Chapter II

The True Third Secret of Fatima

Revealed and the Return of Christ

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Chapter II

THE MYSTERY OF FATIMA

May 13th, 2000, marked the 83rd anniversary of the apparitions of the Lady in Portugal. This Angel, a natural divine messenger, appeared in 1917, in a small village named Fatima, in Portugal, carrying several messages which proved to be of capital importance to the world.

Two of these messages, affecting the entire world severely, were revealed and did in fact occur. The Pope of the Roman Catholic Church, who accepted the envelope containing the third message with the understanding that he would announce its contents to the world by 1960, fainted on hearing the message translated to him from Portuguese, and ordered this message kept secret in perpetuity.

Instead, many years later, without the appearance of having been pressured, the Vatican announced that this message merely referred to an assassination attempt on a future Pope. Since a Turkish fanatic had tried to shoot one down in 1981, the Vatican declared that the mystery was over, that is all, no questions, please.

Handwriting by Sister Lucia revealing the Third Secret
The international media reported this strange turning point in detail, without necessarily understanding the issue. We learn from CNN for example that Pope John Paul II, on Sunday, spoke of his deep emotion springing from his trip to Fatima, Portugal, where he happened to be when the news of the Mystery was finally revealed. The newsmen did not note that before this Pope joined the clergy, he was in theater.

Vatican n° 2, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, whom the Pope chose to reveal this joyous, yet oddly bland news, said in an interview that the Pope wanted to put an end to decades of talk about this Secret.

“It seemed opportune to reveal these symbolic visions, also to show that there wasn’t anything mysterious”, the Italian cardinal said Sunday in the Rome daily La Republica.

Millions of believers had feared for 40 years that the Secret was about the world coming to an end, possibly in a nuclear holocaust of man’s own making.

The other two messages foretold the death of two of the children, the end of World War I, the rise and fall of Soviet Communism, and a timely celestial omen signaling God’s decision to allow World War II.

“Still strong in my heart is the emotion felt yesterday at Fatima in beatifying the little shepherds Francesco and Giacinta Marto, who, together with Lucia, still living, had the privilege of seeing the Madonna and speaking with her,” John Paul told the public gathered in St. Peter’s Square at noon Sunday.

The report went on to summarize, more or less, the Pope’s doings in Fatima while Sodano played out a scheme to waylay the suspicions of the millions who had by then waited for decades to hear the Secret that made John XXIII faint.

Sodano claimed that the shepherd children saw an image of a “bishop clothed in white” who “falls to the ground apparently dead, under a burst of gunfire.” Sodano claimed that the Pope credited the “Virgin of Fatima” with lending a “motherly hand” to deflect that bullet from more vital organs.

John Paul II appointed the ultra-orthodox Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger to issue a text and commentary about the Third Secret. Ratzinger had already achieved religious notoriety by reaffirming the Roman stance that all other religions and Christian churches are false. Ratzinger would now convince the masses with iron-fisted words about the affair. Perhaps guilt for disbelieving
the “one, true, holy and apostolic Church” would itself convince subscribers of the authority of the pronouncement, and that would put an end to it.

No propaganda could cover up the peculiarity self-serving tone of that alleged “vision.” It is certainly bland as mystical visions go, and it is oddly convenient. It might even lead readers old enough to remember John XXIII’s publicity photos jump to their own conclusions about why he fainted: Roncalli preferred more white in his papal publicity photos than previous popes. Nibbling at this red herring, we’d presume that he fainted for seeing a description of himself as the victim of an assassination. But what leader of millions has ever fainted at the mere suggestion that he might get shot and fall down?

Reporters asked Cardinal Sodano why the Pope chose to reveal this “secret” only so many years after its “fulfillment.” (We add to that, why did Papal security seem so unprepared for an attack by a single crazed gunman, if the Pope himself had known of a very reliable prediction, presented in such precise imagery?) Sodano replied: “Fatima was the most proper place (to reveal it), a symbolic place in the moment in which a millennium, especially such as a tormented century so full of suffering, closes.”

This latter response seems especially disingenuous - even if we disallow the appallingly obvious fact that he didn’t answer the question. The image of a papal figure getting shot and falling down is not “symbolic” of anything but what the image denotes. Yet all Fatima amounts to, in his reply, is “a symbolic place.” Isn’t that a meaningless statement?

Let’s return to reality a moment, to do a quick semantic exercise: the Whore of Babylon is truly symbolic, for example, of the behavior of certain
individuals of the Roman Church over the centuries. One finds the elements of Church failures interwoven magnificently among the images presented and the reality of Church history. But neither John nor Patmos, where he received his Revelation, were “symbolic” in the way Sodano meant it above the place called Fatima and the events of 1917. What he meant must not be the word “symbolic”, but “less than real.”

After almost a century of speculations about this famous Secret, after hundreds of books and articles about it and pleas for it, what a deception!

We remind the reader too of the news item reproduced at the Introduction of this book, which indicates that Ali Ağca’s attack was an attempt to punish the Vatican for keeping the Third Secret hidden from public view. Somehow this fact and its implications have escaped public discussion, at least in Western public forums.

We keep in mind Church father Saint Eusebius of the Fourth Century. Eusebius declared that it is okay to lie in matters of faith to promote the Church. This doctrine was much-welcomed 1700 years ago. Eusebius has not yet been demoted.

If the Pope has decided to fool you and me, well and good. What is profoundly pathetic is to speculate that he thinks he has fooled God too. Perhaps God is only “symbolic” in the Vatican. With the current Pope’s background in theater, maybe he thinks God will follow rewritten scripts. But mankind seeks a far less “symbolic” God than that.

THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE MYSTERY

What is God? In the history of humanity, supernatural phenomena, wonders, and mysteries alike, are abundant. But which of these phenomena could we say was preannounced by book thousands of years before it happened?

We say that there is a Personality of such magnificently conscious intimate awareness of the minds of men in time that He can make Great things known to those “who have ears to hear.” He can give listeners indications of His knowledge of all possibilities across the endless valleys and mountains of eternal time. That He can reveal to humans, through the capacities of their souls and curious intellects, what they can understand of His design, is a single facet of the multidimensional God. Who is All That Exists. The Bible is God’s Book in this way. No man can say he possesses the entire truth of it,
and certainly no man can say he is “infallible” in his interpretations of it. The Words of God are spoken to some degree in human languages, but the truer renditions of those words are the actual living events to which those prophecies allude.

The famous events in Fatima in 1917 stands out from all other supernatural phenomena as a spelling out of living words of God. These words of activity are mirrored intentionally by God’s Endless Consciousness in the earlier words of the Bible. Those words are ancient to us, but spoken a moment ago to Him.

Like Bethlehem or Nazareth, Fatima was an insignificant village, situated in the region of Estremadura, in Portugal. Its population was about 2,500. Starting on May 13, 1917, it would serve as a theater of supernatural events which would be known to the entire world.

Three young shepherds from the hamlet of Aljustrel, Lucia dos Santos (10 years old) and her two cousins, Francisco (age 9) and Jacintha (age 7), herded their sheep to their daily graze in a valley called Cova da Iria. The wide valley is surrounded by mountains, green oaks and olive trees. The topology of the place makes a natural amphitheater, as though designed as a stage for the extraordinary events that the shepherds would witness. It was about two miles from the first home of the village.

This May 13th was a Sunday. It is not at random that this date reflects elements found in the Revelation of John1, as mentioned earlier. He wrote guided by spontaneous Divine precision: it was “on the day of the Lord” that he received a visit, at Patmos, from a messenger of God.2

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1 Revelation 12. This passage will be developed in detail in our chapter on the revelation of the Secret.
2 Revelation 1 : 10.
This Sunday preceded the Feast of the Ascension that year. It was on the Ascension that two Angels predicted to the disciples that their Master’s return would be under similar circumstances.³

Back to the young shepherds: They arrived in the valley about noon, following a long winding road. They played while their sheep grazed.

It was a calm, bright and cloudless day. Suddenly, a powerful thunderclap broke through the air and startled them. Terrified, the three shepherds hurried their herd for refuge in a cave at the base of a nearby mountain.

Lucia Dos Santos is 93 years old at this writing, the only living witness of the events of this day. Her memoirs tell what happened:

“We started going down the slope, pushing our herd in the direction of the road. Halfway through the slope, close to a big green oak that was there, we saw a light. After walking a few more steps, we saw pending on a small oak tree, a lady dressed all in white, shining more than the sun, reflecting a pure and clear light so intense it looked like sun rays going through a crystal glass filled with crystalline water. We stopped, surprised by this apparition. We were so close within the light that was surrounding her, or rather that emanated from her, maybe within a meter and half of her.”

³ Acts 1 : 11
Lucia dos Santos chose to serve the Vatican rather than the Lord. Incredibly enough, she remained faithful to her Catholic faith in spite of the false revelation of the Secret in June 2000.

Then the mysterious lady introduced herself to Lucia and her cousins as “coming from heaven.” She told them to meet her at that same spot on the 13th of each month, at the same time (12:00) noon, when she would reveal matters of extreme importance to them about the world.

Being exposed to such a sensational event the kids could not remain silent. Little Jacintha, overwhelmed with excitement, went to tell her parents.

They accused the children of making up stories. But seeing that neither their threats nor tears would make the little shepherds change their story, the parents decided to go see with their own eyes whether it could be true.

The two families, Santos and Martos, agreed to go along with their children to Cova da Iria for the next Apparition. On June 13, a small group of curious people, having heard the rumors, accompanied the families. Could something like that happen in Aljustrel and go unnoticed? When they arrived at the location they saw something unusual taking place.

In several months of documenting the history of these strange events, testimonies poured in from everywhere. It seemed that at each apparition, the Lady from heaven signaled her presence with some kind of visible phenomena.
“We were in the month of June and the small green oak tree had all of its branches covered with long, yellowish, new growth. But, at the end of each apparition, when Lucia announced that Our Lady left towards the east, all branches of the tree would bundle and shift toward that same side. It was as through Our Lady, when leaving, was dragging her dress on the branches”, said a witness.

From then on, every 13th of the month, more and more spectators, and then pilgrims, came to watch the youngsters at their appointment with the Lady.

Every time the shepherds and the believers knelt before the small green oak tree to wait for the apparition, lightning flashed, and a thunderclap reverberated.

At this point in our report it is a good idea for the reader to remember this oft-quoted passage:

“For as a lightning that lightens out the one part under heaven, shine unto the other part under heaven, so shall also the Son of man come in his day.”

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4 Luke 17 : 24
Nevertheless, people still had doubts, since Lucia and her cousins were the only ones able to see and hear the Lady. This saddened Lucia. So on July 13, she asked the Lady to manifest a miracle visible by all attending that day, so that they too may believe. The Lady promised to the shepherds that she would, on the 13th of October, during her last visit.

**THE FIRST TWO VEILS OF THE THREE SECRETS**

The news soon reached all of Portugal and then around the world: in Fatima, the Madonna is talking to three little kids! Many were skeptical and laughed the idea off. The rest wondered one thing: what could the Mother of God Almighty be telling three children?”

Let’s recall that in 1917, Europe was dragging the rest of the world into a suicidal abyss. A chain reaction of explosive events had crackled from the Balkans throughout Europe and its imperial colonies, triggered by the assassination of the Archduke Ferdinand in Sarajevo. By the time the Lady appeared, young men were mowing each other down by the thousands a day with motorized weapons for three straight years. Had she mentioned anything about this?

In Portugal, the anti-clergy, in power since the revolution of 1910, had forced a republican form of government of the people. Zealous republicans were ruining even more of a country already in turmoil. A “separation of religion and state” movement had turned more into an effort to eradicate all evidence of religion in the country. Most convents and monasteries were closed. Many monks were expelled, and their belongings confiscated. These Portuguese authorities also tried to suppress the unfolding story of the Lady from heaven speaking to three children.

Despite all this, in the summer of 1917, Fatima became the focal point of a badly listing world. The Vatican and Portuguese vicarages feigned to ignore these events. The detractors went on the offensive: liberal newspapers dragged the little shepherds, their families, and religion through the mire in print. *O Seculo*, Lisbon’s main paper, accused the clergy of setting up a cynical religious commercial venture and that the shepherd children were merely epileptics. Authorities harassed the children. They were mocked, beaten, and put through lengthy interrogations by the local priest and then by the bishop.
The persecutions reached their \textit{nadir} on the 13\textsuperscript{th} of August, the day that the Administrator of the district kidnapped the children.

Jailed in the fortress of Ourem, he accused them of extortion and threatened them with death. He threatened to torture them to death in a pot of boiling oil if they refused to confess to him the secrets that the Madonna had told them to keep quiet. Showing exceptional courage, the children kept silent.

It was on the 13\textsuperscript{th} of July 1917 that the mystery of the Three Secret of Fatima really started. On this date, the Lady from heaven transmitted to the children the messages destined to shake the world. The Administrator knew that if he could make the children tell, he could set himself up a lucrative career as a prophet. Considering that the children’s continued existence to contradict him afterward would have presented an inconvenience, one must not take the fact of his threats to kill them as a joke. He never succeeded.

On the 25\textsuperscript{th} anniversary of the apparitions, in 1942, the public read the publication of the first part of the memoirs of Lucia Dos Santos, thus the first two veils of the Three Secrets of Fatima fell.

They included the following predictions.

- The end of the First World War - which took place a year after the events in Fatima with the signature of Armistice on November 11, 1918.\footnote{Let us note that November 11 also commemorates the independence of Angola, key country in the revelation of the Secret.}
- The Russian revolution, which would impose an antichristian political system, which she said would drag down many peoples and nations of the world. (This happened in October 1917, when the communist Bolsheviks, led by Vladimir Lenin, brought down the Czarist government by force.)
- A vision of hell, huge and terrifying, where sinning souls burn for eternity.
- The Second World War, which the Lady said would be signaled ahead of time by a night illuminated by an unknown source of light. On January 25, 1938, the sky turned to blood-red curtains over the skies of Europe, northern Africa, the coasts of the United States, and much of Asia - in other words, the coming theaters of war on the globe were illuminated by the most unusual Aurora Borealis science had ever observed. This, according to Lucia’s memoirs, was the sign that God
would punish the world again if men still had not repented their sinful ways. A few weeks after the appearance of this great light, Adolf Hitler’s army marched into Austria to cheering Austrian crowds. The conjoined “Axis Powers” set the table for the Second World War, which made the First “War to End All Wars” look like a mere rehearsal.

The writer P. Gabriel\(^6\) gives more information about the warning light that appeared over the globe:

“This atmospheric phenomenon, troubling astronomers and astrologists alike, manifested on the night of Tuesday the 25\(^{th}\), and Wednesday the 26\(^{th}\) of January 1938. “Le Figaro”, a French daily newspaper, reported this on January 26, 1938, with the subtitle ‘An Aurora Borealis Occurred Yesterday in Europe:

‘A rare meteorological phenomenon occurred yesterday in France and various European countries. It was first noticed from Grenoble between 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. There was a host of movements above the chain of the Alps Mountain, the sky made fiery by a huge bright red moving hearth, as though the sun were about to rise. The light was so intense that postal workers in Briançon (a French city) worked for an hour with lights off.’

The same phenomenon was reported in all the cities of Normandy and Mayenne. People thought of it as a big fire. Comparable news came from Switzerland “where the gleam was sometimes intensive, weak, and changing from red to violet. In Austria, where “the most stupid news” was spread. In Czechoslovakia (now two separate countries), along the Belgium coasts, fishermen were too frightened to leave the ports.”

As for us, we see a link between this phenomenon, and the sun dancing in Fatima in 1917, as parts of wonders announced by Prophet Joel:

“And I will show wonders in the heavens (the dance of the sun, and the light at dawn described above) and in the earth (earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, floods...). Blood, fire, and pillars of smoke (the First and Second World Wars). The sun shall turn into darkness, and the moon into blood (we may see this as the “nuclear winter,” demonstrated in potential over Hiroshima and Nagasaki after the American nuclear bombing raid on those largely civilian cities), before the great and the terrible days of the Lord come.”

Of course, the Third Secret lies in a safe in the Vatican. This is in contradiction to the wishes of the Lady who spoke to Lucia dos Santos and to millions of people convinced that the future of humanity depends on the message contained therein.

All the above events related to Fatima and the sun dancing in 1917, explain why this mystery continues to intrigue millions of people around the world, and why they were not satisfied with the so-called disclosure of the Third Secret made by the Vatican on May 13, 2000. Those so intrigued wishes only to know the truth.

7 Joel 2 :30-31
THE DRAFTING OF THE SECRET

When this Secret was confided to little Lucia Dos Santos, she was just like most Portuguese children her age, illiterate, knowing only of the world what a child could understand from church or from her parents, who were uneducated peasants themselves. She had never heard of Russia, for example before the fate of this country was confided to her by the Lady.

It fell on Lucia, the oldest of the three children, to carry this Secret. Her two cousins, Jacinta and Francisco disappeared from the scene shortly after the Lady’s final appearance. The two cousins died in 1918 and 1919 respectively.

To be a trustee of such an important secret required, from the part of the little shepherd of Fatima, a lifelong sacrifice. To avoid media pressure, she joined the cloistered order of Carmelite nuns in Coimbra and considers herself to this day as dead in Jesus Christ. In the meantime, her native village became a pilgrimage site. Twice a year, during the month of May and in October, hundreds of thousands of pilgrims, mostly Catholics from all over the world still go for worship.

While in the Order, she learned to read and write, also acquired general knowledge and the most important in the field of theology. Thereafter, she was capable of putting the events in perspective. We remember the Secret to be transmitted to the Vatican to be disclosed in 1960.

In 1943, Sister Lucia was confined to bed, nearly dead from pleurisy, Eminence Da Silva, the Bishop of Leira, was troubled.

The world during that time was once again ablaze, now with World War II, initiated by Nazi Germany shortly after the great sign of the Blood-Red Sky. In the Bishop’s mind, the world needed the message of Fatima more than ever. What would happen if Sister Lucia died, he thought. Never in his life had he felt with such keenness a responsibility to ensure that Lucia transmitted the Third Secret of Fatima to the Vatican.

In September of that year, Bishop Da Silva suggested to Lucia to write down the text of the Third Secret. She replied that she could not take such a responsibility without a formal written order.

Even after an order was issued to her a month later, this clairvoyant who had written calmly about wars, famine, persecutions and tribulations of nations,
found herself incapable of writing on a piece of paper a prophecy that troubled her more than the preceding events.

Because she had lived a life of submission to her superiors, it was an ordeal to be unable to write the message down. She attributed her paralysis to a supernatural power. Finally, some months later, Sister Lucia gathered enough strength to write the text of the Secret in the chapel at the monastery of Tuy.

Bishop Da Silva proposed to transmit the envelope to the Vatican. Pope Pius XII refused to accept it, with some conspicuous reticence. The burden of the Secret remained on the Portuguese Diocese, which promised that the written prophecy would be revealed to the world in 1960, as Lucia had said the Lady required.

In May of 1955, in a meeting that was called urgently without explanation, Cardinal Ottaviano questioned Lucia, and then reported back to the Vatican. The Vatican reversed its refusal of the letter and instructed him to transmit it to Rome through the Nuncio in Lisbon.

Sister Lucia explained to Ottaviano and later to Canon Barthes, an expert on the Fatima phenomenon that the Lady said that the Secret should be disclosed in 1960, because world events which had unfolded by then would make the message clear for all.

Before delivering the envelope to the Nuncio, Bishop Da Silva’s assistant, Bishop Venancio, yielded to curiosity and put the envelope to the sunlight to see if he could read any of it. He could not decipher the content, but he could clearly see 23 lines written by Sister Lucia.

By the spring of 1957, the Vatican finally took possession of the Third Secret of Fatima. The anticipation and excitement of the Catholic public about what Lucia had written was increased by these delays. Few Catholics expected good news and many feared it told of nuclear destruction. Indeed, in these years, the governments of the United States and the Soviet Union had been foolishly warning each other with demonstrations or “tests” of ever more powerful nuclear weapons. Those two countries alone had already manufactured enough nuclear weapons to destroy the surface of the earth, and everything on it, several times over.

American television built up anticipation. A broadcast called “Zero 1960” reported on the masses of people around the world, all of whom were waiting to hear the Third Secret.
But on February 8, 1960, the world received this news through the Portuguese Press Agency: “An unidentified Vatican source declared without further notice that the Third Secret will not be announced this year and will probably remain forever sealed and concealed.”

Needless to say, by holding the message captive, the Pope created more anxiety for more people, including some Church authorities.

Portuguese Patriarch Cardinal Cerejeira was profoundly humiliated by the decision. He had promised to the public in 1946 that the Third Secret “will be opened in 1960 !” Rome certainly hadn’t objected. On the contrary, Papal confidantes Cardinal Ottaviano and Cardinal Tisserant had often echoed Cerejeira’s promise to the public, and so had other Church authorities.

Why had Pope John decided against it? The Lady’s other prophecies had come true, unquestionably and without ambiguity, over a period of two generations. The texts of her messages expressed ideals quite in line with the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. Did Pope John publicly disobey his own God? And why did he include a wish in his will to move the Holy See from the Vatican to the Lateran Palace? The answer lies in the nature of the message that caused him to collapse to the floor in despair.