

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary 2021

There is a beautiful story about a fruit seller. He supplied fruits to the Royal court. One day the King had a special guest. He ordered mangoes to be supplied for the dinner. Since the season of Mangoes was over there was none to be picked from anywhere. After a long struggle he managed to get hold of a few. But they could not be presented to the royal court as they were partially damaged. Fear of punishment had overtaken him. He managed to get an audience to the queen. Falling at her feet and placing the damaged mangoes he begged for mercy. The queen was compassionate. She took the mangoes from him and asked him to go in peace.

The queen was at the table to serve the guest. She placed the mangoes in a golden plate and set before the king and the guest. Everyone was well pleased with it and the king rewarded the fruit seller.

Today, the feast of the Assumption of Our Lady, assures us that we have a queen to present our cause before God in a way acceptable to him.

The origin of the Catholic belief in the Assumption of Mary goes back to many centuries. The Feast represents a Catholic Doctrine that was defined by Pope Pius XII on November 1, 1950. The proclamation of the Church states that, revealed by God, the Immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into Heavenly glory. This glorification is simply the result of the singularly heroic and complete surrender to the Will of God.

We have to appreciate her extraordinary life, vocation, commitment and sufferings. Her Immaculate Conception was the beginning of her heroic life, and her assumption was the end. But the road in between was the way of the cross. At every step she said, “Yes” to God. She said “Yes” at the annunciation, submitting to God’s plans as the “handmaid of the Lord”, when in spite of the words of the angel, so many things about her future remained unclear. She said “Yes” again at Bethlehem, when Jesus was born in the midst of so much poverty. She said “Yes” when she was told to flee with the child to Egypt. She said “Yes” to God at Nazareth for thirty years, when she experienced many anxious moments. She said “Yes” to her loneliness when Jesus left her. She said “Yes” to God when she heard about the opposition that Jesus received from the Religious leaders. She said “Yes” to God when she stood at the foot of the cross. Her life was a perfect submission to the plan of God.

The Assumption is a day on which to focus ourselves anew on our final goal, and our final hope of glory. It is an assurance that one day we too will stand up there with Mary with the moon beneath our feet, clothed with the sun and the stars as the crown on our heads. To achieve this goal our Mother invites us to joyfully submit to God's plan; to grow always more conscious of our lowliness; to put our complete trust in God; and to respond to God through service to our neighbor.

As Mary proclaimed in the gospel, the Lord had done great things for her. And this marvelous deed of taking her up to heaven body and soul was her reward of giving herself totally to Him. Yes, God will only take what we give to Him willingly. And if we are willing, God will also want to take us up to heaven where we will join Mary to glorify Him.

So, let us follow Mary and offer ourselves body and soul to serve the Lord here on earth, and the Lord will fulfill His promise of taking us up to heaven and receive us into His kingdom.