

Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021

SACRED WINDOWS

An invitation to gaze into heaven's stained glass windows
Beauty, Truth, and Goodness



Greetings!

Blessed Easter to you and your family!

On this sacred day, I turn my mind not only to Christ but also to **His angels** because the gospel stories indicate that angels were present at the Lord's empty tomb. It is my belief that they *witnessed* the very act of the Resurrection itself, something no human eye saw.

The gospel stories offer a riveting account of these angels and indicate that if we had a chance to meet a holy angel face to face, **we would probably faint - just like the soldiers did at the tomb!** In the Bible, many people who met angels did just that.

There is a good reason why humans react that way in the presence of angels. A holy angel is Beauty, Truth, and Goodness all rolled into one glorious spiritual being. **An angel is like a sacred window** through which human beings can peer into God's very life.

Angels are glorious because they are sinless. Like a clean pane of glass, they have nothing to inhibit the light of God's glory from shining through them.

Hence, people who meet them tend to faint (or fall down in terror) in their glorious presence.

Not divine

Beauty-Truth-Goodness are attributes of God that shine through His angels, but we must always be clear that **angels are *not* God**.

Angels are created beings, creatures, not God, gods, demi-gods, or divine beings in any sense. If you ever did meet an angel, he would tell you as much: *Keep your eyes on the One who alone deserves worship*.

John in the Book of Revelation made the mistake of falling down to worship an angel and was told to get up and worship the divine Lamb (Revelation 19:10, 22:9).

We don't worship angels, just as we don't worship saints. **We worship God alone**. Yet, God in His great mercy shares His Beauty-Truth-Goodness in some measure with all His creatures.

It's just that angels get the lion's share of His glory.



Human Projection

Angels, however, usually remain hidden in their works (in fact, face-to-face encounters with them are rare in the grand scheme of things). Because they are remote from our immediate experience, most human beings suffer from **two opposite attitudes** when relating to God's holy angels:

1. We attribute too many human characteristics to them; and
2. We want them to be *comfortable* creatures.

It's understandable that **the limited human mind would project human qualities** onto angels because, when they appear to humans, they usually do so disguised in human form. We have a *spiritual nature* in common with angels, yes, but not physical characteristics, which are not natural to angels.

On the other hand, the tendency to reduce angels to human categories **seriously warps our understanding of the angelic nature**, which is purely spiritual and more powerful than even the greatest human minds can possibly imagine.

Angels in Our Day

Angels didn't just appear to people in ancient times. They have borne messages to men in every age, and the modern era is no exception. When the Virgin Mary appeared to the three shepherd children in Fatima, **she prepared her visit by sending an angel ambassador**, who described himself as the "angel of peace" and later as the "angel of Portugal" (the children's homeland).

When this angel appeared to the children directly, he took on the appearance of a crystalline (semi-transparent, light-filled) figure who looked like a young man. His appearance was **just a mystical costume**, though, a recognizable form that kept the little ones from being too frightened of him.



His message was as crystal clear as his form: *worship Christ in the Eucharist!* To communicate this, he held up a host and a chalice before their eyes, and then he himself bowed down to worship Christ, while the chalice and host remained suspended in the air.

The second angel who appeared to the three children was only revealed by the oldest visionary, Sr. Lucia, years after the original apparitions. *This* angel was **an avenging angel**. She described him in these terms:

...an Angel with a flaming sword in his left hand; flashing, it gave out flames that looked as though they would set the world on fire; but they died out in contact with the splendor that Our Lady radiated towards him from her right hand: pointing to the earth with his right hand, the Angel cried out in a loud voice: 'Penance, Penance, Penance!'.

The first Fatima angel pointed to the goodness and mercy of God. **The second Fatima angel** pointed to the utter wickedness of man and the need of every human being to repent of their sins.

These were not angels you see on greeting cards.

Hallmark Card Angels

Despite that, the New Age movement, various sectarian groups, and many poorly-catechized Christians want angels to be human-sized servants who find parking spaces for us or bend all their efforts to make our daily lives more comfortable. Some people actually believe that angels are **chubby little babies in the clouds playing harps** and looking cute.

Society suffers from the Hallmark-ification of angels. Even our religious art is often saturated with sentimentalized images of angels. But we must be careful not to fall into these cultural traps.

The Fatima version of angels is much more accurate.

The Other Side of the Angel Coin

There's another reason why we need to be clear about the truth of angels: **some angels fell from heaven** and became the perverse spiritual beings we know as demons. According to the Book of

Revelation, the place to which they fell was not hell. *"But woe to you, earth and sea, for the Devil has come down to you in great fury"* (Revelation 12:12). Thrown out of heaven, we now have to deal with them here below.

And this is the main problem: demons lost the state of grace when they fell, but they didn't change their nature. **They still have immense intellects and powerful wills.** Those evil spiritual beings use all their angelic powers against us.

Perhaps that's why the Church does not call **the good spiritual beings** friend-angels, companion-angels, servant-angels, comfort-angels, or any other title like that.

They are called **guardian angels** because we need to be guarded from the other types of angels who wish to do us spiritual harm.

Our Feature Articles

On this *glorious* day of the Resurrection, the angels rejoice in heaven and the demons tremble in hell. **God broke the power of death by raising His Son from the dead, and the holy angels were there to witness it.**

Our first feature article, "Angels of the Resurrection and Their Dazzling Glory" is about the angels who were the first evangelizers of the Resurrection. They are truly glorious!

And since Easter is a day filled with joy, I've added a piece about the most glorious creatures of the natural world: **the little hummingbirds!** I hope the videos in the article bring a smile to your face.

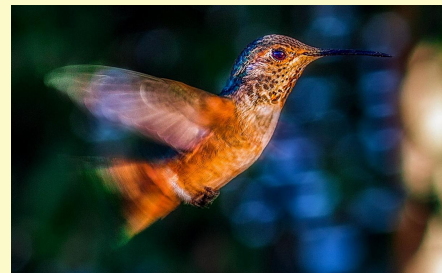
If there is any creature on earth that could possibly resemble an angel, it has to be the colorful, amazing, fearless little hummingbird. Enjoy!

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Angels of the Resurrection and Their Dazzling Glory



The Hummingbird Whisperer



Easter blessings to all!

Peter Darcy

PS – Please continue the work of evangelizing through Beauty-Truth-Goodness by forwarding this email newsletter to friends and family.

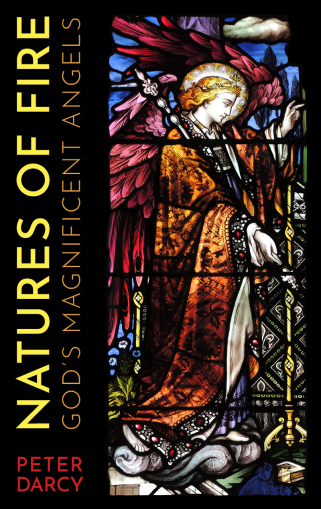
Natures of Fire: God's Magnificent Angels

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