

In You Is The Source Of Life

From the works of Saint Bonaventure, bishop
(Opusculum 3, Lignum vitae, 29-30. 47: Opera omnia 8, 79)

Take thought now, redeemed man, and consider how great and worthy is He who hangs on the Cross for you. His death resuscitates the dead; his transit is mourned by the heavens and earth; and, even the stones, as if moved by a natural compassion, are split asunder. O human heart, harder are you than those stones, if, with the remembrance of such a victim you are not even filled with fright, nor are you moved by compassion, nor are you afflicted by the compunction and sorrow endured, nor does piety soften you!

So that from the side of Christ asleep on the Cross the Church would be formed and the Scripture be fulfilled, the one that says: *They will see whom they have pierced; one of the soldiers wounded Him with a lance and opened up His side*: It was the permission of Divine Providence that this all take place, with the end that, springing forth blood and water from His wound, the price of our health be paid, spilled out from the arcane source of His Heart, giving the Church the sacraments and the virtue of conferring a life of grace, and lastly, that it would be for those who live in Christ like a cup filled with the living fount that pours itself out so as to communicate eternal life.

Lift yourself up then, soul, friend of Christ, and be the dove that forges its nest in the holes of the crag; be the bird that finds its home and does not cease to protect it; be the turtledove that hides its little ones, fruits of its chaste love, in that most sacred opening of our Lord's sacred wound. Press your lips on it, so that you drink the water from the fountains of the Savior. Do this because this is the fountain that flows from the midst of Paradise, divided into four rivers that pour into all loving hearts, watering and making the entire earth most fertile.

Run with eager desire to this source of life and light, no matter who you are, O soul, lover of God! And with all the strength of your heart, exclaim:

Oh most ineffable beauty of the Highest God, most pure splendor of eternal light! Life that enlivens all life, light that illuminates all light and which preserves in perpetual splendor myriads of lights, which from the first aurora have shined before the Throne of your Divinity!

O Eternal and inaccessible fountain, clear and sweet spring that streams from the source that is hidden to mortal eyes, whose depths is without end, whose height is without limit, its breadth unlimited and its purity unshakeable!

From you proceeds the river which gladdens the city of God. With the water of this most desirable torrent it restores the dried lips of us and of those thirsting for love, so that with a voice full of joy and gratitude we may sing hymns of praise to you, proving with our own experience that in You is the source of life and Your light lets us see the light.

Let us Pray

We ask you, Omnipotent and eternal God, that, upon celebrating the grandeur of the love that shines in the Heart of Your Son, we receive from this divine source graces, each time more and more abundantly. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the Unity of the Holy Spirit and is God, for ever and ever. Amen

