

Sixth Mansions

Ch. 10 3- 5-7

Selected Reading for Reflection

3-Let us compare God to a very spacious and magnificent mansion or palace and remember that this edifice is God Himself. Can the sinner withdraw from it in order to carry out his crimes? No, certainly not, for within this very palace, that is, within God Himself, are perpetrated all the abominations, impurities and evil deeds that sinners commit. Oh, what an awful thought, well worthy to be pondered over! What profit it would bring to us, who know so little and understand these truths but partially or how could we possibly be so reckless in our daring? Let us, sisters, meditate on the infinite mercy and patience of God in not casting us down to hell at once and let us render Him hearty thanks. Surely we should be ashamed of resenting anything done or said against us — *we* who are the scum of the earth — when we see what outrages are offered to *God* our *Creator* within His very being, by us His creatures; yet we are wounded whenever we hear of an unkind word having been spoken of us in our absence, although perhaps with no evil intention.

5- Short as the time lasts, yet, in a manner impossible to describe, God also manifests that in Him there is a verity which makes all truth in creatures seem obscure. He convinces the soul that He alone is that Truth which cannot lie, thus demonstrating the meaning of David's words in the psalm: 'Every man is a liar,' (Ps. 64:11) which could never be thus realized by any other means, however often we might hear that God is truth infallible. As I recall Pilate, and how he besought our Lord in His Passion to answer his question: 'What is truth?' (Jn. 18:38) I realize how little mortals know of that sublime veracity.

6- I wish I could explain this better but am unable to do so. Let us learn from it, sisters, that if we would bear any resemblance to our God and our Spouse, we must strive to walk ever in the truth. I do not merely mean that we should not tell falsehoods thank God, I see that in these convents you are most careful never to do so on any account — but I desire that as far as possible we should with perfect truth before God and man and above all that we should not wish to be thought better than we are; that in all our deeds we should ascribe to God what is His and attribute what is ours to ourselves, and that we should seek for verity in all things. Thus, we shall care little for this world, which is but deception and falsehood, and therefore cannot last.

7-Once, while I was wondering why our Lord so dearly loves the virtue of humility, the thought suddenly struck me, without previous reflection, that it is because God is the supreme Truth and humility is the *truth*, for it is most true that we have nothing good of ourselves but only misery and nothingness: whoever ignores this, lives a life of falsehood. They that realize this fact most deeply are the most pleasing to God, the supreme Truth, for they walk in the truth. God grant, sisters, that we may have the grace never to lose this self-knowledge! Amen.

Interior Castle, VI Mansions 10: 3, 5-7

Reflection Questions:

1- Compare and contrast your life of prayer and your vision of reality (in the light of God)

2- What is the link between our weaknesses, humility and truth?

For those who care to you can read the Epistles by St. John, especially 1 John 3:21; the second and the third.