

HIGH SEAS ON THE SPANISH MAIN

It was 1754, when the 3-masted Schooner, the Hispaniola, sailed outward bound from England across the high seas, riding along the Gulf Stream, headed for the Spanish Main on its adventurous search for the tropical islands, or more particularly, for that secret pirate refuge called “TREASURE ISLAND”. Of the 23 men sailing, only 5 would return alive, including Jim Hawkins, Long John Silver, and Ben Gunn. Notwithstanding this, up on the fore-deck, Billy Bones began to pipe up the old pirates' song:

“Fifteen men on a dead man's chest -
Yo-ho-ho, and a bottle of rum!
Drink and the devil had done for the rest -
Yo-ho-ho, and a bottle of rum!”

Fortunately, these men were in possession of Captain Flint's secret map revealing the nautical whereabouts of the lost island, as well as the black mark of an X, fixing the exact location of the buried treasure. Well, well, “By Jove,” the daring search would haul these men through many dangers, struggles, a mutiny, murders at sea. But in the end, they would succeed in finding, and laying claim to, the hidden gold they had been desperately searching for, many leagues across the ocean. Yes, these scarred and rugged sailors were willing to risk their lives on the raging sea to discover a chest of hidden riches, buried on a tropical island.

Nevertheless, there lies hidden, on another island, a far, far richer treasure, well worth setting sail for. It's sea-chest is buried on the Island of the Hidden God. This treasure infinitely surpasses any other treasure, gold, or happiness to be found in the entire universe!

It was in such words that Jesus spoke of this hidden treasure to a Benedictine Monk in Ireland when He said:

“I am a HIDDEN GOD.
I am a HIDDEN GOD.
Do not look outside of Me for anything
to fulfill your heart's desires.
For outside of Me, there is nothing for you,
but with Me is all that your heart desires.” (In Sinu Jesu”, p.187)

How is it that He is a “HIDDEN GOD”? Remember that even when Jesus reveals Himself in the Gospels, He remains hidden.

“Who do people say the Son of Man is? (Mt. 16:14)

In the Transfiguration, He is hidden:

“Peter was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow.” (Mt. 17:5)

Then whereabouts are the Hidden God and His treasure to be found? He is to be found in the Deep Mystery of the Silent, Secret Island of the Most Holy and Blessed Sacrament.

But, there is another reason why He is “hidden”. Because He is the Island Treasure that no one wants or searches for. Men will not risk their lives on the high seas to reach this island because its treasure is seen as dubious at the least.

THE SACRED HOST! How does It fare among men today? See the world glaring coldly at It in utter disbelief!

Jesus says:

“The world has grown cold..... as the darkness of the enemy enfolds it and turns to ice the hearts that I consecrated to be for Me hearts of love. (“In Sinu” p.216)

“This is the immense sorrow of My Heart: that this Sacrament, which I instituted in order to remain among My own until the end of time, meets with indifference, with coldness, and with a cruel insensitivity even on the part of My chosen friends, My anointed ones, My priests.” (“In Sinu” p.62)

So, there He is, the Meek One, shown before all the people, as He was before Pilate, unrecognizable as a man. See Him there above the altar, lifted up by hands of ice in the chilling air of indifference. Then we hear once again the echo of Pilate's sad proclamation: “ECCE HOMO! ECCE HOMO! BEHOLD THE MAN! (John 19:5) And from a thousand silent hearts come the unspoken words: “I DO NOT KNOW THE MAN! I DO NOT KNOW THE MAN!” and Peter's denial (Mt. 26:74) becomes a prophesy for our times.

Then are heard, out of the parable of “the man of noble birth”, the angry voices of His compatriots shouting: “WE DO NOT WANT THIS MAN TO BE OUR KING!!” (Luke 19:14)

And so He is a HIDDEN GOD because WE HAVE HIDDEN HIM. He has been EXILED by us to His lonely Island, like NAPOLEON was exiled to his lonely island. He is a prisoner of the island of the tabernacle, unwanted, forgotten, alone, banished, forsaken, and, He is HIDDEN.

So do not call Him the Messiah any more. Do not call Him the Son of David any more. Instead, call Him..... “THE ABANDONED ONE”, because He has again been rejected by His own, and He has become..... “THE OUTCAST”.

On Jan. 3, 1937, St. Faustina heard these words spoken by Jesus:

“During Vespers, I heard these words: **My daughter, I want to repose in your heart, because many souls have thrown me out of their hearts today. I have experienced sorrow unto death.** I tried to comfort the Lord, by offering Him my love a thousand times over.”

Listen to Jesus' very deep sorrow over abandonment by His priests: (“In Sinu” p.180)

“Love Me for those poor priests of Mine who no longer love Me and who never adore Me. They are many, and the sorrow of My Heart over such priests is a sorrow that no human language can describe, for it is a divine sorrow; it is the grieving of a divine Heart. It is the pain of an infinite love rejected again and again by finite creatures who have become blind in a terrible darkness of the spirit. Love Me, then, and console My Heart by adoring Me for them.”

Driving along the California sea-coast, one is able to visit many of the Spanish Mission Churches built by Fr. Serra years ago. Here too, the Santa Monica boardwalk rises up over the ocean. There's a burly old singer there who sits in his chair on the wooden deck each day with his electric guitar, amplifier, and collection box. He likes to sing out loudly Johnny Cash's famous songs, especially his favourite, “RING OF FIRE”!!

“Love is a burning thing,
And it makes a fiery ring.
And it burns, burns, burns,
The ring of fire,
The ring of fire.”

From this story, the thought may occur to us – that this is what we must become – a Ring of Fire!” When the quivering White Host is lifted up high, caked in ice, suspended in the frigid air, we must encircle It with the flames of a fiery love, to melt the ice, and to warm His Eucharistic Heart. We must surround Him with a burning ring of fire that never goes out, like the burning bush in the desert that never went out.

We must speak to the “OUTCAST”, to the “HOST DESPISED”, held up on high once more for mockery and scoffing. We must become a good thief and speak to Him from the depths, “Jesus, I love You!! Jesus, I adore You!!” We must fearlessly make our bold proclamation above the voice of Pilate:

“ECCE HOMO!” “BEHOLD THE MAN!”

“YES!! Behold the Beautiful One!

Behold the Adorable One!

Behold the Innocent One, the Precious One!

Behold the Long Desired One!

Behold the Treasure of Every Human Heart!!!”

Did Our Lady not tell us to do this?

“Tell your love to Jesus.....

because this is the one thing that makes Him immensely happy!

If you only knew how the Eucharistic Jesus loves you, how a little gesture of love fills Him with joy!” (#360z,s)

If you only knew!!

Listen to the very moving words of ST. COLUMBAN:

THE LANTERN

“O, the flames of His love

burn beyond the stars.

Give me, O Jesus, a lantern of holy fire

burning within me,

a burning flame of love for You

that may never die out or be extinguished.

With the blazing light of this holy lantern,

may I see You alone, long for You alone,

think of You alone, gaze upon You alone,

and be always in Your presence, day, noon,

and night, and forevermore,

so that when my feet stand before the

MIGHTY KINGDOM, and I look upwards

to the enormously high, high gates of HEAVEN,

I may not hear those terrible and dreadful

words..... “I DO NOT KNOW YOU! GO AWAY!!!” (Mt. 25:12-13)