

## May 13 1917 : The First Apparition of Our Lady of Fatima

High up on the slope in the Cova da Iria I was playing with Jacinta and Francisco at the little stone wall around a clump of furze. Suddenly we saw what seemed to be a flash of lightning.

"We better go home," I said to my cousins, that lightning; and a thunderstorm may be coming.

"Yes, indeed they answered."

We began to go down the slope, hurrying the sheep along towards the road. We were more than less than half-way down the slope, and almost level with a large holmoak tree that stood there, when we saw another flash of lighting. We had only gone a few steps further when, there before us on a small holmoak, we beheld a beautiful Lady all dressed in white.

She was more brilliant than a crystal glass filled with sparkling water, when the rays of the burning sun shining through it. We stopped, astounded, before the apparition. We were so close, just a few feet from her.

Then Our Lady spoke to us:

"Do not be afraid. I will do you no harm."

"Where are you from?"

"I am from Heaven."



"What do you want of me?"

"I have come to ask you to come here for six months in succession, on the 13th day, at this same hour. Later on, I will tell you who I am and what I want. Afterwards, I will return here yet a seventh time."

"Shall I go to Heaven?"

"Yes, you will."

"And Jacinta?"

"She will go also."

"And Francisco?"

"He will go too, but he must say many Rosaries first."

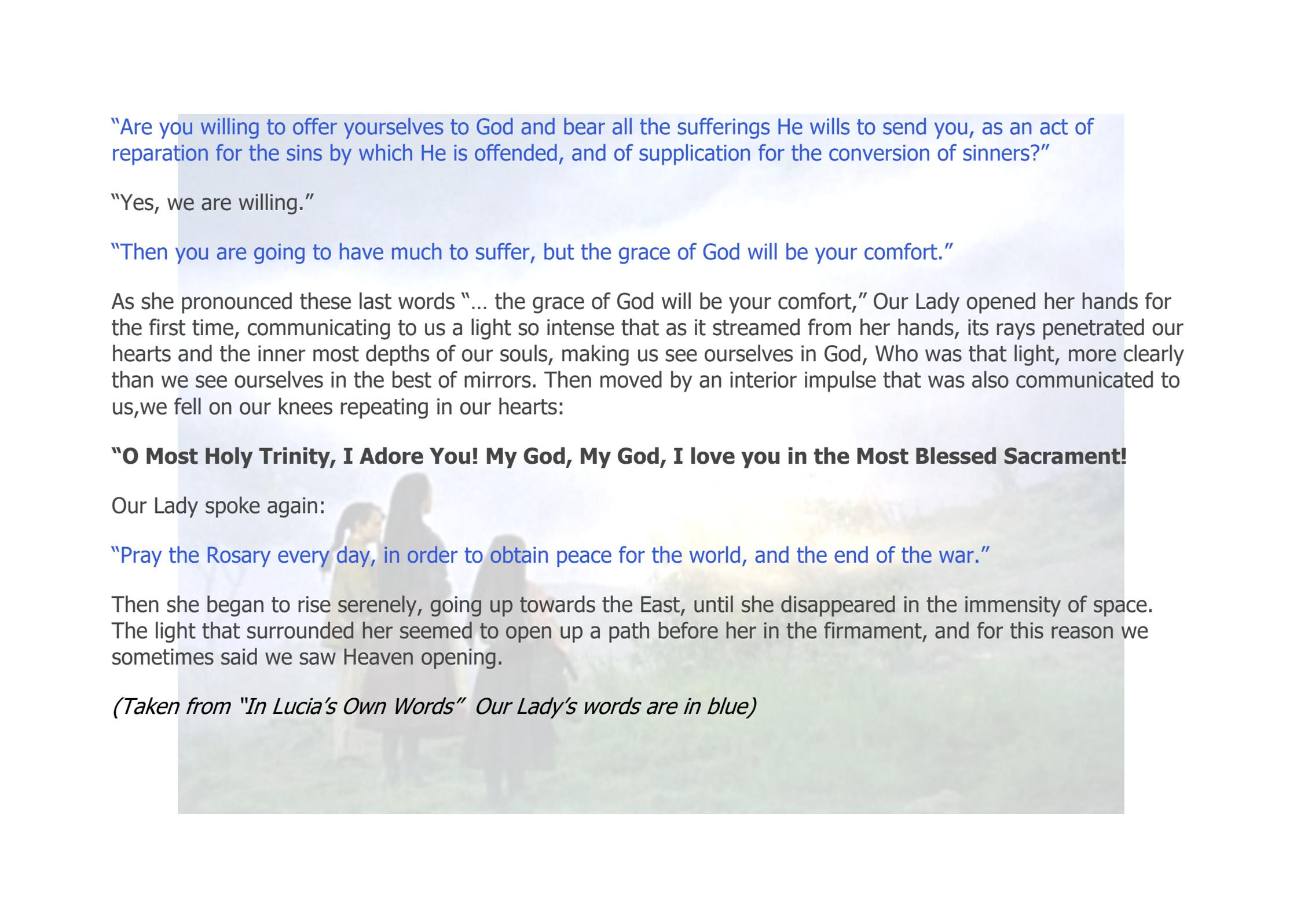
Then I remembered to ask about two girls who had died recently. They were friends of mine and used to come to my home to learn weaving with my eldest sister.

"Is Maria in Heaven?"

"Yes, she is." ( I think she was about 16 years of age.)

"And Amelia?"

"She will be in purgatory until the end of the world." (It seems to me she was between 18 and 20 years of age.)



"Are you willing to offer yourselves to God and bear all the sufferings He wills to send you, as an act of reparation for the sins by which He is offended, and of supplication for the conversion of sinners?"

"Yes, we are willing."

"Then you are going to have much to suffer, but the grace of God will be your comfort."

As she pronounced these last words "... the grace of God will be your comfort," Our Lady opened her hands for the first time, communicating to us a light so intense that as it streamed from her hands, its rays penetrated our hearts and the inner most depths of our souls, making us see ourselves in God, Who was that light, more clearly than we see ourselves in the best of mirrors. Then moved by an interior impulse that was also communicated to us, we fell on our knees repeating in our hearts:

**"O Most Holy Trinity, I Adore You! My God, My God, I love you in the Most Blessed Sacrament!"**

Our Lady spoke again:

"Pray the Rosary every day, in order to obtain peace for the world, and the end of the war."

Then she began to rise serenely, going up towards the East, until she disappeared in the immensity of space. The light that surrounded her seemed to open up a path before her in the firmament, and for this reason we sometimes said we saw Heaven opening.

*(Taken from "In Lucia's Own Words" Our Lady's words are in blue)*