

Christ to the full. She felt great pity for souls that had no knowledge of this great treasure, and was displeased with those that had knowledge of it, but did not possess it.

The sight of the charms of her Well-beloved made her see so plainly the baseness and ugliness of created beings—in a word, the nothingness of everything—that, long before her death, she was regarded by some as incapable of vainglory, or of any other love than that which is directed toward God. Indeed, the vision that has been made clear, and sees things as they are, is not greatly touched by what is false.

It occurs to me that some of her sisters, upon reading this little summary of her life, may well desire the same delights and the same intimacy with their Savior. It must be confessed [164] that that sugar is sweet and that ambrosia is full of delight; but they will permit me to say to them that those great and transient consolations are ordinarily communicated only to the souls that Jesus Christ causes to suffer with him. It is merely a nutriment and support which he gives them to enable them to bear the burden of his sufferings, as we shall see in what follows.

As Our Lord often spoke to her, he told her, four years and a half before her death, that she would thenceforth live only by faith and crosses. These words, weighty indeed, had their effect. Thenceforward she cared only for sufferings, and her Bridegroom gave her an abundance of them. She was constantly subjected to a state of spiritual suffering so hidden, so piercing, and so acute, that few persons were able to understand them. In her body