

The Life of Mary as seen by the Mystics (Schoenau, Bridget, Mary of Agreda, Emmerich)

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Chapter 8: The Annunciation (pgs. 74 – 80)

Mary's Story: My love for GOD burned in my heart even more intensely than before and every day my soul was enkindled with new fervor and longing. So, I withdrew from everything even more than formerly...On the day before the occurrence of this mystery, I thought I would die and my heart would burst with love and longing, if GOD's Providence had not comforted me. He filled my soul with the firm hope that the Savior would descend from Heaven without delay. But on the other hand, my humility made me fear lest my presence in the world might perhaps delay His coming. I was afraid that my lips might say, or my ears might hear something against GOD, or my eyes would see something evil. Even in my silence, I was timid and very anxious that I might be silent when I should speak. When I was thus troubled in heart, I committed all my hopes to GOD...

Mary's Preparation: Clothes simple, modest, clean; she rolled out Scripture writings on floor and knelt, eyes lifted to Heaven and prayed...
That night, I prostrated myself devoutly in prayer, and with the most intense love I begged the Lord that He might deign to let me live long enough to see His Mother with my eyes, to serve her with my hands, to bow my head before her in reverence, and place myself complexly at her service...I began to meditate on the great power of GOD; how the angels and all creatures serve Him, and how indescribable and immense in His glory. And while I was marveling over this, all of a sudden, I perceived three wonderful things: I saw a star, but not like those that shine in the sky-I saw a light that was greater and brighter than the sun, yet unlike any light in this world. And I inhaled a scent, but not one that came from plants or anything of that kind - it was an utterly sweet and almost ineffable scent which completely filled my soul and made me thrilled with joy. Then I heard a voice, but not a human voice – and suddenly there appeared before me the Angel of GOD in the form of a most beautiful youth, yet now one of flesh and blood...

Archangel Gabriel: Accompanied by thousands of angels, delivers exactly message he was sent to give: ...and he said to me: "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women!" Lk 1:28

Mary's Story: When I heard this greeting at first, I was indeed very frightened, for I wondered whether it might be an illusion. I asked myself what it might mean and why he uttered such a greeting because I knew and considered myself unworthy of it or of anything good, although I realized that nothing was impossible with GOD...From the midst of this light, I heard a voice saying to me: "Thou art to give birth to My Son! Know in truth that I want others to have for thee the reverence which for love of Me thou dost want to have for someone else. I want thee to be My Son's Mother and Giver, so that thou wilt not only have Him, but thou wilt also be able to give Him to whomever thou wishest..." When I heard this, I was so overcome with fear and wonder that I could hardly hold myself up, and I was about to faint when some angels came and raised me up and strengthened me.

Gabriel: Luke 1:30-33: "Do not be afraid, Mary, for thou hast found grace with GOD...

Mary: I still did not believe myself worthy. And so I did not ask the Angel why or when, but I asked how it could happen that my unworthy self should become the Mother of God: "How shall this happen, since I do not know man?"

Gabriel: Luke 1:35

Mary: After I heard these words, without doubting at all that what he said was true, I felt in my heart an exceedingly fervent desire to be the Mother of GOD. I prostrated myself on the ground, and on my knees, with my hands joined, I worshipped GOD, and my soul cried forth with love: "Behold the handmaid of the Lords-be it done to me according to thy word."

Blessed Trinity: appeared as dazzling beam of light; Holy Spirit appeared in winged form with flashing flames; three intense rays darted into right side of Mary and entirely suffused her with a glowing light.

Mary: As soon as I had spoken those words, the grace of GOD overwhelmed me-never had I felt such bliss and joy in my soul! And then in that ecstasy GOD the Father gave me His Son, and my Son was instantly conceived in my womb by the Holy Spirit. He took flesh in my most pure body. And an inexpressible

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rapture filled my soul and my whole body. And I humbled myself in every way, for I knew that the One whom I bore in my womb was the Almighty.

Mystery of Hypostatic Union Revealed to Mary: The Divine and human natures in the person of the **ETERNAL WORD** confirmed to Mary the title and all rights as the Mother of GOD

Prophet-King: “The Most High hath sanctified His own tabernacle. GOD is in the midst thereof...”

Magic Hour: Lord infused into hearts of some just men feeling of extraordinary joy and inspiration;

Nature’s GOD became man

Chapter 9: The Visitation (pgs. 81 – 88)

After Annunciation: Angels appeared visibly to Mary, “Now, O Lady, thou art the true Ark of the Testament. We wish to obey thee as servants of the supreme Lord whose Mother thou art.” Birds sang to her, brought flowers and comforted her; three days later, Mary had vision about Elizabeth and her baby; by Mary’s visit, both mother and child would be sanctified by presence of the Redeemer

The Journey: Joseph accompanied Mary on the four-day journey; always helped poor and sick; sometimes Mary cured them

The Visitation (pgs. 85-88): When Mary and Elizabeth met, the Blessed Virgin became suffused with a mystical light and bright ray went from Mary to Elizabeth...Elizabeth filled with Holy Spirit which showed her the Mystery of the Incarnation...*Blessed art thou among women...*; Mary: *My soul doth magnify the Lord...* (The Magnificat); Mary’s purpose was to be a servant to Elizabeth; Elizabeth merited seeing Mother of GOD in ecstasy, raised above the ground and radiant with supernatural splendor and beauty

Birth of John the Baptist: John born with use of reason by a special grace and knew Mary bore the WORD Incarnate in her womb; John circumcised on eighth day, Zacharias received his voice and spoke the inspired canticle, the *Benedictus*³

Chapter 10: Trials (pgs. 89- 95)

Lucifer: The devil was aware of Mary’s exceptional holiness (did not know who she was); sent seven legions of devils to tempt with seven capital sins⁴. **1st Legion** of Devils (Pride): made terrifying sounds then appeared as angels worshipping her. **Mary’s Prayer:** “Who is like unto GOD, who dwells on high and looks down upon the humble in Heaven and on earth?” **2nd Legion** (Avarice): Wealth. **Mary’s Prayer:** “I have acquired for my heritage and for my riches the keeping of Thy testimonies and Thy laws, My Lord.”

3rd Legion (Lust): Impurity. **Mary:** She renewed her vow of chastity. **4th Legion** (Anger): Incited local neighbor women to insult and slander her. **Mary:** Spoke to them in a kind and humble manner. **5th Legion** (Gluttony): Spirits of envy inspired others to outline what they had and GOD had denied her.

Mary: Replied she was not worthy of such things. **6th Legion** (Idleness): Made her tired and dejected and should avoid prayers and good deeds; sent people to distract her from these things. **Mary:** She was not distracted and continued her prayers and good works. SATAN: appeared as *horrifying monster* and rushed her howling and shooting forth fire and fumes from his mouth. Mary was not affected. Satan told lies, incited quarrels with neighbors, and called all demons to attack her at once. **Mary:** Allowed to command them to Hell

Mary’s 5th month of pregnancy: Joseph noticed and was disturbed; he prayer: “...My reason proclaims her blameless, while my senses accuse her. What shall I do?...two months later, decided could not bear Mary not explaining and was going to leave, O Lord, I find no other way to restore my peace...I do not believe my wife is an adulteress...I will withdraw from her and pass my life in desert...”. Mary prayed and GOD allowed her to tell Joseph and He sent Archangel Gabriel. Joseph was allowed to see Mary in mystical ecstasy as she recited *Magnificat*. GOD filled St Joseph with holy graces.

Chapter 11: Mary and Joseph in Nazareth (pgs. 96 – 100)

St Joseph: Changed spiritually into a new man; would not allow Mary to do anything and would genuflect when near her; his guardian angel allowed to tell him: “Exteriorly allow her to serve thee, and interiorly treat her with the highest reverence. Always worship in her the Lord of all creation. It is His Will and His Mother’s to serve and not to be served, in order to teach the world the value of humility.” Joseph

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often found Mary in ecstasy, raised above ground or conversing with her angels or prostrate on the floor in the form of a cross; he heard heavenly music and fragrant smell.

Mary and Joseph: Read scripture together but Mary never divulged what she knew of her Son's sufferings and death

Mary to Joseph: *My master and my husband, the Lord is coming to redeem the world and to guide men on the path to life eternal. And this is to be done by means of humility and poverty. In humility and poverty, He wishes to be born, to live, and to die, in order to break the chains of greed and pride in the hearts of men. That is why He chose our poor and humble home and did not want us to be rich in passing good, which are but vanity and which darken the understanding."*

Daily Life: Daily labor was more like a virtue than manual work; Joseph learned from Mary, Elizabeth sent them gifts; sometimes there was nothing to eat and birds brought them food, they prayed together; heard Voice saying, *I have come from Heaven to earth in order to exalt humility and discredit pride, to honor poverty and scorn riches, to destroy vanity and establish truth and to enhance the value of labor. Therefore, it is My Will that exteriorly you treat Me according to the humble position which I have assumed, as if I were your natural child, and that interiorly you love and revere Me as the an-GOD, Son of my Eternal Father."*; Mary made swaddling clothes for Jesus; Joseph hears about Roman census; Mary, even in late pregnancy, will go with Joseph to Bethlehem.

Chapter 12: Journey to Bethlehem (pgs. 101- 104)

The Journey: 6:00 am - Left Nazareth on a cold, wet, mid-winter morning; ten thousand angels marched with them, visible only to Mary who road sidesaddle on donkey

Day 1: Pitched tent under turpentine tree

Day 2 & 3: stayed at an inn that night and next day (Sabbath); some women helped Mary and she instructed them in religion

Day 4: Twelve miles – owner of a house refused them help; further on, Joseph found a small shed

Day 5: Spent in large farmhouse (owner's young wife jealous of Mary's beauty and treated her badly (30 yrs later, Jesus found her bent over and blind; He reproached her for vanity and heartlessness and then healed her); Mary prayed for all they had met and asked Son to take care of them

Day 6: Bethlehem – Joseph registered but could not find lodging; nine o'clock at night, came to Mary and told her of the shepherd's shelter outside of town

Chapter 13: The Nativity (pgs. 105- 107)

Preparation for The Birth: Joseph and Mary cleaned the grotto/cave (angels helped them); they prayed together in thanksgiving, Joseph walked to edge of cave and looked back to see Mary *praying on her knees, surrounded by flames of dazzling supernatural light*. He was filled with reverent fear, threw himself down on the ground and was soon rapt in an ecstatic sleep.

Mary: (pg. 106) *"...her body became so spiritualized with the beauty of Heaven that she seemed no more a human and earthly creature..."* At midnight, channel of brilliant light came down from the highest Heaven and terminated in sparkling fire at the Blessed Virgin...in twinkling of an eye, the infant GOD was born, glorious and transfigured as on Mount Thabor. Mary became aware of her delivery as she felt **no pain**; thousands of angels sang and adored their incarnate Creator

Joseph: About one hour later, Mary called Joseph who awoke and prostrated himself on the ground, then held the baby Jesus tight to his heart.

The Ox and the Ass: Approached crib and knelt down breathing warmth over the baby Jesus

Chapter 14: Adoration of the Shepherds (pgs. 108- 113)

Nativity of the Savior: All Nature rejoiced; animals leaped, plants, trees, new springs of water flowed; Archangel Micheal told patriarchs/prophets in Limbo, told St Ann and St Joseph; Elizabeth was informed, and her son waved hands in joy, Simeon (the Temple priest) and Anna (Mary's teacher in the Temple) were made aware; Magi were enlightened, *good men everywhere felt a supernatural joy*.

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The Shepherds (pgs. 110-111): Archangel Gabriel appeared in human form to three groups of shepherds along with seven other beautiful angels singing, *Glory to GOD in the Highest, and on Earth Peace to Men of Good Will!* They went to grotto with gifts (chickens, goats) and next day brought their families; each was allowed to hold Baby Jesus for a short time; others came to help couple with cooking, washing, cleaning

Taking care of Jesus: Mary asked His permission to nurse Him or kiss His face; she composed beautiful songs for Him

SPEAKING OF THE NATIVITY, THE MOTHER OF GOD SAID TO ST. BRIDGET OF SWEDEN

"And when I gave birth to Him, I brought Him forth without pain, just as I had also conceived Him with such great joy of soul and body that in my rapture my feet did not feel the ground on which they were standing. And as He had filled my soul with happiness on entering my body, so did He again come forth in such a way that my whole body and soul exulted with indescribable joy and in such a way that my virginity was not impaired. How overwhelmed I was when I perceived and gazed at His beauty, and when I realized that I was not worthy of such a Son. And then, too, when I looked at the places where the nails would be driven into His hands and feet, how my eyes filled with tears and how my heart was torn with grief! And when my Son saw the tears in my eyes, He was sad unto death. But then, when I contemplated the power of His Divinity, I regained confidence, for I knew that it was His Will and that it would be for the good, and I made my whole will conform to His. Thus, my happiness was ever mixed with sorrow."

---AND TO VENERABLE MOTHER MARY OF AGREDA

"Who would be so hardened as not to be moved to tenderness at the sight of their GOD become man, humiliated in poverty, despised, unknown, entering the world in a cave, lying on a manger surrounded by brute animals, protected only by a poverty-stricken Mother, and cast off by the foolish arrogance of the world? Who will dare to love the vanity and pride which was openly scorned and condemned by the Creator of Heaven and earth in His actions? No one should despise the humility, poverty and indigence which the Lord loved and chose for Himself as the very means of teaching the Way of Eternal Life. Few there are who stop to consider this truth and this example, and as a result of this rank ingratitude only the few reap the fruit of these great mysteries."

Chapter 15: The Circumcision (pgs. 114- 118)

Mary: Asked GOD if Jesus needed to endure this; Mary held Jesus during procedure; Jesus cried, shed His first blood and was in pain from surgery

Archangels Michael and Gabriel: Jesus' name (given to Him by Blessed Trinity) is sign of salvation to whole human race...*This is only the beginning... We will with Him and minister to Him until He ascends into Heaven.*

Circumcision: Performed in grotto/cave in Bethlehem; St Joseph recited, *"Blessed be Jehovah the Savor. He hath sanctified His well-beloved from the womb of His Mother and hath written the Law in our flesh. He hath signed His Son with the sign of His Covenant, that He may impart to Him the blessings of Abrahm our father."*

Jesus: Offered His first blood as pledge for Redemption of mankind; His mother *perceived and felt all that He was doing and suffering*; Mary and Joseph comforted painful cries of Jesus throughout the night
Elizabeth: Came to visit family in grotto/cave, brought gifts, had intimate talks with Mary, and shared the birth of John was painless too.

Chapter 16: The Adoration of the Magi (pgs. 119 - 127)

Mary: Through *supernatural enlightenment* knew of announcement to the Magi; Mary observed their journey

The Magi (According to Tradition): **Gaspar** of Mesopotamia (youngest, brown in appearance); **Balthasar** of Parthia (dark brown; Melchior of Media (Oldest, stout, olive-colored skin); all good men, scholars and students of religion; met up to travel together following Star; took over a month; arrived in Jerusalem as logical place for a king to be born; met with Herod

Herod: Could not sleep, sought Scriptures; afraid for his throne, resolved to kill Infant King secretly

Finding Jesus: Camped at *Valley of the Shepherds*; saw beam of fiery light over hill; each had vision of the holy Child; granted visit with Baby; took off sandals and turbans; allowed to perceive angels

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attending; fell to ground and adored and worshipped Him; offered Him their kingdoms, their peoples, their families, all they possessed and themselves; they left after three hours, they left
Consulting Mary: Magi asked Mary many questions about faith and practice of religion in their daily lives and duties – they were amazed and thankful for her words given in divine truth; Magi allowed to hold Jesus; Mary gave Gaspar her long yellow veil

Warning: Warned in a dream not to return to Herod and guided by an angel, Magi vanished

THE BLESSED VIRGIN SAID TO VENERABLE MOTHER MARY OF AGREDA

"My daughter, great were the gifts which the Kings offered to my most holy Son, but greater still was the affection with which they offered them, and the mystery concealed beneath them. I wish you also to offer up similar gifts. For I assure you, my dearest, that there is no more acceptable gift to the Most High than voluntary poverty. There are few in the world who use temporal riches well and offer them to their Lord with the generosity and love of these holy Kings. You too can make such an offering of the things necessary for sustenance, giving a part to the poor. Your ceaseless offer, however, must be love, which is gold; continual prayer, which is the incense; and the patient acceptance of labors and true mortifications, which is the myrrh. All that you do for the Lord, you should offer up to Him with ardent affection."

Chapter 17: The Presentation of Jesus in Temple; The Purification of Mary (pgs. 128- 133)

Hospitality: Devout woman Mary had helped asked Holy Family into her home; poor women/children of Bethlehem came to visit Mary; she gave them gifts and instructions in the knowledge of GOD

Charity: All gifts given to Mary divided into three parts: one part discreetly/anonymously given to Temple (incense, myrrh, some gold), one part for priest who circumcised the Child, one part to the poor)

Lodging: Forty days after birth, Mary followed Jewish law requiring purification of the mothers and presentation of first-born sons at Temple in Jerusalem; was very cold day; found lodging at devout old couple's home (never had children)

The Purification of Mary: Mary spent night in *fervent* prayer, *"My Lord and my GOD, a festive day for Heaven and earth will be that on which I offer the living Victim to Thee in Thy Temple. In return, this is what I ask of Thee, my Lord: pour forth Thy mercies upon mankind, pardoning sinners, consoling the afflicted, and helping the needy! My soul shall magnify Thee forever..."*

Messages: Simeon - Holy Ghost dwelt in him; promised would not die until saw the Messiah, praying in ecstasy and next day, first child presented in Temple was the Messiah and then he would die; **Anna**-had vision of purification; was Mary's teacher during her time in Temple

Procedure: Simeon took Child to room; Mary taken to Temple Court; Joseph took offering to Anna; Mary brought to table, placed Child Jesus into cradle on table, wrapped Him in long sky-blue veil; Mary taken back to women's section; Simeon/3 other priests, prayed over Child;; Anna gave Mary basket of offerings, Simeon let her to table; one priest raised Child toward Heaven and gave to Simeon who placed Him in Mary's arms then offered Hild to eternal Father, saying:

Now Thou dost dismiss Thy servant, O Lord, according to Thy word, in peace; because my eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou has prepared before the face of the people; a light of revelation to the Gentiles, and a glory for Thy people Israel."; Joseph joined Mary; Simeon blessed them; Anna blessed them; Simeon said, *"Behold this Child is destined for the fall and for the rise of many in Israel, and for a sign that shall be contradicted. And thy own soul a sword shall pierce, that the thought of many hearts may be revealed."* (Child Jesus bowed His head and accepted the sentence of His Father pronounced by His minister. Anna and Simeon died in peace a short time later.

REVELATION: Temple seemed to be filled with *heavenly light*: **ALMIGHTY GOD was present and above the Child, the Heavens seemed to open before the throne of the Holy Trinity.** **NOTE: Ark was missing**

THE BLESSED VIRGIN SAID TO ST BRIDGET OF SWEDEN

"I did not need purification like other women because my Son who was born of me, made me clean. Nevertheless, that the Law and the prophecies might be fulfilled, I chose to live according to the Law. Nor did I live like worldly parents, but humbly conversed with the humble. On that day (of the Purification) my pain increased. For though by divine inspiration, I knew that my Son was to suffer, yet this grief pierced my heart more keenly at Simeon's words. And until I was assumed in body and soul to Heaven, this grief never left my heart, although it was tempered by the

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consolation of the Spirit of GOD, **Let not this grief leave thy heart, for without tribulation few would reach Heaven."**

...AND TO VENERABLE MOTHER MARY OF AGREDA

My daughter, the doctrine and example contained in this Mystery will teach thee to strive after the constancy and expansion of heart by which thou mayest prepare thyself to accept blessings and adversity, the sweet and the bitter, with equanimity. How persistently the human heart forgets that its Teacher and Master has first accepted sufferings and has honored And sanctified them in His own Person! Remember the sorrow that pierced my heart at the prophecies of Simeon, and how I remained in peace and tranquility, even though my heart and soul were transfixed by a sword of pain. Seek ever to preserve inward peace. Full of trust in me, whenever tribulation comes over thee, fervently exclaim:

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?"

Chapter 18: The Flight to Egypt (pgs. 134- 140)

Nine Days of Prayer: After the purification, Mary and Joseph decided to stay nine more days in Jerusalem to offer thanksgiving and prayer from noon to midnight in the Temple. The Lord told Mary and an Angel told Joseph to flee to Egypt because of Herod.

The Journey (10 days): Angels protected them; Mary asked for angel to warn Elizabeth. The couple endured hunger, thirst, and fatigue but always the Lord provided. In desert were snakes but did not harm them; *Mary and Jesus conversed mystically.* The various animals were used to feed and guide them.

The Highway Robbers: Leader was touched when he saw Jesus and instructed men not to harm them; his wife gave them food and shelter (She said to her husband, *"This is no ordinary child-He is a holy Baby. Ask His Mother to let you bathe our (3 yrs. old) leprous son in the water she has used. Perhaps it will heal him..."*; upon leaving, the father said, *"Remember me, wherever you are!"*. Thirty-three years later, his robber son said to Jesus at Calvary, *Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom."*

OUR LORD SAID TO ST BRIDGET OF SWEDEN

"By My flight to Egypt, I showed the infirmities of My Humanity and fulfilled the prophecies. I gave too an example to My disciples that sometimes persecution is to be avoided for the greater future glory of GOD. That I was not found by My pursuers, the counsel of My Divinity prevailed over the counsel of man, for it is not east to fight against GOD."

...AND THE BLESSED VIRGIN SAID TO VENERABLE MOTHER MARY OF AGREDA

I was not alarmed in my exile and prolonged journey. Since I trusted in the Lord, He provided for me in the time of my need. Even when help is somewhat delayed, it will always be at hand at a time when it will do most good. Thus, it happened with me and my husband in the time of our destitution and necessity."

Chapter 19: Holy Family in Egypt (pgs. 141- 148)

Slaughter of the Innocents: Mary and Jesus were *mystically* aware of the murders and prayed for the children and their grieving parents; Elizabeth and John hid in a cave in the desert in great hardship; Mary asked *permission of Jesus to send them provisions by means of her angels.*

NOTE: When John 4 yrs. old, Elizabeth died *peacefully aided by Mary's angels, who helped bury her in the desert.* Old hermit often visited John; animals cared for him; Holy Spirit educated him

Life in Egypt: Joseph found small, 3-room house on outskirts of Heliopolis (City of the Sun); Joseph worked as carpenter but treated badly as a foreigner and refugee; Mary did needlework as Jesus was in cradle beside her. Jesus gave Mary *Rule for Daily life and work*(pg. 143-144): *At nightfall you will take some sleep and rest. From midnight until dawn We will praise the Eternal Father together. Then prepare the necessary food for yourself and Joseph, and afterward give Me food and hold Me in your arms until noon, when you will place Me in the arms of your husband, to give him some refreshment in his labors. Then retire and return to your work until it is time to prepare the evening meal. And pray continually to the Eternal Father for sinners."*

At home in Egypt with Holy Family: Celebrated 1st anniversary of *Annunciation* and *Nativity*; prepared for nine days before each celebration; Jesus conversed only w/Mary until 1 yr. old, then to Joseph; Jesus shared with them many things (pgs. 144-146) and described the clothes she should make for Him; Jesus

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takes first steps, weaned from breast at 1 ½ yrs. old; Mary and Jesus prayed together, *Sometimes when the divine Child meditated on the ingratitude with which men would receive the Redemption, she saw Him weep and even perspire blood, and then she would sorrowfully wipe His little face. At other times she saw Him resplendent with the heavenly light and surrounded by sweetly chanting angels.* Jesus ran errands for Mary, visited, attended and sometimes healed the sick and poor were fed. Holy Family became popular in the area. By their examples and teachings, many were converted from idols to virtues and belief of the One, True GOD

THE BLESSED VIRGIN SAID TO VENERABLE MOTHER MARY OF AGREDA

"My daughter, I came into Egypt, where I knew no relations or friends, in a land of foreign religion, where I could offer no home or protection or assistance to my Son, whom I loved so much. It can easily be understood, then, what tribulations and hardships we suffered. Thou canst not understand with what patience and resignation we accepted them. It is true, I grieved much to see my husband in such necessity and want, but at the same time I blessed the Lord to be able to suffer them. In this noble patience and joy of spirit I wish thee to imitate me whenever the Lord offers thee an opportunity. My most holy Son chose poverty and taught it by word and by example. This same doctrine I taught and practiced all my life. I wish thee to love and diligently to seek after this poverty."

Chapter 20: Return to Nazareth (pgs. 149- 151)

The Message: Joseph suffered because others did not pay him for his work and often, he could not take care of Mary and Jesus' needs; GOD the Father informed Jesus and Mary of Herod's death; an angel came in a dream to Joseph with same message. Many Jewish/Egyptian friends were sad to see them go. The Journey: Many angels accompanied Holy Family; they wore light head coverings made of bark to protect from sun and as shoes. While Herod was dead, his successor was worse; angel warned them to take longer route to Nazareth

Home, Sweet Home: Arrived in their old house (Joseph's cousin had kept it up); Mary cleaned and ordered the house; Joseph set up carpentry shop and all thanked GOD for His protection and blessings
Mary's Rule of Life: Arranged order to ensure had much time for prayer; Jesus helped both Mary and Joseph with their labor

Jesus and Friends: Two friends would be future apostles: John and James the Elder; many loved Him; Jesus often help reconcile parents and children in conflict

Mary's Trial: Lord wanted to test Mary's love for Him; Jesus became distant from her for over a month; Mary did not understand and thought she had done something wrong and humbled herself even more with unceasing prayer; Jesus came to her and said, *Arise, My Mother.* Mary went into *prolonged ecstasy where many divine mysteries were revealed to her; Jesus continued to teach Mary the truths of the Christian religion which He was later to give to His Church*

Chapter 21: Jesus in Temple (pgs. 152- 157)

Jesus' 1st visit to Temple: Age 8. Jesus wanted to walk all the way; Mary saw Jesus praying to His Father in Heaven for whole human race; she heard the Voice of the Eternal Father, *"This is my Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."*

Jesus' at 12 yrs. old at Temple: Holy Family spent 7 days with friends, left and discovered Jesus not with them; Jesus spent next three days begging, visiting the hospitals of poor, consoling the sick, giving them alms and secretly restoring some to bodily and spiritual health. He also went to three schools. Both surprised and irritated teachers/priests at schools who decided he needed to be *publicly* tested in hope of embarrassing and humiliating Him; at first, they were impressed than envious and jealous.

Testing Jesus (pgs. 153-154): Held in Great Hall; Jesus seated in large throne-like chair surrounded by many priests and others who wanted to hear Him; they listened but grew in anger; Jesus spoke of nature and art (specialists were brought in to question Him); questions were about medicine (described the human body), then astronomy, architecture, agriculture, geometry, mathematics, law and correlated to

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promises, prophecies and mysteries of their religious ceremonies and sacrifices – they were astounded and embarrassed.

The Messiah Test: Discussion between Messiah as warrior king to free people from Romans and Jesus' use of other prophecies concerning rejection and death of the Messiah – two different comings – 1) to redeem, 2) to judge. Jesus demonstrated through His arguments that the Messiah was already among them (ex: Magi seeking King of the Jews); He taught with *divine conviction*; Scribes/Scholars dumbfounded, furious with shame that He explained mysteries of faith better than they
Anxiety of Mary and Joseph: Where is Jesus? Did King Archelaus take Him? Is He in the desert with John? Mary's angels were not allowed to tell Mary where He was. They met those He had touched and led to the Temple; Joseph was exhausted almost to death; found Jesus as He was finishing the test – scholars proclaimed Him, *"What a prodigy of a boy!"*

On the way home: Jesus' explained to Mary all He had done and *kept all these things carefully in her heart...*

OUR LADY SAID TO VENERABLE MOTHER MARY OF AGREDA

"The Lord absented Himself from me in order that by seeing Him in sorrow and tears, I might find Him again in joy and with abundant fruits for my soul. In my great love, the uncertainty as to the cause of His withdrawal gave me no rest until I found Him. In this I wish that thou imitate me, whether thou lose Him through thy own fault or by the disposition of His Will. For to lose sight of God for the purpose of being tried in virtue and love is into the same as to lose sight of Him in punishment for sins committed. So strong are the bonds of His love that no one can burst them, except thy own free will."

¹**Nihil Obstat:** (In the Roman Catholic Church) a certification by an official censor that a book is not objectionable on doctrinal or moral grounds.

²**Imprimatur:** an official license by the Roman Catholic Church to print an ecclesiastical or religious book.

³**Benedictus**(Zacharius):

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

⁴**Seven Capital Sins:** Anger, Pride, Lust, Avarice, Envy, Gluttony, Sloth