**SATURDAY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

# Tower of David

Once we wrote: The Tower of David was an impregnable place. Those who entered it did not fear the assault of any enemy. It was an inviolable fortress. The Tower of David is also God for his people. God is the invincible, the powerful, the Almighty. The Tower of David is the Virgin Mary. Thus in the Song of Songs: *“Ah, you are beautiful, my beloved, ah, you are beautiful! Your eyes are doves behind your veil. Your hair is like a flock of goats streaming down the mountains of Gilead. Your teeth are like a flock of ewes to be shorn, which come up from the washing, All of them big with twins, none of them thin and barren. Your lips are like a scarlet strand; your mouth is lovely. Your cheek is like a half-pomegranate behind your veil. Your neck is like David's tower girt with battlements; A thousand bucklers hang upon it, all the shields of valiant men. Your breasts are like twin fawns, the young of a gazelle that browse among the lilies.” (Sg 4,1-5).*

We can say of the Virgin Mary what we say of our God, by participation of grace: “*Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer. From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe. I long to dwell in your tent forever and take refuge in the shelter of your wings. For you, God, have heard my vows; you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name. Increase the days of the king’s life, his years for many generations. May he be enthroned in God’s presence forever; appoint your love and faithfulness to protect him. Then I will ever sing in praise of your name and fulfill my vows day after day*.*” (Sal 61 (60), 1-9).* However, we cannot say what the First Book of Maccabees reports: “*“Then they built up the City of David with a high, massive wall and strong towers, and it became their citadel. There they installed a sinful race, perverse men, who fortified themselves inside it, storing up weapons and provisions, and depositing there the plunder they had collected from Jerusalem. And they became a great threat. The citadel became an ambush against the sanctuary, and a wicked adversary to Israel at all times. And they shed innocent blood around the sanctuary; they defiled the sanctuary. Because of them the inhabitants of Jerusalem fled away, and she became the abode of strangers. She became a stranger to her own offspring, and her children forsook her. Her sanctuary was as desolate as a wilderness; her feasts were turned into mourning, Her sabbaths to shame, her honor to contempt. Her dishonor was as great as her glory had been, and her exalation was turned into mourning.” (1Mac 1,33-40).*

This title suits the Virgin Mary because: She is impregnable, inviolable, impenetrable, invincible, unconquerable by any creature, unapproachable. No enemy will be able to make Her his, for She was, is and will eternally belong to her God and Lord, who has made Her an impregnable fortress, today one would say more than an atomic bunker. This means that evil has never been able to enter her heart, not even in the form of a breath, an invisible breath. A lethal virus enters a person's lungs, from a single breath, by contagion, it can infect and kill thousands and thousands of other people. It is propagated, spread, transmitted by the air itself without anyone even noticing. This can never be said of the deadly virus of sin against the Mother of God and our Mother. She was so protected by grace, which grew daily in her heart and soul, and was for Her more than a gas mask. No virus of evil, sin, thought, desire, concupiscence or anything else ever penetrated her heart. Her soul was always neat, pure, clean, candid. Its whiteness is of Heaven, of Paradise. This tower is only the Virgin Mary. No one else has been so protected and defended by grace. We have all in some way, more or less, been, are and will be prey to sin, evil, disobedience. This can never be said of Mary because God's grace has made Her this impregnable tower. The devil tried to reach Her by pushing from all sides, but every attempt has been futile, in vain. She had in her heart such high, so perfect, so noble, so holy, so divine grace that it prevented all access to her heart, her mind, her soul.

Today let us add that the Psalm 18 can also be applied to Her, not by divine nature though, but by nature to which God entirely participate with his almightiness and his grace: *“ I love you, Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield[b] and the horn[c] of my salvation, my stronghold. I called to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and I have been saved from my enemies. The cords of death entangled me; the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me. The cords of the grave coiled around me; the snares of death confronted me. In my distress I called to the Lord; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears. The earth trembled and quaked, and the foundations of the mountains shook; they trembled because he was angry. Smoke rose from his nostrils; consuming fire came from his mouth, burning coals blazed out of it. He parted the heavens and came down; dark clouds were under his feet. He mounted the cherubim and flew; he soared on the wings of the wind. He made darkness his covering, his canopy around him— the dark rain clouds of the sky. Out of the brightness of his presence clouds advanced, with hailstones and bolts of lightning. The Lord thundered from heaven; the voice of the Most High resounded. He shot his arrows and scattered the enemy, with great bolts of lightning he routed them. The valleys of the sea were exposed and the foundations of the earth laid bare at your rebuke, Lord, at the blast of breath from your nostrils. He reached down from on high and took hold of me; he drew me out of deep waters. He rescued me from my powerful enemy, from my foes, who were too strong for me. They confronted me in the day of my disaster, but the Lord was my support. He brought me out into a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me. (Psal 18,1-20).* When a heart invokes the Virgin Mary as its true tower of David, She descends with all the divine almightiness shared by Her. Truly the mountains shudder. Truly the bottom of the sea appears. Truly all creation is astonished at the rescuing power of the Mother of Jesus, Mother of God and our Mother. Now if the Virgin Mary is almighty power for us in her intervention, if She has been given the power to crush under her feet not only Satan, but all the devils of hell and earth all together, if against Her no evil force will be able to resist, why does the Christian doubt, why is one unbelieving, hopeless when one prays the Virgin Mary? We find the answer in his little being a disciple of Jesus.

Here is what the Apostle Paul reveals in the Letter to the Romans: “*In the same way, the Spirit too comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit itself intercedes with inexpressible groanings. And the one who searches hearts knows what is the intention of the Spirit, because it intercedes for the holy ones according to God's will*.*” (Rm 8,26-27).* Not only does the Holy Spirit inspire the prayer that we must turn to the Virgin Mary. He is also truth, fortitude, understanding, wisdom of our faith. If He s strong inside us, also our faith is strong, intelligent, rich in knowledge. Instead, if the Spirit is weak inside us, also our faith is weak. If faith is weak, the prayer is weak. If it is weak, it is also full of doubts. If faith is dead, the Spirit is quenched inside us and the prayer is quenched too. The prayer inside us is always the fruit of the faith and of the Holy Spirit. The more we grow in the Holy Spirit, the more our prayer is wise, intelligent, living, true, strong.

We are in Cana at a wedding. Let us read the events: *“On the third day there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." (And) Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you." Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it. And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from (although the servers who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him. (Jn 2,1-11).*

Let us reflect on what happened. The Holy Spirit is divinely and powerfully strong in the Virgin Mary. He is in Her with the fullness of wisdom, intelligence, counsel, fortitude of knowledge, piety, and the fear of the Lord. The Holy Spirit knows that today is the time to create the faith in Jesus in the hearts of His disciples. This is what He does: He suggests to the heart of the Virgin Mary the prayer that She should address to Christ Jesus. The Virgin Mary in the Holy Spirit addresses the request of the Holy Spirit to Christ Jesus. Can Christ Jesus ever fail to fulfil a wish of the Holy Spirit, who is the wish of His Father? Since Jesus lives to do the Father's will, He will always listen to the prayer addressed to Him by the Father. The Father asks the Holy Spirit, the Spirit asks the Virgin Mary, the Virgin Mary, the voice of the Holy Spirit, asks Christ Jesus and also asks the servants. The prayer is answered, Jesus manifests His glory and the disciples believe in Him. This is what the Father wants and this is fulfilled today.

Let us enter our history today. The heavenly Father wants the Gospel of his Son to be proclaimed to the nations. He asks the Holy Spirit which way to follow. The Spirit turns to the Mother of God. The Mother of God asks one of her little handmaids, humble, rich in faith, obedient, to go into the world to remind the world of the Gospel of the Son of God. This humble handmaid starts to remind the world of the Gospel of the Son of God and all the devils of the earth, of the sea, of the air, of hell gang up against this humble handmaid so that the Gospel is not proclaimed. Can all the devils in the universe ever obscure the voice of the Gospel? Never! They may obscure a historical form of remembering the Gospel, but they can never obscure all those hearts in which the Virgin Mary lives, the Holy Spirit lives, Christ Jesus lives, the heavenly Father lives. Satan has won a false victory. Neither he nor all the devils of the universe will ever be able to defeat the Virgin Mary. Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints make us strong in grace. Make us also the tower and fortress of David to resist the snares of Satan. **08 September 2024**