

“The Holy Family teaches and cures the sick in Egypt.”

(Mary of Agreda)

664. The prophet Isaiah writes that the Lord shall enter Egypt upon a light cloud in order to work miracles for that country.

Is 19:1 An oracle concerning Egypt. Behold, the LORD is riding on a swift cloud and comes to Egypt; and the idols of Egypt will tremble at His presence, and the heart of the Egyptians will melt within them.

After this, when heavenly cloud had overshadowed Egypt, immediately the belief in the true God began to spread, and idolatry to be destroyed. The paths of eternal life began to be opened which until then had been held closed by the demons. Scarcely was any territory of Egypt in which the true God remained unknown. Although some of the people came to this knowledge through conversations with the Jews, which existed between these two nations; yet a great many errors, superstitions and worship of the demons were mixed up with it. But after the Sun of justice began to illumine Egypt, and Mary most holy, the perfect cloud, began to overshadow that land, it became so fertile in holiness and grace that it gave forth abundant fruit for many centuries. This is witnessed by the many saints that lived in it afterwards, and by the thousands of hermits that made it's mountains produce

such sweet honey of virtue and Christian perfection.

665. Heliopolis was full of idols, temples and altars of the demons. All fell to the dust with great crashing and noise as the Holy Family entered the city. The whole city was set in commotion and confusion by the suddenness of this ruin. People rushed about astonished and as if crazed in mind.

The Holy Family caused curiosity and the Egyptians wanted to know more about them. The heavenly Mother, who was aware of all the destruction, spoke to their inmost hearts with great wisdom, prudence and sweetness. They were filled with wonder at Her gentleness and Her exalted teachings. Through Mary's words She undeceived them of their errors. Also cured some of their sick. On account of the miracles, many people gathered to see the Her. And the most prudent Lady was forced to ask Her most holy Son as to Her further conduct toward this great number. The infant God told Her to instruct them in the knowledge of God, teach them His true worship, and encourage them to stop sinning.

666. In this office of preaching to the Egyptians, Mary served as the instrument of Her most holy Son. Power was added to Her words and that power came from Her Son. The effect of Her words opened the eyes of Her hearers. Great was the

conversions of souls that took place during the seven years of their stay in Egypt. Whenever the heavenly Lady listened to and answered those that came to Her, She held in Her arms the Infant Jesus. She spoke to each one in the manner suitable to his capacity. She enlightened them concerning the Divinity and made them understand that there cannot be more than one God. She impressed upon their minds the commandments founded upon the Natural Law. She showed them the manner of adoring and worshipping God.

667. Concerning the demons, She explained how they were enemies of God and men. How deeply they kept men in error by their idol-worship and the power the demons had answering to "séances" (Communicating to demons.) Demons also influence men to commit sexual and other bodily sins. Although the Queen of heaven was so pure and free from all that is imperfect, nevertheless, for the glory of the Most High, She did not consider it beneath Her to speak to the Egyptians of sexual perversions. She also declared to them that the Repairer of so many sins was already in the world, although She did not say that She held Him in Her Arms. In order that Her teachings might be accepted so much the more readily, and the truth might be more apparent, She reinforced Her words by great miracles, curing all sorts of people who were sick or possessed by demons. A few times the Queen went to places where the sick were located and cured their illnesses. Everywhere She consoled the sorrowful and brought alms to those in need. Winning all by loving kindness and teaching them with sweet correction.

668. In regard to curing the sick and healing the wounded the heavenly Lady hesitated. Charity drew Her to nurse the wounded with Her own hand, and modesty forbade Her to touch anyone. In order to solve this problem, Her most holy Son empowered Her to cure the men by Her mere word and teachings. While She might cure the women by the touching Her Hands and cleansing their wounds.

After they had lived two years in Egypt, saint Joseph also began to cure the sick, while the charity of the Queen busied Herself more particularly with the cure of the women. She hesitated not to help with Her own hands the coverings and bandages of those women that had festering ulcers. All this She did with such tender compassion, as if She herself were afflicted with their misfortunes. Sometimes it happened that, in order to relieve and cure the poor, She asked permission of Her divine Son to place Him in the cradle. But in all these occupations and cures (O wonderful to relate!) this most modest Mistress never looked upon the face of either man or woman. Even when the wound was in the face, Her modesty was such that She would not have been able to recognize any of Her patients by their features if She had not known all men by another interior kind of vision.

669. During the years of Their stay sicknesses devastated Heliopolis and other places. On this account, and on account of the report of their wonderful deeds, multitudes of people came to them from all parts of the country and returned home cured in body and soul. In order

that the grace of the Lord might flow more abundantly, saint Joseph was called upon to be Mary's helper in the teaching and healing of the sick. For this purpose he was given new light and power of healing. The holy Mary began to make use of his assistance in the third year of their stay in Egypt. Thus he taught and cured the men, while the blessed Lady attended to the women. Incredible was the fruit resulting from their labors in the souls of men. The gracious of Her words drew all toward our Queen, and Her modesty and holiness filled them with devoted love. They offered Her many gifts, desiring to see Her make use of them. But never did She receive anything for Herself, or reserve it for Her own use. Mary and Joseph continued to provide for Their earthly expenses by the labor of Her hands and the earnings of saint Joseph. When at times the blessed Lady was offered some gift that seemed serviceable and proper for helping the needy and the poor, She would accept it for that purpose. Only with this understanding would She ever yield to the alms given by others. Numerous were the miracles performed by the holy Family during their seven years stay in Egypt and Heliopolis; for it would be impossible to describe all of them.

Words of enlightenment from Mother Mary.

670. My daughter, you are full of wonder at the works of mercy which I exercised in Egypt, curing the sick and helping the poor in their necessities. You will be able to understand how all this was a part of My love of modesty and retirement.

Recognize My Son's love when He hurried after His birth to the assistance of Egyptians and pour out over them His longings for their salvation. This love He showed to Me, and thus made Me an instrument of His power. For though I always preferred not speaking with others, yet the will of My Son and Lord governed Me. I desire that in imitation of Me, you work for the benefit and salvation of your neighbors. You need not seek occasions, for the Lord will send them. Seek to influence, teach and encourage them according to your light. Take upon yourself compassion and mercy. Pity the hardships of her brothers. 671. As for those under your charge, (Her fellow nuns.) encourage and correct them, govern and direct them to greater and greater perfection of virtue. Most important is seeking your own perfection, but God wills that you encourage and teach those under your charge according to power and graces given to you. Pray without ceasing for those to whom you have no communication; thus extending your charity towards all men. Since you can't not go outside to tend the sick, make up for it by taking care of those living with you. Love serving them personally in whatever pertains to their comfort and wants. Do not consider yourself above this service because you are the leader of the convent. For on this very account you must act as their mother and show your loving care as such toward all. Since the world ordinarily leaves the care of the sick to the most poor and despised, because it does not know the high value of this service. I assign to you this office

of tending the sick, in order that you may follow Me in the performance of it.