**Reflections on the Mystical Marriage**

From writings of**The Servant of God, Luisa Piccarreta**little daughter of the Divine Will

**February 28, 1899 -**By order of the priest confessor I, Luisa begin to write what passes between me and Our Lord, Jesus’ day by day.

            While He was saying this, I don’t know how, I saw the priest confessor near Jesus; and the Lord told him: "See, everything you Father do passes into Heaven.  Therefore, see with what purity you Father must operate, thinking that all of your steps, words and works come before my presence, and if they are pure – that is, if they are done for Me – I, Jesus take greatest delight in them and I, Jesus feel them around Me like many messengers that remind Me continuously of you, Father.  But if they are done for low and earthly purposes, I, Jesus feel bothered by them."  And as He, Jesus was saying this, He, Jesus seemed to grab the priest’s hands, and raising them up to Heaven, He, Jesus said to the priest: "Father, keep your eyes always on high; you, Father are of Heaven – Father, work for Heaven!"

            Now, while seeing the priest confessor, I, Luisa remembered he, the priest confessor, had told me that I, Luisa was to write about Faith in the way in which the Lord Jesus had spoken to me about this virtue of Faith.  While I was thinking of this, in one instant the Lord drew me so much to Himself, that I felt I was outside of myself, in the vault of the heavens together with Jesus, and He told me these exact words:  "Faith is God."

            …By taking food, the body is not only sustained, but shares in the substance of the food, which transforms into the body itself.  The same for the soul who Lives of Faith: since Faith is God Himself, the soul comes to Live of God Himself; and by nourishing herself with God, she comes to share in the substance of God; and by sharing in Him, she comes to Resemble Him and to be Transformed with God Himself.  Therefore, it happens to the soul who lives of Faith, that, just as God is Holy, the soul is Holy; Powerful God - Powerful the soul; Wise, Strong and Just God - Wise, Strong and Just the soul; and so with All the other Attributes of God.  In sum, the soul becomes a little god.  Oh, the blessedness of this soul on earth, to then be more blessed in Heaven!

            I also understood that the words that the Lord says to His beloved souls – "I, Jesus shall Espouse you in the Faith" – mean nothing less but that the Lord, in this Mystical Marriage, comes to endow the souls with His Own Virtues.  It seems to me that it happens as to two spouses: as they join their properties Together, the belongings of one can no longer be distinguished from those of the other, but both of them become their owners.  However, in our case, the soul is poor – All the Good comes from the Lord, who lets her share in His Possessions.

            The life of the soul is God - Faith is God, and the soul, by Possessing Faith, comes to graft All the other Virtues into herself, in such a way that Faith is like a king in her heart, and the other virtues remain around It, as the subjects that serve Faith.  So, without Faith, Virtues themselves are virtues that have no life.

            It seems to me that God communicates Faith to man in two ways: the *first* is Holy Baptism; the *second* is when Blessed God, by unleashing a Particle of His Substance into the soul, Communicates to her the Virtue of making miracles, like raising the dead, healing the sick, stopping the sun, and the like.  Oh, if the world had Faith, it would change into a Terrestrial Paradise!

            Oh, how high and sublime is the flight of the soul who exercises herself in Faith.  It seems to me that by exercising herself in Faith, the soul acts like those timid little birds which, for fear of being caught by hunters, or of some other snare, establish their dwelling at the top of the trees, or in high places.  Then, when they are forced to take food, they descend, take the food, and immediately fly back into their dwelling.  And some of them, more cautious, take the food and don’t even eat it on the ground, but in order to be safer, they carry it up to the top of the trees, and there they swallow it.

            In the same way, the soul who Lives of Faith is so timid with earthly things, that for fear of being snared, she doesn’t so much as glance at them.  Her dwelling is up High – that is, above All the things of the earth, but especially in the Wounds of Jesus Christ; and from within those blessed rooms she moans, cries, prays and suffers Together with her Spouse Jesus over the condition and the misery in which mankind lies.  While she lives inside those holes of the Wounds of Jesus, the Lord gives her a Particle of His Virtues, and the soul Feels those Virtues within herself as if they were her own.  However, she realizes that even though she sees them as her own, the possession of them is given to her, for they have been Communicated by the Lord.

**Volume 1 -**‘Oh! my Most Divine Spouse, …Free me from this cross – that the confessor be needed in order to free me – and then everything shall be arranged between me and You.’  Then the Lord said to me:  “Go to the confessor and ask him for the obedience.  If he wants, you shall tell him everything I told you, and you shall follow whatever he says.  See, it shall not be only for the good of creatures that I want these continuous sufferings, but also for your good.  In this state of sufferings I will purify your soul thoroughly, in such a way as to dispose you to Form a Mystical Marriage with Me; and after this, I shall make the Last Transformation, in such a way that both of us shall become like two candles placed on the fire – one is Transformed into the other and they form a single one.  In this way I shall Transform Myself in you, and you shall remain Crucified with Me.  Ah! would you not be happy if you could say:  ‘The Bridegroom is Crucified, but the Bride also is Crucified?  Ah! yes, there is nothing that renders me dissimilar from Him.’

…I remember that from the very beginning of my being continuously bedridden, my Lover Jesus would make Himself seen very often, which He had not done in the past.  From the beginning He told me that He Wanted me to take on a New Way of Life in order to Dispose myself to that Mystical Marriage which He had Promised me.  He would say to me:  “Beloved of My Heart, I have put you in this State so that I might come More Freely to Converse with you.  See, I have Freed you of All external occupations, so that, not only your soul, but also your body might be at My disposal, and so that you might remain in continuous holocaust before Me.  See, had I not drawn you into this bed, since you would have to carry out your family duties and submit yourself to other sacrifices, I could not come so often and let you share in the Offenses, just as I Receive them; at most, I would have to wait for when you have fulfilled your duties.  But now – no, we are Free, there is no one left who may bother us and interrupt our Conversation.  From now on, My Afflictions shall be yours, and yours shall be Mine; My Sufferings yours, and yours Mine; My Consolations yours, and yours Mine.  We shall unite All things Together, and you shall take interest in My things as if they were your own; and so I shall do with yours.  Between the two of us there shall no longer be ‘this is mine, and this is yours’, but Everything shall be in common, on both sides.

Do you know how I acted with you?  Like a king when he wants to speak with his queen spouse, and she is with other ladies on other affairs.  What does the king do?  He takes her and brings her inside his room; they close the door, so that no one may go and interrupt their conversation and hear their secrets; and so, once they are alone, they communicate their consolations and their afflictions to each other.  Now, if someone, imprudent, went to knock, shouting from behind the door, and did not leave them alone to enjoy their conversation – would the king not take offense?  So have I done for you, and in the same way I would be displeased if someone wanted to remove you from that state.”

            He continued to tell me: “From you I want perfect conformity to My Will, in such a way that your human will may be undone within Mine; and absolute detachment from Everything - So Much So, that I want all that is earth to be considered by you as dung and rot, which one is horrified by just looking at.  And this because, even though one were not attached to earthly things, just by having them around and looking at them they cast shadow on the celestial things and prevent the Fulfillment of that Mystical Marriage which I Promised you.  Even more, I Want that, just as I was poor, you also imitate Me in Poverty.  You Must consider yourself in this bed as a little poor one; the poor are content with anything they have, and they *first* Thank Me, and then their benefactors.  The same for you:  go along with Everything that is Given to you without asking for this or that, which might be a hindrance in your mind; but with *holy indifference*, without thinking of whether it may do good or bad, comply with the will of others.

            My sweet Jesus would do nothing but dispose me to that Mystical Marriage which He had Promised me.  When I was in that state, He would make Himself seen sometimes three times a day, sometimes four, as He pleased; and sometimes it was a continuous coming and going.  He seemed to be a sweetheart who cannot be without His Spouse.  This is how Jesus was with me, and sometimes he reached the point of telling me:  “You see, I Love you So Much that I cannot be without coming.  I Feel almost restless, thinking that you are there suffering for Me, and you are alone; this is why I have come – to see if you Need something.”  And while saying this, He Himself would lift my head, He would place His arm around my neck and hug me; and while holding me like that, He would kiss me, and if it was summertime and it was hot, He would send a refreshing breath from His mouth, or He would take something in His hand and fan me.  And then He would ask me:  “How are you Feeling?  Don’t you Feel better?”  I would say to Him:  ‘Being with You, in whatever way, one Always Feels Well.’

Now, the Lord would sometimes Renew the Promise of the Marriage, which I already mentioned.  Who can tell the ardent yearnings that the Lord infused in me for this Mystical Marriage to take place?  Many times I would solicit Him, telling Him:  ‘Most Sweet Spouse, Hurry, no longer delay my intimate union with You.  O please! let us bind each other with stronger bonds of Love, so that no one may ever again be able to separate us, even for simple instants.’  And Jesus would correct me now about one thing, now about another.  I remember that one day He said to me:  “Everything that is of the earth, Everything – Everything you Must Remove, not only from your heart, but also from your body.  You cannot understand how harmful are the slightest earthly shadows, and how much they hinder Love.”  Immediately I said to Him:  ‘If I have something else that must be Removed, tell me, for I am ready to do it.’  But as I was saying this, I myself realized that I had a gold ring on my finger, portraying the image of the Crucifix; and immediately I said to Him:  ‘Holy Spouse, do you want me to take it off?’  And He told me:  “Since I Myself shall Give you a More Precious, More Beautiful ring, which shall have My Living Image impressed on it, and every time you shall Look at it your heart shall Receive New Arrows of Love - this one is not necessary.”  And I promptly removed it.

…He took a garment of Immense Beauty, whose background seemed to be a surface of gold streaked with various colors, and He clothed me with that Garment.  Then He took two gems, as if they were earrings, and He Bejewelled my ears.  Then He adorned my neck and my arms, and surrounded my forehead with a Crown of Immense Value, all Enriched with Precious Stones and Gems, All Refulgent with Light; and it seemed to me that those Lights were as many voices which resounded among themselves, speaking in clear notes of the Beauty, the Power, the Fortitude, and of All the other virtues of my Spouse Jesus.  Who can tell what I comprehended, and in what sea of consolation my soul was swimming?  It is impossible to say it.

Now, while He was Crowning my forehead, Jesus told me:  “Most Sweet Spouse, I place this Crown upon you so that nothing may be missing in order to make you worthy of being My Spouse; but then, after our Wedding is finished, I shall take it with Me to Heaven, to keep it for you at the moment of your death.”  Finally, He took a Veil and covered me completely with it, from head to foot; and He left me in that way.  Ah! it seemed to me that there was a Great Meaning in that Veil, because the demons, in seeing me All covered with that Veil, were So Frightened and had such fear of me, that they fled, terrified.  The very Angels were Around me with such Veneration, that I myself was confused and All Full of Blushing.

On the morning of the aforementioned day, Jesus made Himself seen again All Affable, Sweet and Majestic, Together with His Most Holy Mother and Saint Catherine.  First, the Angels Sang a Hymn, while Saint Catherine assisted me, Mama took my hand, and Jesus put the Ring on my finger.  Then, we embraced and He kissed me, and so did Mama Mary also.  Then we had a Conversation, All of Love – Jesus told me of the Great Love He had for me, and I also told Him of the Love I had for Him.  The Most Holy Virgin made me Comprehend the Great Grace I had Received, and the Correspondence with which I was to Correspond to the Love of Jesus. My Spouse Jesus Gave me New Rules in order to Live More Perfectly….

Sometimes, carrying me with Him, He would take me to Paradise, and there I could Listen to the Canticles of the Blessed, and I could see the Divinity, the different Choirs of Angels, the Orders of the Saints, All Immersed in the Divinity of God – Absorbed, Identified with It.  It seemed to me that there were Many Lights Around the Throne, which were More Brilliant than the sun; and these Lights displayed in Clear Notes All the Virtues and the Attributes of God.  By Reflecting themselves in one of these Lights, the Blessed would remain Enraptured, in such a way that they could not arrive at penetrating the whole Immensity of that Light, therefore they would move to a *second* Light, without understanding All the depth of the *first* one.  So, the Blessed in Heaven cannot Comprehend God Perfectly, because the Immensity, the Greatness, the Sanctity of God is such, that a created mind cannot Comprehend an Uncreated Being.  Now, it seemed to me that by Reflecting themselves in these Lights, the Blessed would come to Participate in the Virtues of these Lights.  Therefore, in Heaven, the soul Resembles God - with this difference:  that God is that Immense Sun, while the soul is a little sun.  But who can say All that can be understood in that Blessed Dwelling?  It is impossible to do it while the soul is in this prison of the body; while one can Feel something in the mind, the lips do not find the terms to express it.  It seems to me that it is like a child who begins to babble:  he would like to say many upon many things, but in the end he remains without being able to say even one clear word.  Therefore I stop here, without going any further.  I shall just say that sometimes, while finding myself in that Blessed Fatherland, I would be strolling Together with Jesus in the midst of the Choirs of Angels and the Saints; and since I was Newly-Espoused, All the Blessed would Unite Together to Participate in the Joys of our Marriage.  It seemed to me that they would forget their own Contentments to occupy themselves with ours; and sometimes Jesus would show me to the Saints, saying to them:  “See this soul – she is a Triumph of My Love; My Love has Surpassed Everything in her.”

I had spent about three years in this state already described, continuing to remain in bed, when one morning Jesus made me understand that He wanted to Renew the Marriage – not on earth, as the first time, but in Heaven, in the presence of the whole Celestial Court, and that I should remain Prepared for a Grace So Great.  I did as much as I could in order to dispose myself, but since I am so miserable and insufficient in doing any shadow of good, the hand of the Divine Maker was Needed in order to Dispose me, because, by myself, I would never have managed to Purify my soul.

…After this, on that morning, in order to dispose my heart more, Jesus spoke about the annihilation of myself.  He also spoke of the Immense Desire which I was to excite within me in order to dispose myself to Receive that Grace.  He told me that desire makes up for the lacks and imperfections that may be in the soul; it is like a Mantle that covers Everything.  But this was not a simple speaking – it was an Infusion in me of that which He was saying.

While my soul was exciting itself with Ardent Yearnings for Receiving the Grace that Jesus Himself Wanted to Give me, Jesus came back and Transported me outside of myself, up to Paradise.  And there, in the Presence of the Most Holy Trinity and of All the Celestial Court, He Renewed the Marriage.  Jesus put out the Ring Adorned with Three Precious Stones, White, Red and Green, and He Gave it to the Father, who Blessed it and Gave it back to the Son again.  The Holy Spirit took my right hand and Jesus placed the Ring on my Ring finger.  Then I was admitted to the kiss of All the Three Divine Persons, and each of Them Blessed me.

Who can tell my confusion when I Found myself before the Most Holy Trinity?  I shall just say that as soon as I Found myself in Their presence, I fell flat to the ground, and I would have remained there if it wasn’t for Jesus, who encouraged me to go into Their Presence, So Much was the Light, the Sanctity of God.

In order to speak about these Marriages, I had to skip over a few things, for I was following the thread; and now I will tell them.

Going back to the beginning, when Jesus would deign to come, He would speak to me very often about His Passion, and would take care in Disposing my soul to the Imitation of His Life and of His pains, telling that, in addition to the Marriage which is mentioned above, we had one more left to do – and this was the Marriage of the Cross.

I remember that He would say:  “My Spouse, virtues become weak if they are not strengthened and fortified by the Grafting of the Cross.  Before My coming upon earth, pains, confusions, disgraces, calumnies, sufferings, poverty, illnesses, and especially the Cross, were considered dishonors; but from the moment they were borne by Me, they were All Sanctified and Divinized by My contact.  They all changed their appearance, becoming sweet, pleasant, and the soul who has the good of having some of them, receives honor - and this, because she has received the vestment of Me, Son of God.  Only those who look and stop at the cortex of the cross experience the contrary; finding it bitter, they are disgusted by it, they complain, as if someone had done wrong to them.  But those who penetrate into it, finding it enjoyable, form their happiness in it.  My beloved daughter, I yearn for nothing else but to Crucify you, body and soul.

 And while He would say this, I would Feel such infusion of yearnings for being Crucified with Jesus Christ, that I would often repeat:  ‘My Jesus, my Love, hurry – Crucify me with You.’  And when He would come back, the first things I would ask of Him, which seemed to be the Most Important to me, were these:  sorrow for my sins, and the grace to be Crucified with Him.  It seemed to me that if I obtained this, I would obtain Everything.

Then, one morning, my Most Beloved Jesus made Himself present before me in the Form of a Crucifix, and told me that He Wanted to Crucify me with Him.  As He was saying this, I saw that Rays of Light were coming out from His Most Holy Wounds, and within those Rays, nails, which were coming toward me.  At that moment, I don’t know why, though I desired So Much to be Crucified by Him as to Feel Consumed, I was caught by a Great Fear that made me tremble from head to foot.  I felt such Annihilation of myself, I saw myself so unworthy to Receive that Grace, that I did not dare to say:  *‘Lord, Crucify me with You.’*  Jesus seemed to be suspended, waiting for my human will.  Who can tell how ardently I Desired Him within the Intimate part of my soul, though, at the same time, I saw myself unworthy?  My nature was frightened, and trembled.

But while I was in this State, my Beloved Jesus, through the intellect, solicited me to accept.  Then, with All my heart I said to Him:  *‘Holy Spouse, Crucified for me, I, Luisa pray You to Concede me the Grace to be Crucified and, at the same time, not to allow any external sign to appear on the outside.  Yes, Give me suffering, Give me wounds, but let Everything be hidden between me and You.’*

And so those Rays of Light, Together with the nails, pierced my hands and feet through, and my heart was pierced by a Ray of Light together with a Lance.  Who can tell the pain and the contentment?  As much as my soul had been caught by Fear before, so much did my soul swim in the Sea of Peace, of Contentment and of pain afterwards.  The pain I, Luisa felt in my hands, in my feet and in my heart was So Great, that I, Luisa felt I was dying; I felt the bones of my hands and feet being shattered into most tiny pieces.  I, Luisa felt as if there were nails inside, but at the same time, they caused me such contentment that I cannot express it, and Gave me such Strength, that while I, Luisa would Feel I was dying because of the pain, those very pains would Sustain me so that I would not die.  However, nothing appeared on the external parts of the body, though I, Luisa felt corporal pains.  This is So True, that when the confessor would come to call me to the obedience and would loosen my hands, which were contracted, every time he would touch me at that point of my hands which had been pierced through by that Ray of Light Together with the Nail, I, Luisa would Feel mortal pains.  However, when the confessor would command, by obedience, that those pains cease, they would mitigate very much.  In fact, those pains were So Strong that they made me lose consciousness, and if they had not mitigated at the call of obedience, I, Luisa would hardly have been able to Obey.  Oh! prodigy of Holy Obedience – you have been Everything for me.  How many times I, Luisa found myself clashing with death, So Great was the Intensity of the pains - and Obedience has almost Restored my life.  May the Lord be Always Blessed; may Everything be for His Glory.

**Jesus embraces the Cross. -**My tortured Good, with You I repair, with You I suffer.  But I see that your enemies hurl You down the stairs; the people await You with fury and eagerness; they make You find the Cross ready, which You long for with many sighs.  And You - with Love You gaze on It, and with firm step You approach It and embrace It.  But, before that, You kiss It, and as a shiver of joy runs through your Most Holy Humanity, with highest contentment You gaze on It again, measuring Its length and breadth.  In It, already, You establish the portion for each creature.  You dower them All, enough to Bind them to the Divinity with a Bond of Marriage, and make them Heirs of the Kingdom of Heaven.  Then, unable to contain the Love with which You Love them, You kiss the Cross again, and say:  *“Adored Cross, finally I embrace you.  You were the longing of My Heart, the Martyrdom of My Love.  But you, O Cross, have delayed until now, while My steps were always toward you.  Holy Cross, you were the Goal of My Desires, the Purpose of My existence down here.  In you I concentrate My whole being, in you I place All My children, and you shall be their Life, their Light, Defense, Custody and Strength.  You shall assist them in Everything, and shall bring them Gloriously to Me in Heaven.  Oh Cross, Pulpit of Wisdom, you alone shall teach True Sanctity; you alone shall form the Heroes, the Athletes, the Martyrs, the Saints.  Beautiful Cross, you are My Throne, and since I have to leave the earth, you shall remain in My place.  To you I Give All souls as dowry – Keep them, Save them; I Entrust them to you!”*

**VOL. 36 - May 17, 1938 -**Then He added with more Loving Tenderness: “My good daughter, My Love wants to be tied more and more to the creature, and the more Truths It Manifests regarding My Will, the more bonds I put between God and herself.  In Manifesting the Truth, My Love is preparing the Marriage between God and the soul.  The more It Manifests the more Pomp and Magnificence this Marriage will have.  Would you like to know what happens then?  My Truths will be like the dowry needed in order to marry God; to get to know the One who lowers Himself and even ties Himself—only for Love—in the bond of Marriage.  My Truths touch the creature over and over; They mold her to New Life; They return her to the Beauty of Our Image and Resemblance from the time she was Created, and Impress on her Their kiss of inseparable Union.

**Fiat!**