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Good Friday: “It is accomplished”

Marvel at Mary's courage: at the foot of the Cross, with the greatest of human sorrows--there is no sorrow like her sorrow--filled with fortitude. And ask her for that same strength, so that you too can remain beside the Cross. (The Way, 508)

3 April

On the uppermost part of the Cross the reason for the sentence is written: *Jesus of Nazareth King of the*

Jews (John 19:19). And all who pass by insult him and jeer at him.

If he is the king of Israel, let him come down here and now from the cross (Matt 27:42).

One of the thieves comes to his defence:

This man has done no evil... (Luke 23:41).

Then, turning to Jesus, he makes a humble request, full of faith: *Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom* (Luke 23:42).

Truly, I say to thee: This day thou shalt be with me in Paradise (Luke 23:43).

At the foot of the Cross stands his Mother, Mary, with other holy women. Jesus looks at her; then he looks at the disciple whom he loves, and he says to his Mother:

Woman, behold thy son.

Then he says to the disciple:

Behold thy mother (John 19:26-27).

The sun's light is extinguished and the earth is left in darkness. It is close on three o'clock, when Jesus cries out:

Eli, Eli, lamma sabacthani? That is: My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? (Matt 27:46).

Then, knowing that all things are about to be accomplished, that the Scriptures may be fulfilled, he says:

I am thirsty (John 19:28).

The soldiers soak a sponge in vinegar and, placing it on a reed of hyssop, they put it to his mouth. Jesus sips the vinegar, and exclaims:

It is accomplished (John 19:30).

The veil of the temple is rent, and the earth trembles, when the Lord cries out in a loud voice:

Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit (Luke 23:46).

And he expires.

Love sacrifice; it is a fountain of interior life. Love the Cross, which is an altar of sacrifice. Love pain, until you drink, as Christ did, the very dregs of the chalice. (The Way of the Cross, Twelfth Station, 3)

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