

A Work That Traces a Trail of Light

The minister, Martin Luther King, taught that “*pardon is one of the highest and most heroic expressions of love*”. It was as a logical continuation of this thought that the work, “*Le dernier coup... et l’héroïque pardon!*” [lit. “The last blow... and the heroic pardon”] was published to continue to trace a trail of light in the darkness of our time. This book is in the nature of a prolongation of a “painful passion” described in writing under the title, *Life of Love*, that was understood by the little but rejected by the great ones. The Army of Mary, that has led so many souls back to God, is the divine fruit of that “co-redemptive passion” lived by the author. How explain the ostracism imposed upon this Work of God and upon His Handmaid, an ostracism that has been going on for so many years and of which this recent book reminds us? Paul VI’s thought is enlightening when he points out “*the psychic inability of man to accept ‘the gifts of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.’...*” (On Christian Joy, chap. III)

When Clement Brentano brought out *Douloureuse Passion* [lit. “Painful passion”] under the dictation of Anne Catherine Emmerich, he was dragged through the mud, he who enjoyed such a great reputation in German literary circles. And yet that German woman mystic with whom he collaborated is today beatified by the Church. This proves that God’s Works are very often scorned before being recognized.

We are in the time of the ultimate combat between the forces of good and those of evil – two forces that confront one another, even within the Church. Some decades ago, the renowned French man of letters and convert of the 20th century, François Mauriac, made this troubling statement that gives food for thought: “*Before the war, those who no longer believed left the Church. Today, they remain in it and call into question that which, for it, constitutes the essential: faith in Jesus Christ. It is internal apostasy.*” (Quoted by Bernard Bro in *Contre toute Espérance*, p. 99)

The eschatological combat is violent, something to which *Le Royaume* regularly bears witness. The war upon the Work of the Lady of All Peoples continues with a *modus operandi* that is tentacular and universal. And, as has already been mentioned, all of this has come about because of the psychic man’s incapacity to accept a divine Work. The Army of Mary finds itself still relegated to the “catacombs” for its religious activities, even though these latter are, in every detail, in conformity with the teaching of the Church, something that has been demonstrated many times. In the meantime the world is on its way to its ruin; anything can enter a church: pagan rites, jazz spectacles, fashion shows, etc. But in the face of these incongruities, Pope Paul VI helps us to draw from them a

surge of hope: “*The Church is not diminished but increased by persecutions. And the Lord’s field is unceasingly clothed with a richer harvest, when the grains which fell alone are multiplied in their rebirth.*” (On Christian Joy, chap. IV)

“LITTLENESS”!

Oh! how much we have to pray in order to acquire a spirit of “*littleness*” that furthers understanding and is “*the stamp of great souls*”, according to Saint Augustine. There you have, no doubt, something which would be suitable and useful to the detractors of *Life of Love* and the Army of Mary to help them understand. His Holiness Pope John Paul II, who is in his death throes at the time of this writing, is, himself, an apostle of “*littleness*”: “*Christ in person teaches that what is little and hidden, in the eyes of men, can, through the divine power, produce surprising results.*” (Vatican Information Service, November 19, 2004, Fr. ed.) The author of “*Le dernier coup... et l’héroïque pardon*” constantly refers to herself as “*the zero through which Jesus and Mary pass.*” (p. 334) Charles de Foucauld, who will be beatified in this year 2005, explains that it is always on that which is trodden underfoot that God builds His great Works: “*God builds on nothing. It was with the nothing that the Apostles were that God founded the Church. It is in the nothingness of human means that heaven is won and the faith propagated.*” (Zenit, December 20, 2004, Fr. ed.)

While helping to build the civilization of love promoted by Pope John Paul II, the Work of the Lady of All Peoples has always exerted itself in the defence of the Truth. And is that not something to which His Eminence Cardinal Ratzinger urges us when he cries out: “*Without the truth, love would be blind?*” (Vatican Information Service, September 29, 2004, Fr. ed.) The sowing of weeds and the falsification of the truth are not something new in the Church. How true it is that there’s nothing new under the sun! In the 5th century the divinity of Christ was denied. And, astonishingly enough, this was done by none other than the episcopate of that time. The majority of that episcopate voted against this dogmatic reality, as Bernard Bro recalls for us, going back over a dark page in the history of the Church, written shortly after the era of Saint Augustine:

Christians had not as yet thought out certain precise details that would have permitted them to express more clearly their faith in Christ, the Son of God. Various theories were being looked into. One of them led to the destruction of faith in the divinity of Christ: this was Arianism. A council debated it. The bishops fought over it... And when the majority of the bishops gave their opinion they voted against the divinity of Christ. Yes, if we had followed the majority, where would our faith in Christ be

today? (Bernard Bro, *Contre toute Espérance*, p. 59)

Most fortunately for our time, a number of popes have announced a new Pentecost. Pius XII was particularly explicit in referring to Mary as the “*purveyor*” of a prerogative of the Holy Spirit, that of enlightening minds; and that resembles a Marian Pentecost. In a prayer recited December 8, 1953, he said: “*O Mary, Sun of heaven, awaken life wherever there is death, and shed light in minds where there is darkness. In reflecting yourself in the countenances of your children, grant us a ray of your light and your fervor.*” (*Prières de S.S. Pie XII*, p. 98) This avowal has something strangely in common with the Marian Pentecost announced by the Lady of All Peoples. More than that, in this prayer the good Pope invites us to become living copies of Mary, something that constitutes the basic teaching of the Army of Mary. Consequently, one will hardly be astonished that the Foundress was twice called upon to write to this holy Pope asking his blessing. And it was granted without delay. (*Life of Love*, vol. I, pp. 169 and 193)

In her work, the author of “*Le dernier coup... et l’héroïque pardon*” takes particular care to always see the positive side of people (even of her enemies) – and particularly of her former spiritual director, who betrayed her – as well as of events. From this it follows, according to the thinking of Paul VI, that the “*positive outlook on people and things [is] the fruit of an enlightened human spirit and the fruit of the Holy Spirit...*” (On Christian Joy, conclusion)

This book was written in the evening of a life, but an evening that has, rather, the air of a dawn demonstrating that fruitfulness can be the prerogative of old age. In this regard, we might remark that the author drew up the plans for Spirit-Maria when she was close to 80, in fact, very much like Michelangelo who drew up the plans for Saint Peter’s Basilica in Rome when he was 89, and like Verdi who composed his majestic *Te Deum* at the age of 85. This recent work, “*Le dernier coup... et l’héroïque pardon*”, in addition to tracing a trail of light in the darkness, calls upon us to go as far as the “*martyrdom of love*”. It is a book that comes at the right time, for “*it is upon love that the future depends.*” (Karol Wojtyła, *La Boutique de l’Orfèvre*)

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