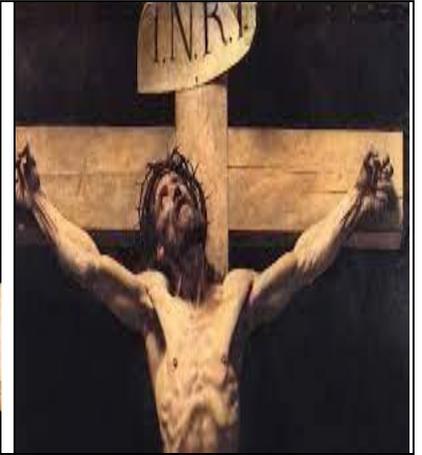
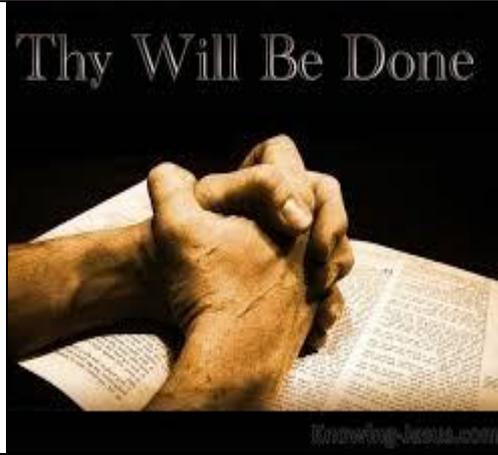


**MARIA VALTORTA READERS' GROUP
THE SUPPLEMENT No. 111 – SEPTEMBER 2023**



GOD'S WILL

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Mary calls him: «Joseph, come.» Joseph rushes. And when he sees, he stops, struck by reverence, and he is about to fall on his knees where he is. But Mary insists: «Come, Joseph» and She leans on the hay with Her left hand and, holding the Child close to Her heart with Her right one, She gets up and moves towards Joseph, who is walking, embarrassed because of a conflict in him between his desire to go and his fear of being irreverent. «Come, let us offer Jesus to the Father» says Mary. And while Joseph kneels down, She stands up between two trunks supporting the vault, She lifts up Her Creature in Her arms and says: «Here I am. On His behalf, O God, I speak these words to You: here I am to do Your will. And I, Mary, and My spouse, Joseph, with Him. Here are Your servants, O Lord. May Your will always be done by us, in every hour, in every event, for Your glory and Your love.» Then Mary bends down and says: «Here, Joseph, take Him», and offers him the Child. «What! I?... Me?... Oh, no! I am not worthy!» Joseph is utterly dumbfounded at the idea of having to touch God. But Mary insists smiling: «You are well worthy. No one is more worthy than you are, and that is why the Most High chose you. Take Him, Joseph, and hold Him.»

(P1,141; G1,176)

PRAYER

(Jesus speaks to Peter and the disciples and teaches them the Lord's Prayer) «Prayer is a strength for oneself and for others. We achieve everything by praying. If we do not receive a grace which the Father does not always grant, we must not think it is due to lack of love. Instead, we must believe that it is the will of an Order which governs the destiny of every man for a good purpose. Prayer certainly gives us peace and contentment, to enable us to bear so many vexing things, without going off the holy path. It is easy, you know, Peter, to have a clouded mind and an agitated heart because of what is around us! And how can a clouded mind or an agitated heart perceive God?»

«It's true. But we do not know how to pray! We are not capable of saying the lovely words You say.»
«Say the words you know, as best as you can. It is not the

words, but the sentiments with which they are uttered that make your prayers pleasant to the Father.»

«We would like to pray as You do.»

«I will teach you also to pray. I will teach you the most holy prayer.»

(P1,330; G1,398)

GOD DOES NOT FORCE

(Jesus speaks to the Apostles about God's Will)

«Heavens and waters, dew and frost, ice and snow, fire and colours, light and darkness, lightning and clouds, mountains and hills, all germinated things, birds, fish and animals, praise and bless the Lord with humble holy-hearted men. We can pray and deserve Heaven everywhere. We deserve it when we do the Father's Will. At daybreak, they pointed out to Me that if everything is controlled by the Will of God, then also the errors of men are wanted by that Will. That is an error and a widespread one. Can a father ever wish his son to be blameworthy? No, he cannot. And yet we see that in some families some sons become blameworthy, although they have a just father who points out to them the good to be done and the evil to be avoided. And no righteous person will accuse a father of urging his sons to do evil things.

God is the Father, men are the sons. God points out the good and says: "Behold, I put you in this situation for your own good". Also when the Evil One and the men who serve him bring misfortunes to men, God says: "Behold, this is how you must behave in this painful hour. By doing so, this misfortune will serve for an eternal good". He advises you, but does not force you. So if a man, knowing what the Will of God is, prefers to do the very opposite, can we say that this very opposite is the Will of God? We cannot. Love God's Will. Love it more than your own and follow it against the enticements and power of the world, of the flesh, of the demon.»

(P2,187; G3,150)

GOD'S WILL IS NEVER SELFISH

(Jesus says:) «There is yeast and yeast. There is the yeast of Good and the yeast of Evil. The yeast of Evil, a Satanic poison, ferments more easily than the yeast of Good because it finds matter more suitable for fermentation in the heart of man, in the thought of man, in the flesh of man, seduced all three by a selfish will, contrary therefore to the universal Will, which is the Will of

God. The Will of God is universal because it is never confined to a personal thought, but it takes into consideration the welfare of the whole universe. Nothing can increase the perfection of God in any way, as He has always possessed everything in a perfect manner. [...] Thus, when God orders or advises you to do an action or inspires you with one, He does not aim at any selfish interest but at your welfare, with an altruistic charitable mind. That is, therefore, the reason why the Will of God is never selfish. On the contrary, it is a Will that aims entirely at altruism and universality. It is the only and true Strength in the universe which considers universal welfare. [...] Bear in mind that not to do evil serves only to avoid Hell. To enjoy at once beautiful Paradise, one must do good. It is essential. Do as much good as one can do, struggling against oneself and other people because I said that I had come not to bring peace but war, also between father and children, brothers and sisters, when such war was to defend the Will of God and His Law against the abuse of human wills aiming at what is contrary to what God wants.»

(P4,15; G6,411)

MARY'S OBEDIENCE TO THE DIVINE WILL

(Jesus is talking to the disciples and to Mary of Alphaeus about His impending death.)

«Jesus» shouts Mary of Alphaeus springing to her feet, frightened, looking around as if she were afraid to see deicides appear from behind hedges and trunks of trees. «Jesus!» she repeats looking at him painfully.

«What? Do you perhaps not know the Scriptures, since you are so surprised at what I say [about My death]?» asks Jesus.

«But...But...It is not possible... You must not allow that... Your Mother...»

«She is a Saviour like Me, and She knows. Look at Her. And imitate Her.»

Mary is in fact austere, regal in Her deep pallor. She is motionless, with Her hands in Her lap clasped as if in prayer, Her head is straight, looking into space...Mary of Alphaeus looks at Her. She then addresses Jesus again: «All the same, You must not mention that horrible future! You are piercing Her heart with a sword.»

«That sword has been in Her heart for thirty-two years.»

«No! It's not possible! Mary...always so serene... Mary...»

«Ask Her, if you do not believe what I say.»

«I will ask Her! Is it true, Mary? You know?... What [...] is piercing Your heart with a sword?»

«Oh!... Everything...»

«And You are so calm? So serene? Always the same as when You arrived here, a young bride thirty-three years ago, and I remember it so well that it seems like yesterday to me... But how can You? I would be mad... I would do... I don't know what I would do... I No! It is not possible for a mother to know that and to be calm!»

«Before being a Mother, I am a daughter and servant of God... Where do I find My tranquility? In doing the Will of God. From where does My serenity come? From doing that Will. If I had to do the will of a man, I might be upset, because a man, even the wisest, can always impose a wrong will. But the Will of God! If He wanted Me to be the Mother of His Christ, have I perhaps to think that is cruel, and in that thought lose My serenity? Am I to be upset by the thought of what Redemption will be to Him and to Me, also to Me, and how I will be able to overcome that hour?»

Oh! it will be dreadful...» Mary gives an involuntary start, She suddenly shudders and clenches Her hands to prevent them from trembling, as if She wanted to pray more fervently while Her face grows even more pale and Her delicate eyelids close on Her kind sky-blue eyes with an expression full of anguish. But She steadies Her voice after a deep sigh of anxiety and She concludes: «But He, who imposed His Will on Me and whom I serve with confident love, will grant Me His assistance for that hour. He will grant it to Me, to Him... Because the Father cannot impose a will that exceeds the strength of man... and He succours... always... And He will succour us, My Son... He will succour us... and there is no one but He, with His infinite means, who can succour us...»

«Yes, Mother. Love will succour us, and in love we will succour each other. And in love we will redeem...» Jesus has gone beside His Mother and lays His hand on Her shoulder and She raises Her face to look at Him, at Her handsome healthy Jesus destined to be disfigured by torture, killed with a thousand wounds, and She says: «In love and in sorrow Yes. And together...»

No one speaks any more. Standing around the two chief Protagonists of the future tragedy of Golgotha, the apostles and women disciples look like pensive statues.

(P4,126-7; G7,33-4)

THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE LEPER

(Jesus has approached an area where there are lepers.)

The rustling stops. There is dead silence and expectation. Jesus is clearly visible, alone, a little ahead of the others, because He has gone forward as far as the rock on which some provisions have been laid [...].

But the leper must see, and see well, from his hiding-place. He must be able to see the tall solemn person of the Lord, handsome and all white in the white moonlight. The tired glances of the leper certainly meet Jesus' bright eyes. What language is spoken by those divine, wide eyes, as bright as stars? What language is uttered by the lips open in a smile of love? Above all, what does the heart of the Christ say? A mystery. One of the many mysteries between God and souls in their spiritual relationship. The leper certainly understands because he shouts: «Here is the Lamb of God! Here is He who has come to cure all the sorrows of the world! Jesus, blessed Messiah, our King and Saviour, have mercy on me!»

«What do you want? How can you believe in the Unknown One and see in Him the Expected One? What am I for you? The Unknown...»

«No. You are the Son of the living God. How do I know and see? I do not know. Here, within me, a voice has shouted: "Here is the Expected One! He has come to reward your faith". Unknown? Yes. The face of God is not known to anybody. Thus You are the "Unknown One" in Your appearance. But You are the Known One because of Your Nature and Your Royalty. Jesus, Son of the Father, Word Incarnate and God like the Father. That is who You are, and I greet You and beg You, believing in You.»

«And if I were not able to do anything and your faith were disappointed?»

«I would say that that is the Will of the Most High and I would continue to believe and love, always hoping in the Lord.»

Jesus turns to the crowds who are listening in suspense to the conversation and He says: «I solemnly tell you that this man has the faith which shifts mountains. [...] He who

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is able to persist in faith, hope and charity, also when diseases, poverty, death, misfortunes cause him to be left all alone, forlorn, avoided by everybody, and he does nothing but say: "Let that be done which the Most High deems is useful to me", he truly not only deserves help from God, but, I tell you, his seat is ready in the Kingdom of Heaven and he will suffer no delay in expectation because his justice has cancelled all debts of his past life. Man, I say to you: "Go in peace, as God is with you!". »...

(P4,208-9; G7,134)

MARY OF ALPHAEUS/CLOPAS AND GOD'S WILL

(Mary of Clopas still cannot come to terms with Jesus' impending death and discusses this with Mother Mary.)

«But why... did He tell us that dreadful thing? I have had no peace since I heard of it...» says Mary of Clopas

«And did you not know even previously that the Redeemer was to suffer and die?»

«Of course I did! But I did not know that it was Jesus. I have been very fond of Him, You know? I loved Him more than my own sons. So handsome, so kind... [...] I cannot believe that He will be tortured...» Mary of Clopas weeps under her veil.

And Mary, the Mother, comforts her. «Mary, My dear, do not look at the matter from a human point of view. Think of its fruits... You can imagine how I see daylight fading away every evening... When it dies out, I say: one day less to have Jesus... Oh! Mary! For one thing above all, I thank the Most High for granting Me to achieve perfect love, as perfect as a creature can possess it because such love allows Me to cure and fortify My heart saying: "His sorrow and Mine are useful to My brothers, therefore blessed be Sorrow". If I did not love My neighbour thus... I could not endure the thought that they will put Jesus to death...»

«So, what love is Yours? What love must a mother have to say such words? In... in order not to run away with her son, to defend him and say to her neighbours: "My first neighbour is my son and I love him above all things"?»

«He who is to be loved above everything is God.»

«And He is God.»

«He does the Will of the Father and I do it with Him. What love is Mine? What love is required to be able to say those words? The love of fusion with God, complete union, total surrender, to be lost in Him, to be nothing but a part of Him, as your hand is part of you and does what your head commands. That is My love and such is the love which one must have to do always the Will of God willingly.»

«But You are You. You are the Blessed One among all creatures. You were certainly such even before You had Jesus because God chose You to have Him, and it is easy for You...»

«No, Mary. I am the Woman and the Mother like every woman and mother. The gift of God does not suppress the creature. She is as human as any other creature, even if the gift gives her a very strong spirituality. You know, by now, that I had to accept the gift of My own free will, and with all the consequences which it involved. Because each divine gift is a great beatitude, but also a great obligation. And God does not force any man to accept His gifts, but He asks man and if the latter replies: "No" to the spiritual voice speaking to him, God does not force him. Every soul is interrogated by God at least once in its lifetime whether...»

«Oh! I have not been! He never asked me anything!» exclaims Mary of Alphaeus confidently.

The Blessed Virgin smiles kindly and replies: «You did not notice it, and your soul replied without you being aware of it; and the reason for that is that you already love the Lord very much.»

«I am telling You that He has never spoken to me!...»

«Why, then, are you here, a disciple following Jesus? And why are you so anxious that your sons, all of them, should be followers of Jesus? You know what it implies to follow Him, and yet you want your sons to follow Him.»

«Certainly I would like to give them all to Him. I could then truly say that I bore my children to the Light. And I pray that I may give them to Jesus with true, eternal maternity.»

«You see! And why that? Because God interrogated you one day and He said: "Mary, would you give Me your sons to be My ministers in the new Jerusalem?" And you replied: "Yes, Lord". And even now that you are aware that a disciple is not superior to the Master, you reply to God who questions you again to test your love. "Yes, my Lord. I now want them to be Yours!". Is it not so?»

«Yes, Mary, it is. That's true. I am so ignorant that I cannot understand what happens in a soul. But when Jesus or You make me ponder, I say that it is true. It is really true. I say that... I would rather see them killed by men than be hostile to God... Certainly... if I saw them die... if... oh! But the Lord... Eh! Would the Lord help me in that hour... or will He help You alone?»

«He will help all His faithful daughters, who are martyrs in the spirit, or in the spirit and in the flesh for His glory.»

(P4, 540; G7, 163-4)

JESUS EXPLAINS THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Jesus says:) «Thy Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. *The Kingdom of Heaven will belong to whoever has done the Will of the Father, not to those who have heaped words upon words and then rebelled against the Father's Will, giving the lie to the words previously said.* Here, too, you unite to all of Paradise, which does the Will of the Father. And if the inhabitants of the Kingdom do it, won't you do so to become, in turn, the inhabitants of Heaven? Oh, the joy that has been prepared for you by the Triune Love of God! How can you fail to work with a persevering will so as to conquer it?

Those doing the Will of the Father live in God. In living in God, they cannot err, cannot sin, and cannot lose their dwelling in Heaven, for the Father has you do nothing except what is Good and what, in being Good, saves from sinning and leads to Heaven. Those making the Father's Will their own, while annulling their will, know and savour, while on earth, the Peace which is the endowment of the blessed. Those doing the Will of the Father, while killing their perverse and perverted will, are no longer men: they are already spirits moved by love and living in love. You must, with good will, tear your will out of your heart and replace it with the Will of the Father.»

(Notebooks 1943, p.151)

GOD'S WILL FOR YOUR GOOD

(Jesus says:) «Moreover, when you not only follow this blessed Will, which always acts for your good, with docility but with all your strength, ask God to bring you to know it perfectly so as to carry it out perfectly at whatever cost.

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And even if it possesses the form most contrary to your humanity when you act that way, the cloth becomes adorned with embroidery like a brocade.

Moreover, if you add to all this the perfection of requesting for yourselves a will of pain so as to be like Me in the work of redemption, you then insert gems of incalculable worth into the brocade, and you make your original, most imperfect fibre into a masterpiece of eternal life.

But, O Maria, how few souls are able to let themselves be fashioned by God! *God always has for you the hand of a Father, most perfect in love and acts with Divine Intelligence. He thus knows the extent to which He can press his hand down and the amount of strength He must infuse into you to make you suitable for undergoing the divine operations. But when man refuses the good Father you have in the heavens, when he rebels against His Will, when with sin he annuls the gifts of strength which the Father gives him, how can the Father who is in the heavens fashion that soul?* It remains wild; indeed, it burdens itself increasingly with knots and impurities. And I weep over it, seeing that nothing, not even my Blood, poured out for all, regenerates it for goodness.

Moreover, when a soul not only refuses God's work, but nurses in itself hostility towards the Father and its brothers and sisters, then Our work disappears entirely, and the Master of sin, Satan, establishes himself in that tangle of disorderly passions. It is then that the patient, generous work of the victims must take over. They work for themselves and for others. They obtain the return of God, by a miracle of grace, to fashion that soul, after having chased Satan out of it with the radiance of his appearance.»

(Notebooks 1943, pp.171-2)

HUMAN NATURE

«When human nature is able to remember its origin so much that it manages to live in the supernatural realm, it becomes loftier than angelical nature and is a source of admiration for the angels. When does this occur? When a creature lives engulfed in my Will, entirely abandoned to Me, not living, not loving, and not acting except for Me and with Me. It then elevates its flesh to a degree not granted to the angels, who do not experience the anxieties of the flesh and do not have the merit of taming them. When, moreover, the creature crucifies itself out of love for the crucified Master, it then becomes a source of admiration for the angelic hosts that cannot suffer out of love for Me and crucify themselves like Jesus, Redeemer of the world and Son of the Eternal.»

(Notebooks 1943, p. 231)

OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WILL

(Jesus says:) «Obedience to God's command - whatever this command may be - is the sign of the servant of God. The divine exigencies are limitless, and all of them are justified by a loving purpose. On one I will impose keeping silent; on another, speaking; on one, to isolate himself, on another, to become the leader of souls. To one, I will give supernatural sight, and to another, a supernatural voice. Well then, let my servants act according to My Will, and to Me, they will be equal in merit. I do not compel in such a way that you cannot refuse Me obedience. No, not even those who are as soft in my hand as a tuft of flax ready to be spun are compelled by Me to obey. But the more they are 'Mine', the easier and dearer obedience is for them, in such fashion that even at the price of their being in danger

- for the world hates those who are God's - and their suffering for the world makes its hatred sprout into suffering for my "saints". They remain faithful to my command. Mouths cleansed by love, and hearts made into mirrors of God by charity which is their life, they do and repeat only what I suggest to them. Blessed followers of my Son, they copy their Master whose obedience was infinite because it was divine and because He did not use His nature to choose the easy forms of obedience, but He tasted them all and made them his own, including the ones that are repugnant to man, a creature inferior to God, which God the Son also embraced to be an example for you.»

(Notebooks 1943, p. 581)

MARIA VALTORTA'S OFFER & GOD'S WILL

(On the eve of the 1948 General Election in Italy, Valtorta is very ill, bedridden and advised by her doctors not to move from her bed. She says:) Immediately after Holy Communion which I offer for the elections and as my Viaticum in case I die while going to vote, I say to Jesus: «I offer my life and even renounce seeing The Work published, provided the communists don't win.»

Jesus answers me:

«I have always accepted all your offers and sacrifices. But this time, *no*. My Will is something else. Your wishes go against My Will and I cannot accept them. My Will is that The Work is published. Although it is true that the sacrifice of a created being can do much to prevent the Antichrist from triumphing, My Word distributed among the crowd can do so much more. You would achieve a tenth, a hundredth, only a thousandth with your sacrifice [...]. The Work can do a thousand times a thousand and ten thousand more. Your sacrifice would increase your degree of glory. But I want many, who are now the prey of Satan, to reach heavenly glory. That's why I have given The Work. I know it is health for those who read it in good will in order to know me. Even just this.»

(The Little Notebooks, 17 April, 1948, pp. 108-9)

OUR LADY'S ADVICE

(Mary says:) «And, my beloved souls, listen to these words of mine: Do the Lord's Will cheerfully. To do His Most Holy Will with sadness is to diminish the great merit of doing it. Resignation is indeed rewarded by God. But joy in doing God's Will multiplies merit a hundredfold and, accordingly, the reward for doing this Divine Will, which is always, always just, even if it perhaps does not seem so to man. Do what God wills then, in a cheerful spirit. And you, dearly beloved, will be pleasing to Him and to me, your Mother. Be at peace under my gaze, which does not abandon you.»

(Notebooks 1945-50, p.391)

JESUS & THE WILL OF GOD

(Jesus prays:) «Father, My Father! I told You at the beginning of time: 'Here I am to obey Your Will'. And I told You at the hour of grace before departing from You to take on a body to be able to suffer: 'Here I am to obey Your Will'. And I tell You once again to sanctify those for whom I came: 'Here I am to obey Your Will'. And I will always tell You until Your Will is accomplished... »

Jesus, who had raised His arms towards heaven, praying, now lowers them and folds them across His chest, He bends His head, closes His eyes and becomes engrossed in secret prayer.

(P4, p. 466; G7, 452-3)