

# The Apparitions of the Angel at Fatima

1916

*Before the apparitions* of the Virgin at Fatima, which began March 13, 1917, the three shepherd children, Lucy, Francesco, and Jacinta that live in the Village of Aljustre, see the Angel of Portugal three times who, in this way, prepares them for the subsequent apparitions of Our Lady.

The first apparition takes place in late Spring of 1916, in a grotto on the Loco do Cabeço hill. Lucy recounts the episode: “We had been playing for some time when all of a sudden, a strong wind begins to shake the trees and causes us to look up to see what is happening. Then we began to see, at a certain distance, over the trees stretching east, a light whiter than the snow, with the likeness of a transparent young man, more

“The supernatural atmosphere that suffused us was so intense that we were almost not aware – for a long period of time – of our own existence, as we remained in the same position in which he had left us and kept repeating the same prayer for a long time. We could feel the presence of God so intensely and intimately that we were not prepared to talk, not even among ourselves. The following day we felt



splendid than a crystal traversed by the rays of the sun. As he was getting closer, we were able to make out his features: a young man of 14 or 15 years of age, surpassingly beautiful. We were surprised and almost in ecstasy. We didn't say a word.

“Coming near us, he said: ‘Don't be afraid. I am the Angel of Peace. Pray with me.’

“And kneeling on the ground, he bent his head to the earth. Prompted by a supernatural impulse, we imitated him and repeated his words, which we heard him pronounce.

“My God! I believe, I adore, I hope and I love you. I ask you pardon for those who don't believe, don't adore, don't hope and don't love you.’

“After repeating this three times, he got up and said:

“Pray in this way. The Hearts of Jesus and Mary are attentive to the sound of your prayers’. And he disappeared.

ourselves still suffused by this atmosphere, which disappeared slowly.

“None of us thought of talking about this apparition. The need for secrecy was self-evident. The appearance had been so intimate that we did not find it easy to say the slightest word. It made a big impression on us, because it was the first manifestation of its kind.”

The second apparition takes place in the Summer of 1916, near the well of the house of Lucy's parents, where the children were playing. Lucy recalls what the Angel said to the three children: “What are you doing? Pray! Pray much! The Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary have plans of mercy for you. Constantly offer prayers and sacrifices to the Most High One.’

