

## 30. Professor Walsh Interview (1946)

Four years after Maria Rosa died, Lucia's superiors reversed themselves and allowed her to go to Fatima.

It occurred a week after May 13, 1946, when a papal legate had solemnly crowned a statue of the Blessed Virgin at Fatima. Lucia was not told she was going to Fatima until she was there. Indeed, it is likely that the thousands of pilgrims at Fatima knew Lucia was coming before she did.

With her Mother Superior and Canon Galamba, Sister Lucia walked the paths of her childhood to the Cabeco, where the Angel had appeared to her, Francisco, and Jacinta. Canon Galamba's account is worth recounting at length:

"Sister Lucia loves flowers a great deal and now, led by Divine Providence to the places of her childhood, she feels like a little girl once more; she begins gathering flowers and making bouquets with the same avidity as of old."

They reached the top of the Cabeco, and Lucia spoke of the Angelic apparition that had occurred there thirty years ago.

"She stressed the objective reality of the apparitions, denying the possibility of a dream or an illusion: 'No, I was very much awake, and I saw (the Angel) as I see Your Reverence now.' And concerning the Communion at the Loka she insisted once more: 'I felt the physical contact of the Sacred Host on my mouth and on my tongue.'

"The effort of the walk and the climb (Canon Galamba continues), the joy of this long desired contact with nature, the beauty of the flowers and the panorama, the unspeakable memories of that day long ago, the scenes of old brought back to life, the gentle light of sunset, all give her countenance an unexpected grace. Her soul reflected onto her face a resplendent and transforming light.

"In her glance there was reflected something indescribably mysterious, luminous, joyous, anxious, an

## Apostle of Mary's Immaculate Heart

expression of hope and certitude, Heaven and earth mingling and joined together so well that I never saw the like nor shall I see it again. Lucia was different."

Next Lucia took her group on a path that had not been walked since she left Fatima. It led to the grotto ("Loca") at the Cabeco where she and her cousins received Holy Communion from the Angel of Peace.

"We heard her repeat the account, indicating the spot where each of the participants of this great hour was: the Angel and the shepherds. Then she knelt; we too knelt and in a murmur we repeated with the seer, with great feeling, the words which the Angel had taught...My presence there, in such circumstances and in such company, undoubtedly constitutes a high point of my life. Leaving this blessed place, the heart seems to bleed somehow."<sup>1</sup>

The group went down to Aljustrel, where Lucia visited with her sister Maria, Ti and Olympia Marto, and others. Next was St. Anthony's church at Fatima; Lucia noted significant improvements had been made to the church, improvements that would have left Father Ferreira quite satisfied. Then a short walk across the road to the Fatima cemetery where Francisco and Jacinta were buried. Lucia noticed her simple wooden cross over Francisco's grave had been replaced with a monument with the inscription:

HERE LIE THE MORTAL REMAINS  
OF JACINTA AND FRANCISCO MARTO  
TO WHOM OUR LADY APPEARED

Finally Lucia went to the Cova, and saw Maria Carreira – now known as Maria Capelinha, Maria of the Chapel, busily sweeping and disposing of dead flowers, and finally to the Cova. It was widely rumored that Sister Lucia would be going to Rome to meet with Pius XII, and arrangements were already being planned. It was not to be, however, although Lucia did write the Pope again, perhaps expressing her desire to meet with him, or perhaps of her growing desire to be a Carmelite.

Lucia did not go back to Tuy. She was transferred to the Dorothean convent in Gaia, near Porto. About two months later she was interviewed there by American Catholic author William Thomas Walsh, who was awaiting publication of his book, *Our Lady of Fatima*, an enduring account of the

## *Sister Lucia*

apparitions and the children.

Walsh recounted that Sister Lucia “seemed uncomfortable at first, and probably was, for she dislikes such interviews intensely, and submits to them only when ordered to so do. She wrung her hands nervously. Her pale brown eyes looked rather guarded and unfriendly. There was not much conviction in the high and timorous voice.”<sup>2</sup>

After the interview began Lucia relaxed, and Walsh noted: “She laughed readily; and when she smiled, a little dimple would appear on each cheek. The voice now sounded natural and sincere. There was intelligence in this face, too, and charm. It was impossible not to like her and to trust her.”

Did Our Lady have a five or fifteen decade Rosary when She appeared to the children? “I didn’t count them,” Lucia said with a mischievous smile.

Walsh was not allowed to ask Sister Lucia about the details of the apparitions of Our Lord and Our Lady that occurred at Pontevedra and Tuy. Instead, he asked about the vision of hell shown the children on July 13, 1917: did Lucia get the impression that more souls were damned than saved? “I saw those that were going down,” Lucia answered with a smile. “I didn’t see those that were going up.”

Did the statue at the shrine of the Cova da Iria look like the beautiful Lady that appeared to Lucia? “No, not much,” she replied. “I was disappointed when I saw it. For one thing, it was too joyful, too *alegre*. When I saw Our Lady She was more *triste*, or rather more compassionate. But it would be impossible to describe Our Lady, and it would be impossible to make a statue as beautiful as She is.”

Had Lucia had any revelations about the end of the world? “I cannot answer that.”

Was the persecuted Pope in Jacinta’s vision Pope Pius XII? “Jacinta said it was a Pope. There was nothing to indicate any particular Pope.”

Why did she say nothing about the Angel of Peace for so many years? “Nobody told me to,” Lucia replied, explaining, “I am under obedience. The priest to whom I mentioned it at the time told me not to speak of it again. I never did until the bishop told me to write everything down.”

## Apostle of Mary's Immaculate Heart

Lucia then contrasted the Angelic apparitions with the appearances of the beautiful Lady. Walsh noted her recollections were "clear and precise." Lucia said: "The Angel left us feeling exhausted, helpless, overpowered, and we remained lost to everything for hours. Our Lady always made us feel light and joyous."

"Finally we came to the important subject of the second July secret," wrote Walsh. "Lucia made it plain that Our Lady did not ask for the consecration of *the world* to Her Immaculate Heart. What She demanded specifically was the consecration of *Russia*. She did not comment, of course, on the fact that Pope Pius XII had consecrated the world, not Russia, to the Immaculate Heart in 1942. But she said more than once, and with deliberate emphasis:

*"What Our Lady wants is that the Pope and all the bishops in the world shall consecrate Russia to Her Immaculate Heart on one special day. If this is done, She will convert Russia, and there will be peace. If it is not done, the errors of Russia will spread through every country in the world."*

Did Lucia believe that every country, without exception, would be taken over by Communism? "Yes."

Wanting to be positive about the answer, Mr. Walsh repeated the question adding, "and does this mean the United States of America too?" Sister Lucia answered, "Yes".<sup>3</sup>

So, had Our Lady spoken to Sister Lucia about the United States? "She gave me a rather startled glance," Walsh reported, "and then smiled in faint amusement, as if to suggest that perhaps the United States was not so important in the general scheme of things as I imagined. 'No,' she said gently. 'She never did. But I wish you would have Masses said for me in the United States.'" Walsh promised to do so.

It was dusk when Walsh finished his interview. "Sister Maria das Dores followed us to the porch. A black cat was sleeping there in the last warmth of the departing sun. The fragrance of roses and gardenias came down from one of the six beautiful gardens of the convent. As we took our leave, Sister Maria das Dores, who had entered that house as Lucia Abobora, leaned over the railing and gave us a charming smile of farewell."

## *Sister Lucia*

### **Notes**

1. All the quotations of Lucia's visit to Fatima in 1946 are from Frère Michel de la Sainte Trinité, *The Whole Truth About Fatima*, Volume III, *The Third Secret*, Immaculate Heart Publications, 1990, pp. 225-227.
2. The entire interview of Sister Lucia by William Thomas Walsh is from Walsh, op. cit., pp. 223-227.
3. Louis Kaczmarek, *The Wonders She Performs*, [Manassas: Trinity Communications, 1985], p. 160.