



THE APPEALS OF OUR LADY
APPARITIONS AND MARIAN SHRINES IN THE WORLD

Apparition of the Virgin Mary in MOTTA DI LIVENZA



ITALY, 1510



Along the route that went from Motta toward Oderzo, at a crossroads, there was, and there still is on the side of the present day Shrine, a chapel – a capital as it is called, an arch with a triangular top supported by columns, within which is an image of the Blessed Mother with the Child in her arms. A certain Giovanni Cigana of Motta, a simple and devout peasant, father of six children whom he educated as Christians, who when time permitted him, would usually stop in front of this image of the Madonna to recite the Holy Rosary. On the evening of Friday the 8th of March 1510, Cigana was preparing the tools for plowing, the following day at sunrise, a little field he owned, when the Administrator of Sir Girolamo Moro, to whom he provided service, ordered him in the name of his master to go that following day, with two other laborers, to Porto Buffole, about 15 kilometers from Motta, to get some tables. Cigana explained the work he had planned for the following day, but in vain; he had to obey and change every project reluctantly. However, thinking to himself about how to put together his master's order with the desire to plow his own little field, a certain Luigi Faccchini came to mind, an able and generous man who lived right in the vicinity of the camp, at a short distance from the Capital of the Blessed Mother. Certainly his friend would have accepted to help him!

Early the next day he went on his way and having arrived in front of the Capital, regardless of his haste, he stopped to recite a few Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be prayers to beseech the intercession of the Madonna. When he got up to continue on his trip, he cast a glance to his right, upon a field sown with wheat, and saw sitting on the ground in front of him a young girl with her hands folded upon her knees and her head tilted to the left; she wore clothes as white as snow, sparkling with light, rosy cheeks, and her head covered by a veil. Thinking that she was a girl from the area, he spoke to her in local dialect, the usual greeting of those parts: **"May God give you a good day,"** to which the girl replied: **"A good day and good year!"** and she continued: **"Good man, where do you intend to go?"** With total candor the man answered: **"I want to go talk to someone so he can come to plow for me a little section of terrain."** The young girl continued: **"Oh, he will willingly come and help you, because even you are often helping him; and I repeat that he will come willingly and will help you willingly."** Cigana marveled at the fact that the young girl had twice said to him **"I repeat that he will come willingly and will help you willingly,"** but full of a joy that he could not explain, he exclaimed with devotion **"Praise be to God and the Virgin, since he will come so willingly!"** As he pronounced these words, his eyes were opened and his heart told him that this young unknown girl was really the Madonna, the Virgin Mary. Indescribable was the deep emotion of the poor man who, confused, fell to his knees, while the Madonna rose to her feet and began to speak to him, leaving him three orders: **"Fast for your family for 3 Saturdays and preach about fasting and penitence to everyone you meet in order to praise God and to obtain mercy and pardon from the Lord, offended by the excessive sins of the people."** If the apparition of the Madonna filled him with tenderness, the duties that were entrusted to him frightened him and, with much humility he exclaimed: **"My Blessed Mother, no one will want to believe nor give credence to me."** But the Virgin Mary reassured him: **"This same evening I will give an extraordinary sign in the sun that serves to authenticate your words."** Coming back to his senses from the giddiness, the good man remained uncertain as to continue his trip or to quickly go about and announce what the Blessed Mother had ordered him; he decided to reach the house of Faccchini, not too far away, and to ask him in the favor of plowing the little field. Hearing the request, quickly Faccchini said yes, repeating for him twice the same words of his willingness used by the Virgin Mary. Returning home, Cigana announced to his family and to his acquaintances the vision he had, the requests of the Madonna, and above all the promised sign to confirm that the apparition occurred. Around sunset of that same day, the 9th of March 1510, the sun, after having been hidden for an hour by clouds, appeared to be of a red so vivid that it seemed to have been bathed in blood, and many were the witnesses who saw it. Devotion to the Madonna, already great in the heart of Giovanni Cigana, exploded and spread: to everyone he spoke of the vision he had, but most of all he spoke of the requests of the Virgin Mary about fasting for three consecutive Saturdays, to obtain pardon for sins and mercy from God, and the construction of the little church.

The people of Motta and of the nearby towns, already frightened by the threat of the plague epidemic that for years raged through the area claiming numerous victims, and by the menace of continual wars always looming, had welcomed with enthusiasm the words of Cigana and they carried out the requests of the Madonna. The enthusiasm grew beyond all measure, the grapes multiplied; in a few days the little church was constructed of wood. The ecclesiastical authority intervened and instituted a regular canonical process; the original verbal statement is found in the town library of Treviso. Many were the testimonies given by the persons involved in the events and who were granted the intercession of the Madonna. The last testimony, rendered on the 13th of May of the same year, was that of the Magistrate of Motta, Girolamo Venier, written by his hand. In it, Venier declared that, after having suffered a painful illness for four years and having experimented every type of medicine, after the promise made to the Madonna of contributing to the construction of the church at the site of the apparition, he was left completely free of every infirmity.



The Blessed Shrine of the Madonna of Miracles of Motta di Livenza

Portugal of the apparition of the Blessed Mother to Giovanni Cigana in which she requests penitence and to change each way of life to distance oneself from sin

Interior of the Shrine

The little capital: place where the visionary Giovanni Cigana stayed to pray

Side chapel

Base window of stained glass inside the Shrine

In the exact spot where the Madonna appeared was placed this visionary grouping

Shrine

Three spots where the Madonna is honored during the procession

Room of votive offerings

Shrine

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