

Valtorta Fruits

February 29, 2020

Our Lord Jesus Christ never expected his sheep to be, still less to pretend to be, great theologians, but he did expect them to have enough common sense to be able, in case of somebody or something confusing, to judge them by their fruits. "You will know them by their fruits"; Mt. VII, 15-20. Now the works of Maria Valtorta (bed-ridden Italian spinster, 1897-1961), especially her *Poem of the Man-God* (1943-1947), are highly controversial, with her defenders being as enthusiastic as her attackers are violent. Then what are her fruits? Here is a testimony received recently by the editor of these "Comments," adapted as usual for these "Comments";

*I would like to share with you my astonishment over the Poem of the Man-God by Maria Valtorta, following on my patient reading of all ten volumes, and after arguing with the books' editor and with writers who support Maria Valtorta. I had already heard you quoting in private this Italian mystic, but then the attack on the Poem by Fr. H. and its subsequent stigmatisation by the Society of St Pius X made me hang back for ten years before actually reading it. However, Providence finally put in my hands a copy of this highly detailed version of the Gospel, and of a biography of Maria Valtorta, both of which I read carefully, with pencil in hand to make notes. After five months of hard labour, I was surprised to find how orthodox the ten books are, and **how much good they did to my own soul and to all my family.***

There are Dominicans who condemn it. I find that unfortunate. Have they actually read it? I am made to feel as though it is taboo to talk about it in the open. I have also studied everything about how the work came into existence (it was approved by Pius XII), and I find unjust the way in which Traditionalists have put this noble victim soul

on trial and condemned her. I fear for her critics lest her revelations are truly from Our Lord, and are meant for our own times.

*The back issues of your "Comments" from 2011 and 2012 on the Poem, are a true consolation for someone like myself who feels as though he is committing a fault when he uses for his daily spiritual nourishment "The Gospel as it was revealed to me" (the Poem's alternative title). We have got hold of a variety of versions of this monumental Life of Jesus: not only the ten full volumes for adults, but also handsomely produced picture books for children from the age of eight years old, and a simplified version for 13-year olds. The result is that **the whole family is united in these luminous pages** on the Man-God and His relations with the world, with His Mother, and above all for our own times, with Judas Iscariot. His relations with the other eleven Apostles, the holy women and His enemies are equally edifying.*

To understand today's Passion of the Church, suffering and dying at the hands of her own ministers, it is particularly helpful to compare the modern character and liberal nature of Judas, traitor within the Church as he is portrayed in the Poem, with our own Conciliar churchmen, but also I would add with the sleepy liberal "Christian" inside each of us. For indeed the drama is playing out not only at the head of the Church but also in and through the families giving up the fight to live in accordance with the Gospel, exactly as it was revealed to Maria Valtorta. (Here ends the reader's testimony)

In conclusion, the *Poem of the Man-God* of Maria Valtorta is highly controversial, but it need not be. On the one hand it is not on a par with the four Gospels or with Holy Scripture, nor has it been declared authentic by the Church, nor is it necessary for salvation, nor is it to the taste of all serious Catholics. Nor is it claimed to be any of these things by any Catholic in his right mind. On the other hand, as with the Shroud of Turin or the Tilma of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the astonishing evidence for

the *Poem's* authenticity seems only to increase with the passage of time. It has put countless souls on the spiritual path of conversion or perfection, towards salvation. And it has been warmly recommended and approved by numbers of serious Catholics, including theologians and bishops. As Pius XII said about the *Poem*, "Let him that hath ears to hear, hear."

Kyrie eleison.