

Saint Catherine of Genoa

Part 1

1448 - 1510

PURGATORY

Saint Catherine was born in Genoa in 1448 and was gifted by God with the great grace of mysticism. From her personal experience of purification originated the famous *Treatise on Purgatory*. We quote the text:

“**1.** This holy soul still in the flesh, found herself placed in Purgatory by the fiery Divine Love, which burned her all over and purified what in her was to be purified, in order that, when passing from this life, she might be presented before God, her sweet Love, by means of this loving fire she understood in her soul the state of the souls of the faithful who dwell in Purgatory, to cleanse every rust and stain of sin, which in this life they had not yet purified. And thus as she, placed in this loving Purgatory of the Divine fire, was united to the Divine Love, and satisfied with everything that He performed in her, in this way she understood the state of the souls who are in Purgatory. And she said:

2. The souls who are in Purgatory (as I seem to understand) cannot have any other choice than be in that place; and this is by the plan of God, Who did this justly.

They cannot anymore turn inward towards themselves, nor say: I committed these sins for which I deserve to stay here. Neither can they say: I wish I did not commit them, because I would now go to Paradise. Nor can they say: That one will leave here sooner than me; or: I will

leave here sooner than he. They cannot have any memory of themselves, nor of others likewise, whether of good or evil, because it would cause in them greater pain than ordinarily. But they have so much satisfaction in being in the will of God, and that He should do all that pleases Him, as it pleases Him that they cannot think of themselves with greater suffering. And they only see the working of the Divine Goodness, which offers much mercy to human beings to lead them to Himself, so that in regard to the suffering or well-being that may occur to them, they can see nothing; because if they could see, they would not be in pure charity. They also cannot see that they are in those pains for their sins, and they cannot remember that sight; since that would be an active imperfection, which cannot occur in that place, where one cannot actually sin there. The cause for the Purgatory that they themselves endure, they see only once in the passing from this life: and then they do not see it anymore; because otherwise it would pertain to themselves.

3. Therefore being a soul in charity, and not being able to deviate anymore from it by any actual fault, they no longer will nor desire except with the pure will of pure charity; and being in that purifying fire, they are in the Divine plan. Which is perfect charity; and they cannot depart from that, since they are deprived of the ability to sin, likewise they are deprived of the ability to actually merit.”

