

# Reflections

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## Life Beyond – the Dignity of Woman

We all know the content of one of the greatest feasts of the Blessed Virgin, her Assumption: Mary was taken body and soul into Heaven. She is the only human being, except the Man-God, who is in Heaven with her body. And now we want to ask ourselves what God wants to tell us through this dogma of the Assumption.

The glorified Virgin in Heaven is – first of all – a sign of hope and of promise for us. In Her, we can see our own destiny prefigured. The idea of death makes many men tremble.

A certain fear before the unknown is natural, the pain through the separation of a dear one. But for many, it is not only about this: deep-down, they do not believe that our bodies will also resurrect like that of Christ. They think that after death we will have a kind of half-way life, like souls.

Mary, in the mystery of her body and soul Assumed into Heaven, reminds us that the fullness of man is precisely reached beyond death. As soon as we are there, Christ will fill our body and soul with new life. As soon as we are there we will reach our definitive liberation, the liberation from death. Therefore, only Christ is our true Liberator who will resurrect everyone.

The Blessed Mother was the first. She deserved to follow Christ before anyone else after his Resurrection because She followed him on earth like no one else. Therefore, from Heaven, Mary also reminds us of the importance of this earthly life. It is in our struggle with this life where, little by little, our Resurrection is merited. In this way there will be a total continuity between our life on earth and our life in Heaven.

It is interesting to ask ourselves why God wanted the dogma of the Assumption to be proclaimed toward the end of the Twentieth Century. It is confirmed that this faith in her bodily glorification is ancient in the Church.

Undoubtedly, God wanted to give – through this dogma – an answer to the illusion of materialism in our time.

But it seems that God wanted to also proclaim on the image of the Assumed One, the dignity of the human body and, very specially, the body of woman. Each woman was born to be an image of Mary, to radiate the nobility and royalty (magnificence) of Mary. When we encounter girls and women who radiate this, we are moved, because they are like a memory or an anticipation of Heaven.

Nevertheless, our world today strives to destroy this noble image of woman, reducing her to the simple category of an instrument of pleasure. It is enough to see the magazines and see the image of woman which is sold today to everyone.

We will not be able to build a new world if we do not forge a new and dignified type of woman according to the image of Mary. Idealism, morality and the fruitfulness of a people are maintained or crumble with its women.

We accuse the world in which we live to be cold and impersonal, in which man feels manipulated and exploited. We say that it is a world where man is valued only by economic and political usefulness by those who have are in power. This is greatly due to the fact that we live in a masculine society. On the contrary, the personal, familial, welcoming, all of this is precisely in line with the values of the woman. It belongs to the woman to give soul, to give ambience to the home. Therefore, the world will continue being cold until woman stops renouncing her own values in order to be able to come forth in our masculine society.

Let us ask the Blessed Virgin that she always radiates before our eyes, that She inculcates in us the enlivening sense of death, that She reminds us of the dignity and nobility to which all woman is called. The woman clothed with the sun and crowned with stars will be the Great Sign which will guide us in the construction of a new and improved nation.

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