

The Miracle of the Sun

13 October 1917



The Miracle of the Sun, which took place in Fatima on October 13, 1917, had a profound impact on more than seventy thousand people who were witnesses at the Cova da Iria that day. Many had come as pilgrims, but many were unbelievers and had come to scoff. However, on that day many of the pilgrims had their faith strengthened and many of the scoffers became believers. Even the secular newspapers who came in disbelief, reported in amazement what took place – the miracle that Our Lady of Fatima had promised in July telling the little shepherd children “In October I will tell you who I am and what I want. I will then perform a miracle so that all may believe”. In August she said once more “In the last month I will perform a miracle so that all may believe”. In September, Our Lady repeated “In October I will perform a miracle so that all may believe”

The **Bishop of Fatima** in his Pastoral Letter on the Miracle said “**Thousands upon thousands of persons.... saw all the manifestations of the sun.... a phenomenon which no astronomical observatory registered and thus was not natural.... persons of every category and social class, believers and unbelievers, journalists of the principal Portuguese newspapers, and even persons some miles away....**” To gain an accurate appreciation of all that happened that day, it is necessary to rely on the testimonies of those who were present. **John Haffert** in his book “**Meet The Witnesses**” (1960) presents the testimonies of a certain number of persons who were present that day. Mr Haffert interviewed these people who gave their witness accounts of the miraculous event which the little shepherds foretold would take place at a certain time, in a certain place

John Haffert relates that the miracle was visible from an area of six hundred square miles. He writes the following testimony from a "distant witness": **"Father Lourenco was a school boy then and was with his brother and some other children They thought it was the end of the world. Both Father Joaquim and his brother subsequently became priests. Father Lourenco tells us: "I feel incapable of describing what I saw. I looked fixedly at the sun which seemed pale and did not hurt my eyes. Looking like a ball of snow, revolving on itself, it suddenly seemed to come down in a zigzag, menacing the earth. Terrified, I ran and hid myself among the people, who were weeping and expecting the end of the world at any moment.... There was an unbeliever there who had spent the morning mocking the 'simpletons' who had gone off to Fatima just to see an ordinary girl. He now seemed paralysed; his eyes fixed on the sun. He began to tremble from head to foot and lifting up his arms, fell on his knees in the mud, crying out to God. But meanwhile people continued to cry out and to weep asking God to pardon their sins. We all ran to the two chapels in the village, which were soon filled to overflowing. During those long moments of the solar prodigy, objects around us turned all colours of the rainbow.... When the people realised that the danger was over, there was an explosion of joy"**

Many curative miracles occurred that day. One was Arminda Campos, a twenty-one-year old girl who had been ill for thirteen years and was dying of three serious diseases. She had undergone nine major operations before being taken to Fatima. Arminda knew she was dying and like the little shepherds, had offered her sufferings in reparation and for the conversion of sinners. John Haffert himself witnessed the instant cure of Arminda Campos. **"We actually walked around her as she was getting up, and saw the blankets shrink upon her body. The great tumour had disappeared instantly. Within two hours we saw dry, clear scars on the girl's side where just before there had been two great running incisions made by a surgeon's scalpel."** (John Haffert "Meet The Witnesses").