

# The Story of Fatima

A Play

In Honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Apparitions

## Characters

Narrator

Lucia, a nine-year-old peasant girl

Francisco, her eight-year-old cousin

Jacinta, his six-year-old sister

Angel, the guardian of Portugal

Lady, Queen of Heaven, appearing as Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima

Narrator: In a small mountain village in Portugal at the beginning of the twentieth century, there lived three little children, a brother and sister, Francisco and Jacinta, and their cousin, Lucia.

They did not know it, but at the time of the events of this story, the world was involved in a war which claimed the lives of 37 million people, and Russia was on the verge of a revolution that would spell the end for many millions more.

Portugal itself was in the middle of political upheaval, and the government no longer supported the deeply-rooted Catholic faith of its people.

Scene: Outside a small village, with several sheep

Lucia: Hey! Francisco! Jacinta! Wait for me! I'm coming with our sheep, too!

Francisco: Lucia! You managed to get out of the house today? Good! We can play while the sheep graze.

Jacinta: (singsong) Lu-cia, Lu-cia, what are we going to play today? I want to be the princess! You can be the washerwoman! Ha Ha! (she dances around, laughing)

Lucia: Come on, you two! Race you to my father's land!

(Children run)

Francisco: (out of breath) I beat you both! You're so slow a snail could pass you!

Jacinta: (spinning around, her face upward) I'm the princess! Bow to me! Bow to me! (stops spinning and holds out hands, palms up) Oh no! It's starting to rain. My princess dress is going to get wet. (pouts)

Lucia: I'm going to find a rock to get under, so I don't have to get wet. C'mon!

(Children run)

Francisco: (panting) I like this rock. Surrounded by all the olive trees. Where's lunch? I'm hungry!

Jacinta: I have it! But first we have to pray the rosary. Mama said so.

Francisco: But I'm hungry!

Lucia: I know a way we can do it! Like this! Just say, "Hail Mary, Hail Mary, Hail Mary" ten times and then say "Our Father." The decades fly!

Jacinta: (giggling) I know Mama wouldn't like that!

(Children pray their abbreviated rosary and eat lunch)

Jacinta: The sun is out! Let's go back to your father's land, Lucia.

Lucia: Let's stay here! My godfather owns this olive grove, so we can stay here.

Jacinta: I don't waaaant to! I want to go ba-

Francisco: Listen to that wind! Look at the olive trees bending!

Lucia: Where did that wind come from? The weather cleared up! Heaven help us!

Narrator: At that moment, the children, staring at the trees stirred in a loud and fierce wind, saw a glowing object coming toward them over the top of the olive trees. Instantly, a tall young man stood in front of them.

Angel: Do not be afraid. I am the angel of peace. Pray with me.

(Angel bows his head to the ground and the children do the same.)

Angel: My God, I believe, I adore, I hope, and I love You. I ask pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope, and do not love You.

Narrator: (while children and angel are praying in the background) The angel prayed this prayer three times, and the children bowed with him, worshipping God. When they were done, the angel rose and spoke.

Angel: Pray in this way. The hearts of Jesus and Mary are ready to listen to you.

Narrator: With that, the angel disappeared, leaving the children wrapped in a profound silence that they did not even break to speak to each other.

(Children sit in silence, wide eyes upward)

A few months later outside the village:

Jacinta: Throw the ball, Francisco! Throw the –

Angel: What are you doing? You must pray! Pray! The hearts of Jesus and Mary have merciful designs for you. You must offer your prayers and sacrifices to God, the Most High.

Francisco: What is he saying? I can see him, but I can't hear! What is he saying?

Lucia: How are we to sacrifice?

Angel: In every way you can offer sacrifice to God in reparation for the sins by which He is offended, and in supplication for sinners. In this way you will bring peace to our country, for I am its guardian angel, the Angel of Portugal. Above all, bear and accept with patience the sufferings God will send you.

(Angel disappears, and the three children stand silent, eyes heavenward.)

Later that year, in the Cova de Iria:

Lucia: Now that we're here, let's pray before we do anything else.

(Children kneel and prostrate the way the angel taught them. They pray 'My God, I believe, I adore, I hope...')

Narrator: By now, the children were serious about their prayer. There were no more short cuts, and no more joking around. They repeated the words of the angel over and over. Suddenly, they were startled by a strange light shining around them. (Children look around and then up) Above them, with a chalice in his hands, stood the angel. Above, floating in the air, was a host, dripping blood into the chalice. The angel left the chalice floating in the air and knelt down beside the children.

Angel: Children, repeat this prayer with me three times: Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore You profoundly, and I offer You the Most Precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifferences by which He is offended. And by the infinite merits of His most Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg the conversion of poor sinners.

(The angel stands and gives the host to Lucia and the contents of the chalice to Francisco and Jacinta.)

Angel: Eat and drink the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ terribly outraged by the ingratitude of men. Offer reparation for their sakes and console God.

(Angel bows to the ground and repeats the prayer three more times. The children join him.)

Narrator: After giving Holy Communion to the children, the angel bowed and prayed the same prayer three more times. Then, he disappeared, leaving the children to continue the prayer in the supernatural atmosphere. They didn't know it, but the angel was preparing them for something momentous about to occur.

Eight months later, outside the village:

Jacinta: Just think! Lucia is ten, I'm seven, and poor Francisco has to wait until June before he can turn nine!

Francisco: Be quiet, Jacinta! I can still run faster than you!

Lucia: It's so pretty out today. Let's go all the way to the Cova de Iria.

Francisco: I could run all the way there!

Jacinta: Father would teach you a lesson for scaring the sheep with all your running!

(Arriving at the Cova)

Francisco: Let's eat! I'm starving!

Lucia: Rosary, first!

Francisco: (rolling his eyes) Fine! Hail Mary, Hail Mary, Hail Mary, Our Father. There. I'm done. Where's the food.

Jacinta: Ooo! That's lightning! And now thunder! Let's go down! Get the sheep!

Narrator: As the children herded the sheep in front of them down the hill toward the road, another flash of lightning flew out of the sky and settled on a Holm oak tree as they passed. In the light was a beautiful woman, so radiant that they stood in her light as they stopped short, astonished.

Lady: Please don't be afraid of me, I'm not going to harm you.

Lucia: Where are you from?

Lady: I come from heaven.

Narrator: The woman wore a pure white mantle, edged with gold that fell to her feet. In her hands, she clasped a shining rosary with a brilliant crucifix. The children felt peace and joy in her presence.

Lucia: And what do you want of me?

Lady: I want you to return here on the thirteenth of each month for the next six months, and at the very same hour. Later I shall tell you who I am, and what it is that I most desire. And I shall return here yet a seventh time.

Lucia: And shall I go to heaven?

Lady: Yes, you will.

Lucia: And Jacinta?

Lady: She will, too.

Lucia: And Francisco?

Lady: Francisco, too, my dear, but he will first have many Rosaries to say.

Lucia: Is my friend Maria, who just died, in heaven?

Lady: Yes, she is.

Lucia: And Amelia?

Lady: She is in purgatory. Will you offer yourselves to God, and bear all the sufferings He sends you? Will you do it in atonement for all the sins that offend Him? And for the conversion of sinners?

Lucia: Oh, we will! We will!

Lady: Then you will have a great deal to suffer, but the grace of God will be with you and will strengthen you.

Narrator: As the lady said these words, she opened her hands and the children were bathed in a heavenly light that seemed to come from her palms. Somehow, they knew this light was God, and it shone right through them. All three fell to their knees and began to pray.

Children (on knees): Oh, Holy Trinity, we adore You. My God, my God, I love You in the Blessed Sacrament!

Narrator: The children prayed in the marvelous light for some time. Then the lady spoke again.

Lady: Say the Rosary every day, to bring peace to the world and an end to the war.

Narrator: The children did not know about World War I occurring at that moment in Europe. They simply watched as the Lady, wrapped in her light, began to rise and move to the east, up and up until her light seemed to push aside the stars, and then was gone. They prayed in silence for some time.

Lucia: Jacinta! Francisco! Don't say a word about any of this, do you hear? Not to anyone!

Francisco: (shrugging) Alright.

Jacinta: (dancing) I won't tell a soul, Lucia, not a soul! Oh my! Did you ever see anything like that? She was so beautiful, and so happy, and so loving! Oh! I just want to dance! And she is coming back to see us next month! Come on, Francisco! I know I can run faster than you, now!

Narrator: Seven-year-old Jacinta did tell. Her mother thought she was lying. So did most of their relatives. Only her father, who did not practice his faith, believed that his children were truthful.

The Lady appeared as promised for the next six months. In between apparitions, the children experienced persecution from their families, their neighbors, and even their parish priest who was concerned the apparitions might be demonic.

During her visits, the Lady told the children to pray the rosary every day and taught the children prayers to be said after the rosary. She showed them many sights, including a vision of hell. She also entrusted to them three secrets, which they did not tell in spite of intense pressure to do so. The leaders of the region, who were not friends of the Catholic Church became concerned when more and more people gathered to witness the apparitions.

The Lady promised to come in October with Jesus and Joseph and do a miracle to inspire the faith of all believers.

October 13, 1917 at the Holm oak:

Jacinta: Oh, Lucia! Look at all the people! Thousands and thousands! Even more than last time!

Lucia: I'm glad the rain stopped. It's been raining for two days!

Francisco: But the sky is still covered with dark clouds. You can barely see the sun. And all the carts are still getting stuck in the mud.

Narrator: When the sun reached its highest point in the sky, the Lady appeared.

Lucia: What do you want of me?

Lady: I want a chapel built here in my honor. I want you to continue saying the Rosary every day. The war will end soon, and the soldiers will return to their homes.

Lucia: Yes. Yes. Will you tell me your name?

Lady: I am the Lady of the Rosary.



Lucia: I have many petitions from many people. Will you grant them?

Lady: Some I shall grant, and others I must deny. People must amend their lives and ask pardon for their sins. They must not offend our Lord any more, for He is already too much offended!

Lucia: And is that all you have to ask?

Lady: There is nothing more.

Narrator: With that, the Lady opened her palms and made a gesture that sent the dark clouds away. The ground instantly became dry, and the sun appeared like a spinning silver disc.

Lucia: After Our Lady disappeared, St. Joseph appeared, holding the Christ Child. They made the sign of the cross over the world, blessing it.

Narrator: Then the sun began to dance. The miracle of the trembling, gyrating sun, the light of many colors, and the sensation of witnessing a supernatural event made a lasting impression on most of the 70,000 witnesses. As Our Lady promised, her sign strengthened the faith of the believers.

Francisco: The apparitions of Our Lady changed me. I spent as much time as I could in the church praying to the Hidden Jesus. As Our Lady promised, I contracted influenza two years after her last visit and went to heaven a few months before my eleventh birthday.

Jacinta: Our Lady's promise came true for me, too. Unlike Lucia, who was 97 when she went to heaven in 2005, I was a month shy of my tenth birthday when I went to live forever with God.

Lucia: I went on to be a Carmelite nun, where I took the name Sister Maria Lucia of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart. I returned several times to the beautiful basilica that was built at Fatima, including once for the ceremony of the beatification of my little cousins, Francisco and Jacinta.

All: Pray the rosary! Make sacrifices for souls! Do not offend Our Lord, he has been offended enough. Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us!

Source: <https://www.ewtn.com/fatima/apparitions.asp>

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