

The Holy One

THE MYSTERY of God's Being is that He is The Holy One, 'a tremendous mystery and fascinating', a *Mysterium tremendum et fascinans*.

We do **not** deal here with the 'Mystery within the Mystery', the Mystery of the Blessed Trinity, nor of God's moral holiness, i.e. His Goodwill (God is love).

God, The Holy One is 'entirely other than' His creatures, 'wholly other'.

Why is God called The Holy One?

God is called The Holy One because there is only One God, a Mystery, Awesome and Wondrous.

Catholic Family Catechism Apostles' Edition II n. 16

Who is the Creator of everything?

God is the Creator of everything, for He made all things from nothing: He is THE HOLY ONE, a Mystery Awesome and Wondrous, the Supreme Being, the Supreme Spirit, All-knowing, All-loving, Almighty and Eternal.

Catholic Family Catechism Disciples' Edition II n. 2

HOLY FEAR — The Fear of the Lord

HOLY FEAR is man's response in an experience of The Holy One, at being in God's presence. It is the Sense of the Sacred, of Awe and Wonder, that is, fear with fascination or enchantment.

At Confirmations, with hands held out over the candidates, the Bishop asks for them the spirit of the Fear of the Lord, the Holy Fear, "the spirit of WONDER AND AWE in your presence."

Mere **servile fear** (that love casts out, 1 John 4:18), lacks the solemn joy, wonder and fascination of the **Holy Fear**.

A **THEOPHANY** is a meeting with God face to face, seeing God and receiving His revelation. The theophany of Our Lord to the Wise Men unfolds further in His Baptism and at Cana. The liturgy uses a kindred word, **Epiphany**, 'a manifestation', for all three events.

HOLY FEAR in the Biblical Theophanies

Jacob's Dream

Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place; and I did not know it." And he was afraid, and said, "How terrible is this place! This is none other than the House of God and the Gate of Heaven."
Genesis 28:16-17.

Moses at the Burning Bush

And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush; and he looked, and lo, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed...

When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here am I." Then He said, "Do not come near; put off your shoes from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground"...

Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO AM." And He said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'HE WHO IS has sent me to you.'"

Some translations have "I am who I am" and "I Am" has sent me to you. *Exodus 3:2,4,5,13,14.*

Moses after receiving the Ten Commandments

And Moses said to the people, "**Do not fear**; for God has come to prove you, and **that the fear of Him** may be before your eyes, that you may not sin." *Exodus 20:20.*

Our Lady at Annunciation and Visitation

And the angel said to her, "**Do not be afraid**, Mary, for you have found favour with God" ... And Mary said, "His mercy is on those who **fear Him** from generation to generation. *Luke 1:30,50; cf. Psalm 118[117]:4,6.*

Apostles at the Transfiguration

As the men [Moses & Elijah] were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is **good for us** to be here; let us make three tabernacles, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah" ... As he said this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were **afraid** as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My Son, My Chosen; listen to Him!" *Luke 9:33-35; cf. Moses; also Elijah in 1 Kings 19:7-13.*

Sharing in the Holiness of The Holy One

...but as He Who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."
1 Peter 1:15-16, quoting Leviticus 19:2 etc

FICTION: The Wind in the Willows

In Chapter 7, "The Piper at the Gates of Dawn," of Kenneth Grahame's animal fable, the characters Mole and Rat encounter God, Who is depicted as Pan, a pagan myth. It encapsulates both features of The Holy Fear in the Biblical theophanies:

"This is the place of my song-dream, the place the music played to me," whispered the Rat, as if in a trance. "Here, in this holy place, here if anywhere, surely we shall find Him!"

Then suddenly the Mole felt a great Awe fall upon him, an awe that turned his muscles to water, bowed his head, and rooted his feet to the ground. It was no panic terror — indeed, he felt wonderfully at peace and happy — but it was an awe that smote and held him and, without seeing, he knew it could only mean that some august Presence was very, very near...

"Rat!" he found breath to whisper, shaking. "Are you afraid?"

"Afraid?" murmured the Rat, his eyes shining with unutterable love. "Afraid! Of *Him*. O, never, never! And yet — and yet — O, Mole, I am afraid!"

'Afraid and not afraid', the apparent contradiction of Holy Fear.

HOLY FEAR, The Sense of the Sacred at Mass

The removal of tabernacles from sanctuaries weakens the faithful's awareness of the Real Presence of Jesus Christ, as does the reduction or abolition of genuflections. A parish church is a shrine of the Blessed Sacrament. Emmanuel's abiding presence does not detract from the renewal of His Sacrifice at the consecration; both are The Mystery of Faith.

The Old Rite of the Latin Mass sometimes seems a better expression of The Sacred. God's holiness is manifested by the priest's orientation at the altar, his gracious movements and gestures, silences, sacral words (even when unchanted), male servers, vestments, incense, bells, kneeling for Communion.

Benediction, too, strongly conveys the sense of the sacred. The *Novus Ordo* in Latin or in its newly translated English can and must achieve the same, that is, foster Holy Fear:

...the liturgy must favour the sense of the sacred and make it shine forth. It must be permeated by the spirit of reverence, adoration and the glory of God.

Final Report, 1985 Extraordinary Synod, St Paul Edition p. 34.

A creature in revolt — **The Evil One** — who said, “I will not serve”

GOOD AND BAD ANGELS

Who are angels? (N.B. Angels are persons.)

**Angels are spirit creatures
whom God made to adore Him in Heaven
but Lucifer and other angels rebelled
and BECAME SATAN and devils in Hell.**

Catholic Family Catechism Disciples' Edition II n. 4

THE DEVIL'S TRADE IS TREACHERY

Satan is a Master Spy. He likes to remain unknown, unrecognized, ignored or even better, declared a fantasy.

Flannery's popular first edition of *The Documents of Vatican II and Post-Conciliar Documents* has an entry in the Index under Satan saying, “see Devil” — but there is no entry under Devil!

Espionage: Satan spies on our actions and infers our secret thoughts, **looking for chinks** in our armoury of virtues. His agents are other fallen angels (demons) and sinners:

But because of false brethren secretly brought in, who slipped in to **spy out our freedom** in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage... Galatians 2:4.

Sabotage: Satan's aim is to destroy God's grace and virtues in our immortal souls:

He was a murderer from the beginning. John 8:44.

Subversion: Satan is a wily serpent (Apocalypse 12:9) who ‘moves right to go left’; he is the master of deceit:

The coming of the lawless one by the activity of Satan will be with all power and with pretended signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are to perish, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10.; cf. Matthew 24:24.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

2851 In this petition [“Deliver us from Evil” — ‘Evil’ has a capital letter in the Latin, French and Italian editions], **evil is not an abstraction, but refers to a person, Satan, the Evil One, the angel who opposes God.** The devil (*dia-bolos*) is the one who “throws himself across” God's plan and his work of salvation accomplished in Christ.

2852 “A murderer from the beginning... a liar and the father of lies,” Satan is “the deceiver of the whole world.” Through him sin and death entered the world and by his definitive defeat all creation will be “freed from the corruption of sin and death.” Now “we know that anyone born of God does not sin, but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him. We know that we are of God, and the whole world is in the power of the evil one.”

The Lord who has taken away your sin and pardoned your faults also protects you and keeps you from the wiles of your adversary the devil, so that the enemy, who is accustomed to leading into sin, may not surprise you. One who entrusts himself to God does not dread the devil. “If God is for us, who is against us?” (St Ambrose)

The scripture quotes are from John 8:44; 1 John 5:18-19.

FURTHER TEXTS in *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

- Devil: 391, 1707, 2851
- Satan: 414, 538, 540, 566, 1086, 1237, 2113, 2116, 2119, 2388, 2852, 2864.

SCRIPTURE

I will put **enmity between thee and the Woman**, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head and you shall bruise His heel.

Genesis 3:15, 20; in new Vulgate, “he” not “she”.

The life of man on earth is a warfare.

Job (Douai) 7:1; 14:14. Our spiritual warfare is fighting against selfishness, sin and Satan, and all his works and empty show.

Our weapons are not worldly.

2 Corinthians 10:4; 1 Peter 2:11; see also Matthew 4:1-11; 25:31ff.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” James 4:7.

Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking some one to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experience of suffering is required of your brotherhood throughout the world. 1 Peter 5:8-9.

See also *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis.

FANTASY — *The Silmarillion* by J.R.R. Tolkien

The lies of Melchor, mighty and accursed, Morgoth Bauglir, power of terror and of hate, are a seed that does not die and cannot be destroyed, but continues to bear evil fruit even unto the latest days.

Melchor reminds us of Lucifer, and Morgoth when he became Satan

BEWARE of the DEMYTHOLOGIZERS

Some theologians have reduced vital Catholic teachings to myths or fiction, without reality but with a moral:

- the Devil
- Guardian Angels, and angels generally
- The self-knowledge of Christ
- The miracles of Christ (or reduced to ‘psychosomatic’)
- The Resurrection of Christ from the dead
- The Virginal Conception of Christ
- The soul of Christ and all human souls
- The authenticity of the Scriptures.

Some breakaways from Christianity have even demythologized God — “God is a story, made up to make us good.” Such is Jung, an atheist psychiatrist of the Viennese school, whose name is linked with Freud and Adler. Jung was happy for people to have a religion because it seemed to do them good, even though it was untrue... a placebo!

PRAYERS AGAINST THE DEVIL

OUR FATHER, HAIL MARY; *Onward, Christian Soldiers*, etc.

VISIT, we beseech Thee, O Lord, this dwelling, and drive far from it all the snares of the Enemy; may Thy holy angels, who keep us in peace, dwell here, and may Thy blessing be upon us always, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Night Prayer (Compline) on Solemnities (but not Sundays).

BLESSED MICHAEL, the Archangel, defend us in the hour of battle;

be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the Devil — may God restrain him, we humbly pray — and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast Satan down to hell, and with him, all the other evil spirits who wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.