

The Apparitions of Fatima and the Miracle of the Sun

FIRST APPARITION OF THE ANGEL- Spring, 1916- Lucia Dos Santos (age 9) and her cousins, Francisco and Jacinta Marto (ages 8 and 6) were watching their sheep in a meadow near Fatima, Portugal. It started raining, and they hid in a small cave to escape the rain. After the rain stopped and the sun came out, they stayed in the cave to eat their lunch, say the rosary and play a game of jacks. A strong wind began to blow which moved the trees and then a white light suddenly appeared which enveloped them. In the middle of that light an angel appeared who said to them: *"Fear not! I am the Angel of Peace. Pray with me!"* The angel knelt on the ground and bowed very low. The children imitated the angel and repeated his words three times: *"My God, I believe, I adore, I hope, and I love you. I beg pardon of you for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope, and do not love you."* Then he rose and said: *"Pray this way. The Hearts of Jesus and Mary are attentive to the voice of your supplications."*



SECOND APPARITION OF THE ANGEL- Summer, 1916- The children were playing in the cool of a shade tree near a well behind Lucia's house. The Angel said to them: *"What are you doing? Pray! Pray a great deal. The Hearts of Jesus and Mary have merciful designs on you. Offer prayers and sacrifices continually to the Most High."* The children asked: "How must we sacrifice ourselves?" The angel said: *"Make everything you do a sacrifice, and offer it as an act of reparation for the sins by which God is offended, and as a petition for the conversion of sinners. By this you will bring peace to your country. I'm its Guardian Angel, the Angel of Portugal. Above all accept and bear with submission all the suffering the Lord will send you."* After this the children often spent their free time bowing to the ground and repeating the prayer that the angel had taught them.

THIRD APPARITION OF THE ANGEL- Autumn, 1916. The children were together praying when the angel appeared holding a chalice and host. Then the angel left the chalice and host suspended in the air and bowed down before it in adoration. He repeated three times with the children: *"Most Holy Trinity-Father, Son, and Holy Spirit-I adore thee profoundly. I offer thee the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles in the world, in reparation for all the outrages, sacrileges and indifferences whereby he is offended. And through the infinite merits of His Most Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of Thee the conversion of poor sinners."* Then the angel arose and gave the children Holy Communion, saying: *"Take the Body and the Blood of Jesus Christ, horribly outraged by thankless men."*

FIRST APPARITION OF OUR LADY- On Sunday May 13th 1917 the children were pasturing their flock as usual at the Cova da Iria, which was about a mile from their homes. They were playing when suddenly a bright shaft of light pierced the air... Frightened by the flash, the children looked around at the sky that was clear and bright without the least spot of a cloud. The children, however, thought that it was lightning and they began to head home to avoid a storm. As they descended the hill, they saw another flash of lightning and then they saw a vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary standing above a small holm oak tree. They described her as "a lady dressed all in white, more brilliant than the sun, shining with rays of light." They later said that Our Lady was translucent like a clear, crystal glass filled with pure water with the brilliant rays of the sun shining through it. Our Lady spoke to them and said: *Do not be afraid; I will not harm you. Lucia: Where are you from? Our Lady: I am from heaven (pointing to the sky) Lucia: And what do you wish of me? Our Lady: I have come to ask you to come here for six months in succession on the thirteenth day of each month at this same hour. Later I will tell you who I am and what I want. Afterward, I will return here a seventh time.*

Lucia: And will I go to heaven, too? Our Lady: Yes, you will. Lucia: And Jacinta? Our Lady: Also. Lucia: And Francisco? Our Lady: Also, but he must say many rosaries. Lucia: Is Maria das Neves already in heaven? Our Lady: Yes, she is. Lucia: And Amélia? Our Lady: She will be in purgatory until the end of the world. Do you wish to offer yourselves to God to endure all the sufferings that He may be pleased to send you, as both an act of reparation for the sins with which He is offended and an act of supplication for the conversion of sinners? Lucia: Yes, we do. Our Lady: Well then, you will have much to suffer. But the grace of God will be your comfort.

SECOND APPARITION OF OUR LADY- June 13, 1917- The children prayed the rosary with about fifty people and then there was again the lightning, and the Lady appearing over a small holm oak tree. Lucia said: *"What do you want from me?"* The Lady answered: *"I wish you to come here the 13th of next month; that you say the Rosary every day, and that you learn to read. In succeeding months I will tell you what else I want."* Lucia said: *"I would like to ask you to bring us to Heaven."* Our Lady responded: *"Yes, Jacinta and Francisco will be among the few, but you must stay here for a long time. Jesus wants to use you to make me known and loved. He wants to use you to establish in the world a devotion to my Immaculate Heart. I promise salvation to those who embrace it. Their souls will be loved by God as flowers placed by myself to adorn His throne."* Lucia asked: *"Will I stay here alone?"* Our Lady responded: *"Don't be discouraged, I will never abandon you. My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and through it will be led to God."* Then Our Lady opened her hands and emanated her light on the children, which caused the children to see themselves clearly in the light of God. In this light Jacinta and Francisco seemed to be in a ray of light that was directed up toward heaven, whereas Lucia was in a ray of light that was directed toward the entire earth. They later understood this to mean that the younger children would go to heaven soon, but Lucia would remain on earth. In front of

the palm of the right hand of the Lady there appeared a heart that was surrounded and pierced by a crown of thorns. They understood that it was the Immaculate Heart of Mary which suffered because of the sins of humanity and required reparation.

THIRD APPARTION OF OUR LADY- On July 13 1917 they recited the rosary with the crowd, they saw the usual flash of light and then the Lady on the holm oak. Lucy asked: *"What do you want from me?"* Our Lady answered: *"That you come the 13th of the next month, and that you continue to recite the Rosary every day to our Lady of the Rosary to obtain peace in the world and the end of the war, because only she will be able to aid you."* Lucy said *"I want to ask you to tell us who you are, and to make a miracle for the crowd to believe that you appear."* She Answered: *"Continue to come here. In October I will tell you who I am and what I want, and I will do a miracle that all can see and believe. Sacrifice yourselves for sinners, and say often this prayer, especially during any sacrifice: "O my Jesus, I offer this for love of Thee, for the conversion of poor sinners, and in reparation for all the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary."*

As she spoke these words, Our Lady stretched out her hands, and bright rays came forth which seemed to penetrate into the earth. The ground disappeared and the children saw a momentary vision of Hell. Frightened, they lifted their eyes to the Lady who told them: *"You have seen Hell, where the souls of poor sinners go. To save future souls God wishes to establish in the world the devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If people do what I tell you, many souls will be saved. If my requests are granted, Russia will be converted and there will be peace. If not, she will scatter her errors throughout the world, provoking wars and persecution of the Church. The good will be martyred, the Holy Father will have much to suffer, and various nations will be destroyed... But in the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me, Russia will be converted, and a certain period of peace will be granted to the world. When you recite the Rosary, say at the end of each decade: 'Oh My Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, and lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Your Mercy.'" Because of this vision of hell, the three children began to offer many daily sacrifices for the "poor sinners." They gave their lunch to the poor or to their sheep, they stopped drinking water on hot days, they wore uncomfortable ropes under their clothes as penance.*

FOURTH APPARTION OF OUR LADY- In August the children were prevented by the civil authorities to go to the Cova de Iria where an immense crowd had gathered. The children for two days were imprisoned and threatened with many torments to make them deny their story, but they refused and were ready to offer their lives rather than to deny the reality of the apparitions. They were released from prison on August 19, and while they fed the flock in a place called Valinhos they saw Our Lady above a holm oak. Lucy asked: *"What do you want from me?"* Our Lady responded: *"I want you to continue to go to the Cova da Iria on the 13th, and that you continue to say the Rosary every day. In the last month I will make the miracle so that all will believe."* Then with a sad expression she told them: *"Pray, pray a lot and offer sacrifices for the sinners. You know that many souls go the hell because there is none who pray for them."*

FIFTH APPARTION OF OUR LADY- On September 13th the children recited the rosary with about 30.000 persons who accompanied them to the Cova da Iria. Soon afterwards Our Lady appeared and said: *"I want you to come here on October 13 and that you continue to recite the Rosary to obtain the end of the war. In October the Lord, the sorrowful Lady, the Lady of Mt. Carmel, and St Joseph with the child Jesus, will also come to bless the world. God is glad of your sacrifices, but He does not want you to sleep with the rope around your waist, use it only during the day."* (The children had been doing penance by wearing rough rope around their waists under their clothes. Jacinta had been wearing the rope at night which prevented her from sleeping.)

SIXTH APPARTION OF OUR LADY AND THE MIRACLE OF THE SUN- On 13 October 1917 the children surrounded by a crowd of 70.000 persons under a torrential rain, Lucy asked again of the Lady: *"What do you want from me?"* Our Lady answered: *"I am the Lady of the Rosary, I desire here a chapel in my honor to be built, that people continue to recite the Rosary every day. The war is going to end, and the soldiers will soon return to their homes."* Then Lucy asked: *"May I ask you for cures and conversions? Will you grant them?"* Our Lady responded: *"Some yes, others no. It is necessary that they ask pardon for their sins, that they don't offend God our Lord, and that he is already too much offended."*

Then Lucia asked: *"Do you want anything else from me?"* Our Lady responded: *"I do not want anything more."* Then Our Lady opened her hands again and she sent a ray of light in the direction of the sun. Lucia shouted to everyone: *"Look at the sun."* At this point the rain stopped suddenly and the appeared in a way that we exceptionally bright sun but not uncomfortable to look at. The people could look directly at the sun without the slightest discomfort, and the saw the sun begin to turn and to shoot colored rays of light which lit up the clouds, the sky, the trees, and the crowd. Then the sun stayed still for a few moments and went back to its normal position. Then the sun began to again to spin and dance. Then suddenly the sun seemed to fall out of the sky toward the crowd who began to feel terrorized as if it were the end of the world. Even the atheists and skeptics in the crowd fell on their knees and begged for mercy. During this time the children were seeing a series of visions. They saw Our Lady dressed in white with a blue veil, standing beside St. Joseph and the Child Jesus who blessed the world by making the sign of the cross. Then they saw visions of Our Lady of Sorrows and Our Lady of Mt Carmel. When the visions were over, the sun returned to its usual place in the sky and the people were amazed that the ground and their clothes were completely dry. Even people in the neighboring cities saw this Miracle of the Sun. The following day there were headlines about the miracle in every newspaper in Portugal, including the newspapers that previously had been anti-Catholic.

