

The Power of the Cross and the Crucified

- + Glory to You, who stood at a stone's throw from Your own chosen disciples.
- + Glory to You, whose inner being was pierced even to death with sadness while still alive.
- + Glory to You, who bowed down praying to the Father; You, the only begotten beloved Son to whom all prayers are offered.
- + Glory to You, thrown on the ground, Your face soiled with dirt, that heavenly face the celestial hosts tremble to behold.
- + Glory to You, from whose face dripped thick blood-like drops of sweat. For, during the trial hour grief and fatigue had inflicted Your body while Your soul agonizingly fought the blows of death yet without dying. You are the one alive and giver of life.

It was not fear of death that terrified Your heart; since Your heart's pulses awaken heaven, resurrect the earth and constitute the law of life to every living being.

It was not horror of any upcoming pain, affliction or infliction. For You are the alleviator of pain from those in pain, the wiper of every tear from tearful eyes, the support to every hurtful heart, the healer to anybody that would fall in Your bosom and take shelter in You.

It was not terror from an approaching enemy carrying the power of death and Hades. For You have frightened him and shaken his authority; and will eventually tie him up and throw him in the eternal lake of fire which will consume all the opponents of truth and all the liars and fathers of liars. You are the only perpetually standing truth who will condemn and send into eternal perdition the evil hypocrite who have humiliated and distressed mankind.

+ To me, Your secret has been revealed as well as the source of Your sadness unto death before You even died. I have come to understand the size of Your pain and the affliction beset on You before you would be inflicted. Yes! I have come to realize the secret of that face stained with the dust of the earth, the uncountable flooding tears, and the pouring blood-like sweat.

From you I have come to distinguish the cause of the inevitable terror that has totally engulfed You and unavoidably penetrated the depth of Your heart. Then I came to realize the secret of Your fear of the pain that had hit the soul not the body; Your spiritual agony as You stood before Your Father and His love while He stood aloof leaving You to suffer alone. *"Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand"* (Isaiah 53:10).

Why did You have to suffer deadly grief without rescue?

I have come to discern the quality of Your pain, the quantity of Your tears, the type of Your brokenness, and the size of Your fear from the anticipated unknown after the Father had completely and willfully deserted You. Yes, He had abandoned You the beloved one standing in the bosom of the Father.

Yes! I have been assured and the secret revealed to me.

It is the multiple, diverse and heavy sins of humanity that Your Father had put on Your shoulder but You were innocent of all of them. You have agreed to bear them since eternity while with the Father. On that basis You consented to become incarnate. And so did the Father permit it to be.

Actually You were terrified before the reality of sin and the entailing inevitable separation from the Father. How would You communicate with the Father with whom You stand and in Whose bosom you are One in One? How would You accept to be accused of blasphemy, the mother of all sins? How would You bear it in Your body and dare stand before the Father? How would You dare renounce Him? How dreadful that would be? How much fear must have crept on You? Would it be possible? Would it be feasible? Would it be pleasing to the Father?

Yes the Father had contentedly and agreeably decided to put on You the sin of mankind in order for You to atone for their sins. What torment must have swept upon You! How would You, the pure, holy, and above all profanity stand bearing the sin of adultery like an adulterous person?

Now I understand the brokenness of Your heart, the face hidden behind the dust, the rivers of tears and the blood-like sweat. The weight of sins and the Father's hand were too heavy for You to bear. Would You fall down? Or would courage run away from You? Would the love that binds You with the Father and which exists in You be severed?

You willfully bore man's lies and false swearing, and adopted people's trickery and deceit while You are the truth itself and all the truth. How were You able to stand before the Father as a liar while You are the advocate of all liars? Were You taking upon Yourself Satan's criminal work in humanity? Were You adopting the murderer's case to stand in his place before the Father as a murderer; You the giver of life?

You stood, O Master, like a thief and atrocious robber to adopt the case of the impudent. Thus You were easily able to liberate their guilty one crucified on Your right hand side who was the first criminal to receive propitiation. Now I understand St. Paul's wisdom, "*But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness*" (Romans 4:5). It shows faith in the cross and the work of the crucified.

Now I know why You bowed down time and time again crying out loud to the One who is able to alleviate the heavy weight of the cup. But He never did. Your meek self collapsed before the

terror of sin. But it is for this very hour You have come; and for the sins of mankind You have incarnated to carry the weighty defiled cup of sin, drink it, and stand as a sinful man.

Now I know why the thunderous cry with the mighty voice, “My Father, my Father why have You forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46).

You have accepted this abandonment that wounded Your heart but which You transcended instantaneously opting to bear it alone as a sinner. You accepted to die and descend into the grave for three days to bury the sin of mankind in order to pay the full price of man’s liberation from sin, its punishment, its curse, and its death.

How powerful You are O Master! Truly powerful! You have deservedly earned and accomplished God’s trait. Hence, You are the one described in the Old Testament as the Almighty. This is the power of God declared on the cross, powerful as power can be.

That is the price of the new man!

On the cross sin tore Your hands and legs and the spear pierced Your side. Your blood gushed like a river. As a result, the body was tarnished with the blood, was sanctified, and received the everlasting life that is already in You. It descended into the grave with You, trampled over death overcoming it with You and rising holy, pure, free from the grip of death, a new creature in the spirit, and partaker of Your glory which You had laid aside during Your incarnation, crucifixion and burial. This glory returned with Your return to the Father in the new man enclosed in Your body to offer the new sinless man to Your Father, reconciling him with the blood You had shed. Thus You have provided him perpetual redemption and everlasting life in You.

You rose O Master on the third day exposing Ananias, Caiaphas, and Satan. You shook off of You the sin that You had bore in Your body on the cross and blew off of man his plight burying it with the old man that was loaded with the sins of all mankind and which You willingly took upon you.

Thus, in Jesus Christ’s risen body was the new creation of mankind; when Jesus Christ rose to sit on the right hand side of the Father, in the highest of the heavens, in the glory of the everlasting life.