

Chapter 50 I knew by the teaching of Holy Church and by my own feeling that blame for our sins hangs continuously upon us from the first man (Adam) up to the time that we come up to heaven. Yet, in the revelations, I saw that our Lord God shows us no more blame (for our sins) than if we were as pure and holy as angels are in heaven.... [My dilemma:] "If I were to conclude that we are not sinners and are not blameworthy, it seems that I would err and fail to recognize the truth. But, if it is true that we are sinners and worthy of blame, good Lord, how can it be, then, that I cannot see this truth in You?" I asked for help, saying, "Ah, Lord Jesus, King of bliss, who will teach me what I need to know, if I cannot at this time see the truth in You?"

Chapter 51

And, then, our courteous Lord answered by showing this wonderful example: There were two persons, a lord and his servant. The lord sat solemnly, in rest and in peace. The servant stood before his lord reverently, ready to do his will.

The lord looked most lovingly, sweetly and meekly upon his servant. He sent him into a certain place to do his will. The servant not only went; for love, he jumped up suddenly and ran in great haste to do his lord's will. And immediately he fell into a ravine and suffered very great injury. Then he groaned and moaned, he wallowed and writhed, but he could not rise nor help himself in any kind of way.

And in all this, the greatest hurt I saw in him was the distress he felt because he could not turn his face to look upon his loving lord, who was very near him and in whom is complete comfort. But like a man who is very feeble and unwise, the servant paid heed, for the moment, to his feeling and stayed in misery.

In this woe he suffered seven great pains. The first was the sore bruising he took in his fall, which made him feel great pain. The second was the heaviness of the body. The third was the weakness that followed these two. The fourth was that he was so [confused and perplexed] and blinded in his reason that he almost forgot his own love for his lord. The fifth was his inability to rise. The

sixth pain was the most surprising to me, and it was that he lay alone. I looked all around and stared far and near, high and low, and I saw no help for him. The seventh pain was that the place in which he lay was long, hard and grievous. I marveled how this servant could suffer all this misery so meekly.

I looked carefully to learn if I could find any fault in him, or if the lord should assign him any kind of blame. And in truth, none was seen, for the only cause of his falling was his good will and his great desire to do the lord's will. [But, even in this fall], he was zealous, and as willing, and as good inwardly as when he had stood before his lord ready to do his will.

His loving lord continued to look at him with an expression that was meek and mild, and filled with great compassion and pity....Then this courteous lord said this: "Look! Look at My beloved servant! See what harm he has suffered in My service, for My love. Yes, and on account of his good will, is it not reasonable that I should reward him for his fright and his dread, his hurt and his maiming, and all his woe? Not only this, but does it not fall to Me to give him a gift that will be better for him and more to his honor than his own wholeness would have been? Or else it seems to me I should be ungracious."

I understood that the lord, who sat solemnly in rest and peace, is God. The servant who stood before him is Adam. That is to say, one man and his falling were shown at that time so as to make it understood that this is how God views all of mankind and its falling. For in the sight of God all mankind is one man, and one man is all mankind.

This man was hurt and made very feeble...And this is a great sorrow and a cruel suffering, for he neither clearly saw his loving lord, nor did he see truly what he himself is in the sight of his loving Lord. And well I knew that when these two things are truly seen we shall have great rest and peace, here in part, and the fullness of bliss in heaven, by his abundant grace.