

## THE SEVENTH FLOWER: WITNESS, MARTYRDOM

“It is all well and good for an individual to state his beliefs or for a missionary to preach. But unless this is part of the wider mission to the world of the Body of the Risen Lord, that is, of the faithful united as the Church, with Christ Himself as her Head, this will lead to the cult of a mere personality.”<sup>1</sup>

I am ready to serve your tables. I am ready to be your servant, O my Lord, even though you came and made me a son of your Father. The prayers, the Axios of the assembly and the laying-on of hands have healed me. The laying-on of the apostles' hands is in your name, an extension of your ministry of healing and your healings were performed for the outer and the inner parts of my persona. Henceforth is the healings' action of your apostles. Their hands, even though their shadow,<sup>2</sup> made many signs in your name. It is as when you laid your hand on the daughter of the synagogue's ruler<sup>3</sup> and when the bleeding woman touched the fringe of your garment.<sup>4</sup>

This action has cured my inner schism between my desires to follow you as a worker in your field and my want toward the fulfillment of this desire. This action has set me apart for a special ministry. At first glance, this ministry seemed to be less important, comparable to the ministry of the apostles, but I decided to heed your call and to step forward to become one of your servants.

So you granted me O Lord the sixth flower, the flower of service. This flower has spread its aroma far beyond my expectation and it exceeded the purpose for the “setting apart” because it is an unlimited power. Its source is the origin of all creation, the Triune God. This fragrance has drawn to the faith many people who listened and saw the many signs and great wonders<sup>5</sup> but at the same time, unfortunately, it generated jealousy and hatred and led me to the pit of tribulation and temptation, testing my worthiness.

The laying-on of the hands has given me the same gifts that were bestowed and engulfed the apostleship ministry: the gifts of “courage,”<sup>6</sup> “power, healing,”<sup>7</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> *Fear Not*, Fr. Cyrille Argenti, (Alexander Press, Montreal, 2006), p. 286.

<sup>2</sup> Acts 5:15.

<sup>3</sup> Matthew 9: 18 & 25.

<sup>4</sup> Matthew 9: 20.

<sup>5</sup> Acts 6: 8.

<sup>6</sup> Acts 7: 2 (St. Stephen's defense).

“endurance,”<sup>8</sup> “discernment”<sup>9</sup> and service. The Holy Spirit did not restrict His power on me, but instead, He gave me all what He bestowed on the apostles and even more. Now, it is up to me; either I use these gifts to the maximum of my ability and capacity or I limit myself and cover the light under the bush.

Your gifts gave the apostles the ability to do signs in your name greater than your signs. And these gifts continued to bloom with time, to flourish a new flower, the flower of witness, the flower of martyrdom for the glory of your name.

Your unconditional and compassionate love has created a mutual love, a reciprocal love. You left your comfort zone and you sought me to have an intimate relationship with me, and in my turn, O my Lord, as a witness to this love, as a person who experienced your mercy and your grace. I am ready to leave my comfort zone and offer myself as a sacrifice, as thanksgiving, praising your name.

My witness is a confirmation of my faith, love and hope. My life should be an imitation of your life; whatever I do is nothing comparable to what you have done for me. You reopened the gate of salvation and I came into communion with you.

This seventh flower is the sword’s edge and can represent becoming a hypocrite or a believer. It is the flower that proves true faith. It is real action, true movement towards salvation. All the previous flowers were gifts that shaped my persona; I received the fruit of courage, power, healing of self and others, endurance, discernment and service, the “setting apart”. But the real test is when I am confronted to deny my Leader, my Creator, my God. Here is where my life in Christ will begin.

---

<sup>7</sup> Acts 6: 8.

<sup>8</sup> Acts 6: 11 & 7: 54 (Steven’s martyrdom)

<sup>9</sup> Acts 7: 59-60.