation: the total giving of self, the complete act of love. The faithful members in the Army of Mary savor its luminous and beneficial limpidity that begets a light which will shine anew in the Church of Christ who died on the cross: ‘No one is above the Master.’” (*Id.*)

While awaiting the days full of light in the Kingdom, let us mutually support each other in a real fraternal charity, like our Mother did, she who knew how to listen to and console the souls God set along her path, and let us meditate on her words on friendship: *“The value of a healthy friendship always becomes more apparent in the difficult moments in life. The love for God and the desire for perfection form the luminous bond uniting us and become for each one the subject of a pleasing and mutual communication. Living thus on earth is already a prelude to the excellence of love which will unite us in Heaven.”* (Letter of September 1989)