

The Sixth Dwelling Places

Chapter 10 (summary)

Interior Castle

Saint Teresa of Avila

Tells about other favors God grants the soul, in a way different from those just mentioned, and of the great profit that comes from them.

The Lord **communicates** Himself to the soul in many ways through these apparitions. He grants some of them when the soul is afflicted; when a great trial is about to come; or, when He simply wants to take delight in the soul and give it delight ...

My intent is only to **explain** the different favors as I understand them so that you will understand their **nature** and their **effects**, lest we think that everything imagined is a vision ...

The devil ... is very pleased to see a soul afflicted and disquieted. He knows that **disturbance impedes** the soul from being totally occupied in **loving and praising God**.

His Majesty communicated Himself in other more **sublime** ways. The devil is unable to **counterfeit** them. These ways are very **secret** and **hard to explain**, while the imaginative vision is easier to explain.

2. Sometimes, when the Lord is pleased, a soul in prayer will suddenly experience a **suspension** where the Lord reveals **deep secrets**.

It seems the soul sees these **secrets** in God Himself. They are **not visions** of the most sacred humanity ...

The soul doesn't see anything. The favor is **not an imaginative vision** but an **intellectual** one.

In this vision, it is revealed how **all things** are **seen in God** and how He has them all in Himself. This favor is most beneficial, though it passes in a moment. It remains **deeply engraved** in the soul and causes the **greatest confusion**.

The evil of offending God is seen more clearly. While being within God Himself we commit great evils ...

3. Let's suppose that God is like an immense and beautiful **palace** or **dwelling**. This palace is God Himself.

Is a sinner able to leave this palace to commit his deeds? No, certainly not. Rather within the palace itself, that is within God Himself, the abominations, indecent actions, and evil deeds take place. A frightful thought that is worthy of deep reflection ... Let us consider, Sisters, the great **mercy** and **compassion** of God in not immediately destroying us there. Let's us be extremely **thankful** to Him and **ashamed** to feel **resentment** against anything done or said against us.

The **greatest evil of the world** is that God, our Creator, **suffers** so **many evil things** from His creatures within His very self and we sometimes **resent a word** said in our absence ...

4. ... When, daughters, will we **imitate** this great God? Let us not think we are doing anything by **suffering injuries**, but we should very eagerly **endure** all and let us **love the one who offends us** since this great God has not ceased to love us though we have offended Him much. Thus the Lord is right in wanting **all to pardon** the wrongs done to them.

5. It also happens very quickly ... that God will show within Himself a truth ... and one understands clearly that God alone is **Truth**, unable to lie ... He is **everlasting Truth** ...

6. ... Let us conclude, Sisters, that to live in conformity with our God and Spouse, it will be well if we always study diligently how to walk in this truth ... before God and people in as many ways as possible ... Thus we shall have little esteem for this world, which is a complete lie and falsehood, and as such will not endure.

7. Once I was pondering why our Lord was so fond of this **virtue of humility**, and this thought suddenly came to me:

It is because God is supreme Truth; and to be humble is to walk in truth, for it is a very deep truth that of ourselves we have nothing good but only misery and nothingness.

Whoever does not understand this walks in falsehood. The more anyone understands it, the more he pleases the supreme Truth because he is walking in truth.

Please God, Sisters, we will be granted the favor never to leave this path of self-knowledge, amen.

8. Our Lord grants these **favours** to the soul as to one to whom He is truly **betrothed**; to the soul who is **determined** to do **His will** in everything,

He desires to give it some knowledge of

how to do His will and of **His grandeurs**

... The devil, in my opinion, and even one's own imagination have little capacity at this level, and so the soul is left with **profound satisfaction**.