

How Holy Mary caused the monk to remain for three hundred years listening to the song of the bird because he asked Her to show him what manner of bliss those in Paradise enjoyed.

"He who serves the Virgin well will go to Paradise."

1) Concerning this, I wish to tell you now of a great miracle which Holy Mary performed for a monk who always begged Her to show him what manner of bliss there is in Paradise

2) and to grant that he might see it in his lifetime before he died. Therefore, behold what the Glorious One did for him. She made him enter into a garden which on many occasions he had entered before.

3) However, that day She caused him to find a very clear and beautiful fountain, and he sat down beside it. After he had thoroughly washed his hands, he said: "Oh, Virgin,

4) if only, as I have so often asked you, I might see a little of the beauty of Paradise before I leave this world and might know what reward awaits him who has lived a good life here."

5) As soon as the monk has finished his prayer, he heard a little bird begin to sing in such beautiful tones that he became completely entranced and lent all his attention to it.

6) He took such great pleasure in that marvelous song that he remained thus for three hundred long years or more, thinking he had been there only a little while, as a monk on occasion will take a little stroll in the garden.

7) Then the bird went away, which saddened him greatly, and he said: "I will leave this place now, for it is time for the community to eat."

8) He departed at once and found a large gate which he had never seen, and he said: "Holy Mary, protect me! This is not my monastery! What will become of me?"

9) He entered the church, and the monks were startled when they saw him. The prior asked him: "My friend, who are you and what seek you here?"

10) He replied: "I seek my abbot, whom I left here just now, and the prior and the friars from whom I took my leave a little while ago when I went to that garden. Who can tell me where they are?"

11) When the abbot heard this, he took it for madness and so did the community. However, as soon as they learned of how it had happened, they said: "Who will ever hear of such a great miracle

12) has God as performed for this monk because of the intercession of His Mother, the Peerless Holy Virgin? Let us praise Her for this, but who will not praise Her above all else?

13) For, in God's name, it is only right, since all we ask of Her, Her Son grants us because of Her persuasion. Here He reveals to us what He will grant us later."