

The Seventh Dwelling Places

Epilogue (Conclusion)

Interior Castle

Saint Teresa of Avila

JHS.

Although when I began writing this book ... I did so with **aversion** ... now that I am finished I admit the work has brought me much **happiness**, and I consider the labor ... well spent.

Considering the **strict enclosure** and the few things you have for your **entertainment**, my Sisters ... I think it will be a **consolation** for you to **delight in this interior castle** since **without permission** from the prioress you can enter and **take a walk** through it at any time.

2. True, you will not be able to enter all the dwelling places through your own efforts ... unless the Lord of the castle Himself brings you there.

Hence, I advise you to use **no force** if you meet with any resistance, for you will **anger** Him in such a way that He will never allow you to enter them. He is very fond of **humility**.

By considering that you do not even **deserve** to enter the **third** you will more quickly win the favor to reach the **fifth**.

You will be able to serve Him from there in such a way, continuing to walk through them often, that He will bring you into the very dwelling place He has for Himself. You need never leave the seventh dwelling place **unless** called by the prioress, whose **will** this great Lord desires that you comply with as much as if it were His own.

Although frequently outside through her command, you will always find the door open when you return.

Once you get used to enjoying this castle, you will find rest in all things ... for you will have the hope of returning to the castle which none can take from you.

3. Although only seven dwelling places were discussed, in each of these, there are many others, below and above and to the sides, with lovely gardens and fountains and labyrinths, such delightful things that you would want to be dissolved in praises of the great God who created the soul in His own image and likeness.

If you find something good in what I have explained, believe His Majesty said it to make you happy...

4. Through the strong desire I have to play some part in helping you serve my God and Lord, I ask that each time you read this work you, in my name, praise His Majesty fervently and ask for the increase of His Church and for light for the Lutherans. Ask Him to pardon my sins and deliver me from purgatory, for perhaps by the mercy of God I will be there when this is given you to read ...

I submit in everything to what the holy Roman Catholic Church holds, for in this Church I live, declare my faith, and promise to live and die.

May God our Lord be forever praised and blessed, amen, amen.

5. This writing was finished in the monastery of St. Joseph of Avila in the year 1577, the eve before the feast of St. Andrew, for the glory of God who lives and reigns forever and ever, amen.