

# The Miracle of the Sun

It remains a little known fact that, seven years prior to Our Lady's revelations at Fatima, Portugal had fallen under the control of the Freemasons. Dismissing religion as the "opiate of the masses", the "progressive powers" resolved to destroy the Catholic faith in two generations. Persecution of the Church ensued. Repressive measures were enacted against the clergy. The Primate of Portugal and other troublesome bishops and priests were exiled. In 1915 Lisbon was declared the atheistic capital of the world. The royal family was murdered down to the last child.

**W**hen the Mother of God began appearing in Fatima, state terrorists did everything in their power to force Jacinta, Francisco and Lucia to deny the truth of the revelations. In order that all might believe in the contents of the Fatima message, Mary announced that a spectacular wonder would take place on October 13, 1917. Specifying the place and time, she stated that the miracle would be a special sign from God, enabling everyone to believe in the Fatima message. Using all the propaganda tools at their disposal, the atheistic powers did everything they could to prevent the people from gathering at the site of the revelations on October 13. Soldier units were even dispatched to block access to the site. However, the determination of the people, and the sheer number of them, was so great that all these efforts on the part of the authorities were futile.

On October 13, 1917, an enormous crowd, over 70 thousand strong, gathered at the site of the revelations. Many had to cover hundreds of miles, mostly on foot, by donkey, cart or automobile. Among them were simple folk but also skeptically inclined intellectuals, journalists, and non-believers.

The soldiers of the National Guard tried in vain to prevent the crowds from entering the valley known as the Cova da Iria. As the throng burst through at one end and the soldiers scrambled to cordon it off, the people would seize the occasion and break through at the other end. The troops could not control the crowds. All in all, some 70 thousand people succeeded in getting through to the site. The three young seers stood by a great holm oak. The sky was dark and overcast, and a heavy rain drenched the crowds. All were soaked to the skin, up to their ankles in mud and water. Suddenly the rain stopped and the sun broke through the clouds. Like a flaming disk radiating colored light, the sun began spiraling down toward the earth. A cosmic collision of the sun and earth seemed imminent. People began to cry out in terror. Some, thinking this was the end of the world, began confessing their sins aloud. Many remained on their feet, but many others knelt down, sobbing and praying. This extraordinary phenomenon lasted 10 minutes. Within that time the rain-soaked earth dried out completely.



LOA archives

Jacinta, Francisco and Lucia

The people's clothing also dried out, looking fresh as if it had just come out of the laundry. Thousands of conversions took place during that spectacular miracle. Highly educated, intelligent people were stunned, dumbfounded like little children.

In his official pastoral letter on the miracle, the Bishop of Fatima observed: *Thousands of people witnessed the dancing of the sun. People of diverse groups and social classes saw it: believers, non-believers, journalists of Portugal's leading dailies, and even people who had not been part of the crowd.*

Scripture calls miracles *the finger of God* (Ex. 8:15; Lk. 11:20). The miracle of the sun was a phenomenon that had never occurred in the history of mankind. For the first time since the Resurrection of Christ, God, intending to underscore the reality of His revelations, wrought this spectacular sign at an appointed time and place. Scholar Pio Sciatizzi, who witnessed the miracle, observed: *There cannot be the slightest doubt with regard to the historicity of this event. Only to God can we ascribe this greatest and most manifest of miracles ever to take place in history.*

The chief Masonic powers ruling Portugal at this time were connected with the secret organization called "Carbonaria", whose founder was Antonio De Silva. Alfonso Costa and M. Lima headed the organization. On that memorable October 13th of 1917, Silva, an engineer by profession, saw the miracle of the sun. He was one of the first freemasons to bend his knee before the awe-inspiring miracle. Soon after, he began talking about a rapprochement with the Church. Infuriated by this, his comrades subjected him to a campaign of slander and abuse. He found himself in peril of his life. With many in their midst suddenly converting after the miracle, the atheistic government tried to purge itself of elements which had "succumbed" to the miracle. Numerous attempts were made by the organs of mass media to ridicule the event and its tens of thousands of witnesses. The Masonic lodges mounted a truly diabolic campaign to deride and mock Catholics and their faith. They put on blasphemous parades. Talks and speeches denying the existence of God were staged at the site of the revelations in Fatima. At the same

time, stern measures were put in place to prevent the Church from organizing any kind of religious assembly or procession. Propaganda agencies were charged by the Masonic rulers to conduct operations throughout Portugal. Leaflets and pamphlets were published, ridiculing the revelations and priests (especially the Jesuits), who were viewed as the main offenders.

Yet all this sacrilegious plundering, pamphleteering and mockery brought on the very opposite of the desired effect. It resulted in the Portuguese people accepting Fatima and strengthening their Catholic faith. The miracle of the sun and the Fatima message indicated that the fate of the atheistic revolution in Portugal was already sealed. Resistance within the society grew steadily, while deep divisions began to show up among the ruling authorities. In short order, the revolutionaries allowed one of their conservatives, Sidonio Pais, to assume the office of president. But Pais proved to be more and more liberal in religious matters. As a result, he was fatally shot less than a year after his rise to power. He died on the operating table with a crucifix on his chest. His death was followed by a period known as the "time of absolute terror". Random bomb explosions became a daily event throughout Portugal. Terror was the means by which the freemasons tried at all costs to cling to power.

Meanwhile, increasingly larger numbers of pilgrims were making their way into Fatima, despite the fact that the authorities sternly forbade this, even posting there powerful detachments of the Republican Guard and the army. Despite the state's use of brutal force, the people were not daunted. In 1922, seeing that the throngs of pilgrims were constantly swelling, government agents blew up the chapel that had been erected at the sight of the revelations. More bombs exploded throughout the country, especially in Lisbon and Porto. But the faith of the people was stronger. It would not allow itself to be snuffed out. In 1927, the Masonic revolutionaries exhausted themselves in their murderous struggle with the Catholic faith. They yielded power to Oliveira Salazar, a university professor and believer.

What happened to the leaders of

the Masonic-atheistic revolution? M. Lima died, totally disillusioned. As for Alfonso Costa, he moved to Paris, where to everyone's surprise, he abandoned atheism, took up spiritism, and ended his days tormented by his obsession with the supernatural. With all its pride, strength and capability of using terror, the powerful, anti-religious, Masonic government that ruled Portugal lost the battle. A paradox! It lost out to three illiterate peasant children, to whom the Mother of God had revealed her message.

M.P. ●