

## THE HERALD OF DIVINE LOVE

### Chapter 25. The Service of the Divine Heart

The Lord could not bear her sadness and gave her, with his own hands as it were, his divine heart in the form of a lighted lamp, saying: "Behold, here is my heart, the sweetest instrument of the ever adorable Trinity. I hold it in front of the eyes of your heart; it will supply all that you lack, faithfully making up for all that you entrust to it. And so everything will appear most perfect in my sight. Because, like a faithful servant who is always ready to do what his lord pleases, from now onward my heart will always cleave to you, so that it may make up at any time for all your negligences."

(187-188)

### Chapter 26. Of the Abundant Grace Flowing into the Soul from the Heart of God

"As long as you wish to keep it I shall not cause you to suffer by withdrawing it from you." Then she said: "O God, author of inestimable marvels, how is it that I am aware of your divine heart hanging in the form of a lamp in the midst of my heart (alas, so unworthy), and yet, whenever, by the favor of your grace, I may dare to approach you, I have the joy of finding it within yourself, offering me an abundance of all delights?" He replied: "Just as you stretch out your hand when you want to take hold of something and, when you have taken it, you draw it back toward you; so, languishing for love of you (Song 2:5), when you are distracted by exterior things, I stretch out my heart to you to draw you to myself; and, again, when your inmost thoughts in harmony with mine, you recollect yourself, and again attend to me, then I draw back my heart again, and you with it, into myself, and from it I offer you the pleasure of all its many virtues."

Then, pondering within herself with the greatest wonder and gratitude the gratuitous kindness of God to her, and considering her wretchedness and her many and varied defects, in the greatest dejection she plunged herself, as was her custom, into the lowliest valley of humility, deeming herself to be utterly unworthy of all grace. She kept herself secretly hidden for a time. The Lord who, though he inhabits the highest heaven, loves to impart his grace to the humble (Ps. 112: 5-6), seemed to send down a sort of golden tube, like a drinking-straw, from his heart which was hanging suspended like a lamp over the soul who was cowering in the valley of humility. Through this tube he caused to flow into her in a wonderful way all that she could desire. For instance, if she, remembering her defects, were to humble herself, the Lord would have pity on her at once and from his most blessed heart there would flow into her the spring-like flowering of his divine virtues. These, blotting out all her faults, did not let them appear anywhere in the sight of his divine benignity. In like manner, if she desired to have some spiritual ornament, or anything which the human heart conceives of as desirable and pleasant, instantly all the sweetest and happiest thoughts and sensations flowed into her through the tube we have mentioned.<sup>99</sup>

After some time, during which she had been enjoying such sweet delights and, not without the cooperation of divine grace, when she was becomingly adorned with every virtue—not hers but the Lord's—and appeared to be absolutely perfect (cf. Ez. 16:14), she heard as though in her heart a most sweet voice, as sweet as the lovely melody of a skillful harpist playing on his harp (cf. Rev. 14:2), a voice singing these words: "Come to me, my own! Enter into me, my own! Remain with me, my own!" Sweet as honey, the Lord helped her to understand the true meaning of this song: "Come to me, my own; because I love you as the cherished bride of my heart, I want you always present; therefore I am calling you. Again, because I find my delight in you, I want you to enter into me; as a young man desires to find perfected in himself the delight of his heart. Again, as I, your God, who am Love, have chosen you, I desire that you remain indissolubly united with me, as a living man is unwilling to let go the breath of life without which he could not exist, even for an hour."

During the infinitely sweet delight which this caused her, she felt herself to be drawn in an indescribable way, through the tube we have mentioned, into the heart of the Lord, and she had the happiness of finding herself within the very being of her spouse and lord. What she there felt, saw, heard, tasted, touched,<sup>100</sup> is known to her alone; and so him who designed to admit her to such a union, so excellent and so sublime, with him, Jesus, the spouse of the loving soul, who is God, blessed above all, for ever and ever.

Cl. 27 (189-191.)