

Mary is Mother, Queen, and Advocate

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Is it possible that Mary, the Mother of Jesus, was immaculately conceived, lived on earth, and passed on to Heaven, without sin? Does the mother of Jesus share in His Royalty in Heaven? Can She play a role in our own salvation? Let's explore this together, as did Our Lord Jesus with the disciples on the way to Emmaus ...

"Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him ... And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"

Luke 24 : 31-32

This is a journey into the heart, stopping to take in the view at times, unburdened by previous assumptions, avoiding the strict tone of argument like thorny bramble found along the way ...

"Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter in yourselves, and those who were entering in, you hindered." And as He said these things to them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to assail Him vehemently, and to cross-examine Him about many things, lying in wait for Him, and seeking to catch Him in something He might say, that they might accuse Him."

Luke 11 : 52-54

John the Beloved says, there are not enough books in the world to record all that the Lord has done. (John 21 : 25) The Bible is authoritative, divinely-inspired, and sufficient, but not exhaustive. Let us then enter into the Mysteries of God, and discover there, a diamond of truth reflecting an infinite number of secrets, letting the Holy Spirit reveal to us hidden treasures ...

"Jesus said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight."

Mathew 11 : 25



Mary Our Mother

So let us begin this meditative journey with a question. Adam and Eve were expelled from eternal life in the Garden of Eden as punishment for sin.

Why are we sure God is going to prevent a second fall from Heaven once we arrive there?

God has brought us salvation during this life on earth, but something even greater awaits us in Heaven. We will never again sin ! I wonder, even as my soul is already washed clean in this lifetime by the Blood of the Lamb, what is the miracle that awaits me when I receive my glorified body in Heaven? Maybe the key to understanding God's eternal guarantee of citizenship in Heaven is found in the body that awaits us, a pure and holy vessel that will be the dwelling place of our soul forever

Could it be that the key to understanding God's guarantee is presented to us at Cavalry ? There on the Cross, God signed and delivered to us His last will and testament, in which, we are given a supremely valuable treasure...

... His Mother.

Our journey henceforth begins and ends at the Cross, taking the time to reflect on what God has given us - sonship from the same maternity as Jesus. This gift is just like our salvation ... eternal. In fact, these gifts are united and inseparable.

We know, through a metaphor provided to us by Jesus, that the heavenly body we will have shall be as holy as that which it contains ; our souls washed by the Blood of the Lamb. Heaven will be a greater experience of God than what we know here on earth. Here, we have received salvation once, but there, it will be eternal .. given to us continually and constantly. Eternal life ... poured into a vessel that God alone is capable of creating for us.

"You cannot pour new wine into an old wineskin."

Mathew 9:17

So with great anticipation should we look forward to this inheritance ! We have not yet received it, but the promise has been made, ratified and disclosed. Jesus Himself reassures of this guarantee ...

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”

John 14 : 1-3

I can only imagine the exhilarating peace and joy that will flood my mind and heart once I receive this heavenly body. A greater joy than even receiving the keys to our heavenly mansion. Neither will be taken away from us ... ever. I will be able to experience a body that will never die, never cause hurt, never be hurt, or feel pain, or sadness, but will in fact be the very body of Jesus that I live in, breathe in, that stores a heartbeat that will never stop.

“And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

Luke 22 : 19

Trying to describe the gift of such a body, capable of living in Heaven amidst angels under the shining Face of God, yet incapable of ever committing sin in the slightest thought or attitude, our descriptions fall short. One word might approach the description of this pure vessel, this pristine and perfect body that God has in store for us ...

Immaculate.

An immaculate body was bequeathed to us at the Cross. Jesus won this for us at the Cross, that we may be with Him where He is, always. This realization is so profound, it compels us to stop for a moment in our walk to reflect. As the diamond of truth reflects its brilliance we join with the Holy Spirit to reflect on something so significant. Jesus is telling us, I promise I am giving you an eternal, immaculate body. This body given to us at the Cross ...

was given to Jesus beforehand, from His Father, by the power of the Holy Spirit ... a body He received to become fully human ; a body He also received to give us.

“Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, “Hail Mary, full of grace ! The Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!” But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a

Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.” Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?” And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.”

Luke 1 : 26 – 35

In this announcement of the Angel Gabriel, and the obedient response of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we see that God, in His immutable and threefold nature as the great I AM, does not change in nature or in authority by being born a human in the womb of Mary. He remains that which He is ... God. God the Son condescends to leave Heaven and enter into the womb of the Blessed Virgin, where He will receive a soul and a body, and nine months later, be born to the world, live 33 years, and die on the Cross for our salvation.

If John the Baptist, declared greatest of all men by Jesus, proclaimed himself unworthy to touch even the sandal strap of Jesus, what does this imply about His Mother who conceived and raised Him ?

“It is He, the preeminent One, who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie, even as His slave.”

John 1:27 AMP

Could God have given Jesus a human body knit in the womb of the Blessed Virgin that was stained by sin? We have read and know, that a wineskin cannot be old if it is meant to contain new wine, lest the skin burst and both the vessel and the contents be spilled out and ruined. We know that Jesus, commonly referred to in the Gospel as the Son of Man, became fully human in His incarnation. Formed by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Blessed Virgin, her blood, containing her DNA, would have served to produce from God’s divine blueprint, the human body of His Divine Son. We know that this Blood is the substance of our Redemption ...

“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.”

Ephesians 1:7

and that such a transfusion of His Blood into our souls would be life-giving ...

“For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.”

Leviticus 17:11

And we know by today's science that the Blood containing the DNA of Jesus would have been always, and will forever be, pure, and without sin, so ...

How could God have entrusted His Son to the Virgin's womb if sin was in Her Blood ? In the Old Testament, when the Ark is brought back to Israel, King David first sends his men to retrieve the sacred object, and Uzzah dies when he inadvertently touches the ark to prevent it from falling. This golden furniture contained the stone tablets upon which God wrote the 10 Commandments. How much more would Mary be required to a state of holiness given her motherhood of God Himself? How could a sinful woman have contained God, who cannot sin against Himself?

Was she then, sinless?

If the answer is yes, this is one of the most profound mysteries worthy of our attention, our praise, and our thanksgiving. At what point then, would she have been released from the condemnation of death due to the transgression of God's laws? At what point was she purified from all sin ? At the very moment Jesus entered the womb? At the moment the Holy Spirit came to her?

The angel Gabriel says,

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God."

Luke 1 : 35

Or was she purified at some earlier point in her life? If so, when?

In order to ponder the implications of this unfolding mystery, let us reflect on something else that might provide the answer. Perhaps somehow a transaction continually occurred in which the Holy Spirit did overshadow an un-immaculate Mary by taking the sinful flesh of a woman, sanctifying that flesh and blood in the process of creating a sinless Son of Man inside Her womb.

If that were to be the case, the definitive truth of this mystery, we would agree that Mary was born, and lived, under the condemnation of sin until Jesus shed His Pure Blood. That would make sense and not contradict Scripture, which says ...

"... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness ..."

Romans 3 : 23-25

But one wonders, why then did God choose Mary over any other woman? I think that there is something more to this mystery, and the angel Gabriel confirms so in the greeting he gives Mary in the Gospel of Luke. Depending on the translation you prefer, the angel exclaims ...

“Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women !”
Douay Rheims version, or

“Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!”
New King James version
Luke 1:28

The angel lets us know something about Mary is very unique, a reason for her being chosen as the Mother of the Incarnation. But more than that ...

... why does God bother to conceive Jesus in a Virgin's womb?

Mary, the Virgin Mother of the Savior, is the fulfillment of the prophecy in Isaiah, Micah, Genesis, etc., and both the Old Testament and New Testament portray her as a significant person whom both prophets and angels hail. Was Mary permitted to be the holy vessel filled with the Holy Spirit, containing the Word of God, in a manner not only suitable for transfusing to Jesus pure blood, but also made to be an earthly creature who would foreshadow what awaits us in Heavenly life? Could she indeed have been cleansed from sin before conceiving of Jesus?

Was Mary was a singular exception, that God could come dwell in Her before Jesus shed His Blood? Perhaps, in order to be a vessel without sin, She was not cleansed of it, but rather ...
... preserved from it?

What if she herself who conceived an immaculate birth of the Divine Son, was herself
immaculately conceived ?

Is it possible that God prevented Mary ever Virgin from sin? Are all things possible with God? Where does sin first begin? Does Jesus not say, it is not what enters a man, but what comes from within His heart? Do we know then, if Mary was infused with such grace – i.e. such free, undeserved and unearned gifts from God, that Her heart was entirely filled with His love, to prepare for the Son He so loves, this “dearly beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased,” Mathew 3 :

17, this Son whom He gave to the World which He so loves? John 3 : 16

Would Mary not then be the most overflowing creature of Love? Would that Love in Her be powerful enough to prevent Her from any sinful, wicked or evil thought? Would She have been given so much love, that much love was asked of Her, a love overflowing in Her that fulfilled on earth the 2 Great Commandments, to love God with all your being, understanding and strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself? Was Jesus, both God and Man, her object of love? Is there any stronger love on earth than that of a mother for her child?

If you have come this far in our meditative journey, in agreement that we have not arrived, yet desirous to know more, then let us consider, that Mary was immaculate conceived by virtue of her destiny as the Mother of God. Let us return to the original motive for our exploration. How might God prepare for us a heavenly body? Our hypothesis is that God will do so by giving us a Mother.

He gave us His Body in the same moment as He gave us His Mother, at Cavalry.

As such, we not only need, but should want, Mary to be Immaculately Conceived, because She is Our Mother, and we inherit from Her ... this gift of God. She's not only giving us back Jesus, Our Lord and Redeemer, and in some way, our own immaculate and heavenly body, but She is giving us Herself. Mary, the Immaculate Conception, born without sin, offered to us that we may become it.

Jesus tells Nicodemus, "unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Then at the Cross He bequeaths to His Father's children... a Mother. Jesus said to the disciple at the Cross,

"Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.
John 3 : 3 // John 19 : 26, 27

So back to our original question. What prevents a second fall once we arrive in Heaven ? Who is to say that once we are welcomed back into the Glory, into the Garden, we don't sin again? Because God will prevent us from sin, because we will have immaculate bodies, not just clothed with glory like Adam and Eve, but ... filled ... with Glory. We will be like our Mother, sinless in our body, filled with the Holy Spirit in our beings. It is not only the devil and temptation which have been defeated. It is that we are given new hearts, capable of receiving the Infinite and Eternal Love of God. We will be prevented from any sin ever again, with our divinely made hearts

overflowing with love. God tapped the rock in the desert to bring forth water.... Exodus 17 : 6 He will do the same with our stony hearts.

It could be then, that God is telling us that Mary is a virgin not only in body, but in her soul - a virgin mother, an undefiled soul, a vessel altogether fit to give birth to God, a pure and sinless Virgin.



Mary, Our Queen

What is the significance of the sword that pierced Mary's Heart? When was this prophecy of Simeon fulfilled, he who told Mary at the moment she was presenting Jesus to the temple,

"Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

Luke 2 : 34, 35

I believe the "where" this prophecy is fulfilled reveals the "when" - at Cavalry. The fact that Jesus' heart was pierced to ensure his death, in such a prophetic manner of Simeon's promise, makes me wonder that some, if not all, of this prophecy was fulfilled at the Cross. The question then presents itself - why, of all the people present there, did only Mary experience this ? This blood and water which gushed forth from His Divine Heart, the propitiation for our sins, testified to by John the Beloved, must have flown through Her Heart – is that what pierced Her Heart – God's Mercy ?

In the Book of Ezekiel, God reveals His Divine Will that will be accomplished through Jesus :

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God."

Ezekiel 36:26-28

Scripture is showing us that the heart and the spirit are intertwined, and because Mary, the Spouse of the Holy Spirit, receives a prophetic revelation that Her heart will one day be pierced, I have a strong suspicion that there is a connection between God's words in Ezekiel, Simeon's prophecy in the Gospel, and the piercing of Jesus' heart on the Cross.

How can a heart be pierced if it is of stone? Mary's heart was pierced, as was Her Son's heart, and just as they were united in the Incarnation of Jesus, they were united at His Death on Calvary. And so, I proclaim Mary not only as my Mother, but as my Queen. Not simply because biologically She is the mother of the King of the Universe, but because She gave birth to the King of Mercy and participated fully in His Act of Mercy performed at the Cross to save us.



Mary, Our Advocate

There is a fundamental concept of unity which Jesus preached most eloquently at the Last Supper.

"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one ..."

John 17 : 20-23

There is an inviolable law of unity in the Spirit. This does not negate our free will and our uniqueness of creation as individuals. We as humans experience this unity for nine months of our lives – in the womb of our Mother. In that place, during that time, we are absolutely one body, receiving from her our physical being. Our flesh is drawn from the very flesh of our Mother, our bones from her bones. Jesus too, received His Body from Her Body.

I sense that another hidden aspect of the necessity for the preservation of Mary's Virginity through her miraculous motherhood, is the fact that God's Nature did not change or diminish in any way as a result of Her pregnancy. God is saying, through Her Virginity, that the Holy Trinity IS, that the

great I am is 3, and that, moreover, the Holy Trinity in its threefold relationship within God was never broken through the Conception and Incarnation of the Son as Jesus, but was preserved through Mary. And via the Immaculate Conception that she was created to be, Mary did nothing to defile, corrupt, stain, pollute, break, or separate that relationship Jesus had with the Holy Spirit. God the Father communicated not only directly to His Son while He lived on earth, but to His Son through Mary, just as if it were the Holy Spirit relaying the message.

This contemplative journey has led me to wonder, what then happened to the Trinitarian bond while Jesus was in the grave?

When Jesus “died”, did separation occur in the Trinity’s Oneness? Did Jesus have to experience our own condemning separation in order to rescue us? If so, what then, preserved the Threefold Nature of the Divine Incarnation on earth while Jesus experienced death? Did Mary contribute to the preservation of unity between God in Heaven and God on earth? What role did She play during the 3 days of darkness? What is the significance of Mary’s act of faith, hope and love in God that brought Her to the Cross and beyond, much further than our Father in Faith, Abraham, displayed? Abraham knew God could resurrect Isaac from the dead, and so did Mary – what faith did She sustain that kept Jesus alive in Her heart? If She gave birth to Him physically, how did She participate in giving rebirth to Him? If that action was perfected in the Resurrection, through the Holy Spirit living in Her and She living in the Holy Spirit, can this ‘rebirth’ then be consideration that She is the Mother of all Resurrected Souls in the Spirit?

Does Mary then continue in Heaven to intercede for all souls on their journey to life in the Spirit, just as She would have done for Jesus during the 3 days He was in the grave? Is Mary then our Advocate, praying for us with a faith that surpasses every single person of the Bible ?

I believe the Gospel of Luke contains a very compelling clue for us to understand the role Mary plays for the Church. The passage of Scripture narrating the Wedding at Cana actually portrays two stars in this scene. Jesus, all-powerful God who has already succeeded at resisting the temptations of the devil in the desert, has returned to Galilee, and is enjoying the celebration of newlyweds at a wedding feast. He is made aware that the hosts have run out of wine, but remains silent. His Mother, probably sitting next to Him, looks towards the concerned couple and sees the anguish and embarrassment in their countenances. Such a trivial matter to bother Jesus, God Incarnate,

who has already spent 30 years living a quiet, hidden life in Nazareth. He might feel very concerned about picking the perfect time to announce that the Kingdom of God is at hand through the first miracle He will decide to perform. He must have discussed it with His Father, knowing each moment is precious. He could raise someone from the dead, for example.

But then He hears His mother whisper quietly to Him,

“Son....They have no wine.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Whatever He says to you, do it.”

Luke 2:3-5

Either we are not privy to the negotiation between Mary and Jesus, or, Mary simply supercedes Her Son’s Divine Will, and implements Her own decision knowing that She will move on the Heart of God for Her concern for the wedding couple. She is as much a star in this scene as God, and Mary displays not only the intercessory power that She possesses to sway the heart of Her Son, but She also appears to be an extension of the Holy Spirit to reveal, and command, the Will of God be done. “Whatever He says, do it”, is a direct order given not only to those who become in effect Her servant, but is an order given to Jesus as well to carry out His Will in the manner which suits Him.

She is thus revealed to be the Advocate of God’s Mercy. And because this scene, the first of God’s public miracles, reveals not only Jesus, but Mary, we should be amazed !

I can’t help but wonder if God is also telling us something about the parallel between the Wedding at Cana and the Last Supper. If wine becomes a sacramental source of Blood in the Communion Service, and Mary is shown to exert a considerable influence over Jesus in this wedding miracle consisting of wine, then perhaps She too has a role to play in dispensing of God’s Mercy. Perhaps She draws God’s Mercy to us when otherwise His Divine Will would have decided justice? They did not anticipate enough wine, and it is not the time for Jesus to do anything, so God must allow this to pass without intervening. How grateful I am that Mary is part of God’s team ! The Holy Trinity has shown itself so enamored with Mary that God loves to please Her.

And She loves to provide for us.

Mary has not only an influence with Her Son Jesus, She is also Advocate with the Holy Spirit, as displayed in her visit to her cousin, Elizabeth.

“Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.”

Luke 1 : 39-41

It wasn't until I came across the 2nd chapter of Joel that I realized how significant this scene is, for that Old Testament author explains that God will, afterward, “pour out His Spirit”, (Joel 2 : 27-31), and the modern reader can understand this to be the Helper which Jesus promises to send us when He ascends to Heaven.

But ... when Mary visits Elizabeth, Jesus is still in Her Womb ! And Mary didn't even lay hands on her cousin - Elizabeth simply heard Her voice ! The apostles would have to wait until after the Resurrection, after the Ascension, and gather in the Upper Room before the Holy Spirit would descend on them. Mary is shown to be then, a singular exception in all of history, even, of humanity, sanctified by God in a way that sets her apart from all of mankind.



Mary - Our Mother, Queen and Advocate

“And the two shall become one”, the Bible tells us.

“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”

Mathew 19 : 5,6

A child is the one, made through the two, sharing in the traits and characteristics of both in union of two. Through an act of Love, a child is born. Where there were two separate bodies Love created one. Mary gave Herself to Holy Spirit in Love, and the Two became one, Jesus. Then, She gave Herself to Jesus at the Cross, and our redeemed souls were reborn – begotten, not made, sharing the traits and characteristics of both. You are reborn of Spirit incarnate. The Immaculate Conception and the Holy Spirit have worked together to provide us Life eternal. Just like we were created through Jesus, we were reborn through Jesus.

“The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him...For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.”

Colossians 1 : 15, 16, 19

Without God our dead soul, living in this fallen world, was sentenced to eternal separation from God. But at Cavalry, we were invited back home to the Garden, back into the Glory of God, back into eternity, through the Passion of Jesus, whose heart was pierced so that we could enter the Holy of Holies, cleansed under a deluge of the Blood of the Lamb, made clean, white as snow, pure, as the day we were created, holy unto the Lord. The Prodigal son returns home just like the Son of Man, through the Heart of the Father.

To enter Heaven, we must first acknowledge our state of being – sinful. Then, accept that God alone can bring us back home, confessing our pride that we cannot fix this. We know in our heart that we were created for eternal union with God, and that life on earth is proof of separation from God –

“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

Mathew 27 : 46

We accept that God wants to give us life again, and that His Will is to give us rebirth through His Mother, and His Blood. And we allow Him, we trust Him, to take us to Heaven.

“Father into Your hands I commit My Spirit.”

Luke 23 : 46

Know that by believing in Him, God brings us back to the Father through Jesus, through His Passion, and that living with God in Heaven is our reward –

“Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Heaven”

Luke 23 : 43