

SOME CONSIDERATIONS ON THE SACRIFICES AND SUFFERINGS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST



This short dissertation is brought about with the desire to consider those sacrifices and sufferings Our Lord Jesus Christ had to endure in accomplish His salvific work which were not fully discussed or even mentioned as to the gravity of their effect upon Him.

First Consideration:

St. Louis De Monfort wrote a book named, “How to Pray the Rosary”. For each bead of the Hail Mary he provided a meditation to help one be able to comprehend the totality of each mystery. One of this meditations that we will consider is the first bead of the Second Joyful Mystery of the Holy Rosary, **‘The Visitation’**, the beloved Marianist wrote this meditation:

1. To honor the sacrifice Jesus Christ made of Himself to His Eternal Father by coming to this world.

Let us consider this sacrifice:

Jesus, God and Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, reigns in glory in His kingdom in Heaven. Everything is super clean and perfect. The purity of Heaven is both spiritual and physical. Nothing resembling any stain exists there. Everything in Heaven is undefiled and orderly. The glories and perfection of Heaven and its environs would only be described by those who are there right now. Suffice to say, it is a perfectly clean environment. To save us, He has to leave all this and live with us on earth.

What kind of environment is He going to live in on earth? It was diametrically opposite to that of Heaven. The earth He will live in for the next 33 years is as filthy as one could imagine, both in the physical and spiritual sense, also.

Physically, because waste disposal as we know it now does not even exist at the time of His arrival on earth. In fact waste disposal did not come along until the 18th century¹. We take it for granted that we have flush toilets, tissue paper, sanitary wipes, clean running water, etc. These modern comforts are luxuries compared to what He will live in at that time. As the saying goes, we got it made and He had to suffer through it all.

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_waste_management

Spiritually, because it was described in Scriptures thus: "*And the earth was corrupted before God, and was filled with iniquity*²." [Genesis 6:11]. Being God, He hates iniquity, so He will live in an environment He, Himself hates. "...for their *God hateth iniquity*." [Judith 5:21] He will breathe it, walk through it, sleep with it and so on. To make it worse, He considers "*all iniquity of nations is execrable*³." [Ecclesiasticus (Sirach) 10:7] The stench of sin and sinner permeates the whole earthly environment and He will live with this smell for the next 33 years.

A good example of what Our Lord had to endure when coming to this earth is a richly endowed young man growing up in a comfortable palace kept tidy every day by a retinue of cleaners. Then he was dispatched by his father to live in a septic tank for 33 years to help those in that tank to clean up their act and teach them to live outside of that waste receptacle. In addition to living in that septic tank, His Father still added more waste for Him to live in: "...and the Lord hath laid on Him the *iniquity* of us all." [Isaias (Isaiah) 53:6]

How will you and I behave under those circumstances and conditions He has to live in? Kind of a very unsavory thought to consider, isn't it? Let us now go to the next consideration.

Second Consideration:

In the Third Sorrowful Mystery, **The Crowning with Thorns**, two meditations come into scrutiny as to their effect they have on Our Lord, the fourth and ninth Hail Marys:

4. To honor Christ for the spits and blows they covered His face.

9. To honor Christ for the blows He received upon His adorable head.

It is written: "*I have given my body to the strikers.*" [Isaias 50:6] He did surrender Himself to all who would hit His head, His face and His body⁴. Has anybody here suffered blows to the head or face or body? I, for one, did. Actually, the blow was a kick to the left temple. Living in a rowdy neighborhood where gangs and machismo rule, I got into a fight where I was blindsided by that kick. I thought the fisticuffs were over because the other guy gave up. I turned my back and immediately a big flash and I lost my vision but not my consciousness. How I survived this assault was another story.

The reason this is brought up is that the blows our Lord would have received in the head or face would be similar to that assault I experienced. Those soldiers were taught to hurt and kill, not to massage or caress the enemy. So every blow He received was as hard as the assailant could deliver. He would have lost His vision. His brain would be bouncing all over His cranium and the concussion would be so intense that more of the same might have killed Him right there and then. How do I know? After that incident, I had a severe migraine type headache that lasted for six months. I had to take eight aspirin tablets each time they occur. Sometimes I would lose focus and fall asleep suddenly in class or on the bus. I kept praying that I would not die because it would cause hardship to my family. The same head injury would have happened to Jesus and worse because the assault on Him only stopped because the next phase of His Passion would commence. How many blows did He receive on the head and face? We do not know but looking at the veil of Veronica below, we are looking at a badly mauled face of Jesus. Swollen cheekbones and lips. Maybe His jaws were broken too, because most of His pictures and images show a heart-shaped face like His beloved Mother. This image shows almost a squared jawed face.

² sin

³ From excreta - feces and urine

⁴ The face and head blows are the only ones discussed here because they were the ones specifically noted in the Holy Rosary meditations by St. Louis De Montfort.



The Holy Face of Jesus from the Image of Veronica's Veil

How many times have we read in the news of one who has been brutally beaten and died on the spot of brain injuries? Our Lord could have suffered the same fate but He has to die on the Cross! He willed His dying brain to remain functional so He could fulfill the Scriptures fully to the letter. He was losing consciousness, His head was ready to burst, His headache was so severe He was ready to throw up, He was losing coherence but still He has to walk to that distant hill and die on top of it hanging from a cross. What a will! What perseverance! Almost half dead, losing blood like a sieve and with a damaged brain, He willed Himself to those last hours He needed to complete His salvific work. Would anyone be able to even come close to what He suffered?

So when the verse, *“...and the Word was made flesh; and dwelt among us”* is recited, would it be too much to ask everyone to tell Him,

“Thank You Lord for coming down and suffering and dying for us. Forgive us for all that we have done to Thee.”

Also, **whenever we see a Crucifix**, we could look up to Him and **say the same thing**. He really deserves every comfort we could ever offer Him.

Sometime ago, I read that a saint always said something similar to this. Our Lord Jesus appeared to her and told her how pleased He was to hear these words. So let us make it a practice to thank Him for living in the septic tank called earth and dying for us. Let's give the pleasure that He enjoys in reparation to what He had to bear for 33 years on this earth and His last moments of semi-consciousness and painful concussion.

Let us observe Lent with more empathy to the Man-God Who gave up all for us and enjoy Easter as a new resolve to avoid sin and the occasions of sin in recompense for His love for us.

