



## *The Word Is Like...*

### **A Mine or Treasure Chest**

*The Word is like a mine containing in its depths gold and silver in great abundance*, and like a mine which at greater and greater depths conceals stones more and more precious; these mines are opened in the measure of person's understanding of the Word (*True Christian Religion* 245).

*The Word in its literal sense is like a treasure chest, where precious stones, pearls and diadems lie in order*. The thoughts of a person's mind who regards the Word as holy and reads it for the sake of the uses of life, may be compared to one holding such a casket in his hand, and throwing it toward heaven; and the casket opening in its ascent, the precious things in it are disclosed to the angels, who are deeply delighted in seeing and examining them. This delight of the angels is communicated to the person, and effects an affiliation and a sharing of perceptions (*True Christian Religion* 238).

### **Fruit**

*The Word is like fruit* within which there is a nutritious pulp, and in the middle of it seed vessels, in which inmosty is a living germ that germinates in good soil (*Apocalypse Explained* 1072:3).

### **A Garden**

*The Word is like a garden*, which may be called the heavenly paradise, containing dainties and delights of every kind. The dainties are composed of fruits, the delights of flowers, and in their midst are the trees of life growing hard by springs of living water; and the garden is surrounded by woodland trees. A person who through doctrine has possession of Divine truths is in the middle of this garden, where the trees of life are, and in fact he enjoys the dainties and delights. A person whose knowledge of truths is not from doctrine, but only drawn from the literal sense, is on the circumference and sees only the woodland (*True Christian Religion* 259).

### **A Well**

*The literal sense of the Word is like a well with water in it*, in that every single thing in the Word holds within itself the internal sense (see the *Doctrine of the Sacred Scripture* 42).

## **A Most Beautiful Infant**

*The Word is also like a most beautiful infant*, which, except the face, is enveloped in wrappings upon wrappings; the infant itself is in the inmost heaven, the wrappings are in the lower heavens, and the general covering of the wrappings is on the earth. As the Word is such it is holy and Divine from inmosts to the externals (*Apocalypse Explained* 1072:3).

## **The Light of the Sun**

The Divine truth, in the spiritual sense of the Word, is like *the light of the sun by day*; and the Divine truth in the natural sense of the Word, is like the light of the moon and stars by night. The spiritual sense of the Word also flows into its natural sense as the sun does with its light into the moon, which gives forth the light of the sun in a mediate manner. In the same way does the spiritual sense of the Word enlighten people.... Everyone is enlightened according to the spiritual affection of truth and good, and at the same time according to genuine truths, by which he has opened his rational faculty (*Apocalypse Revealed* 414:2).

## **A Divine Man**

*The Word is like a Divine man*; the literal sense is as it were his body, but the internal sense is as it were his soul; which shows that the literal sense has life through the internal sense. It appears as if the literal sense vanishes or dies through the internal sense; but on the contrary it does not vanish, still less dies; but through the internal sense it lives (*Arcana Coelestia* 8943).

## **The Body and the Soul**

*The relationship of these two senses of the Word is like that of the body and the soul*—the literal sense being like the body, the internal sense like the soul. Just as the body lives by means of the soul so does the literal sense by means of the internal sense. By way of the internal sense the Lord's life flows into the letter according to the affection of the person reading it. This shows how holy the Word is (*Arcana Coelestia* 2311).

## **A Man Whose Hands and Face Are Bare**

The doctrine of genuine truth can also be drawn in full from the sense of the letter of the Word, because in this sense *the Word is like a man clothed whose face and hands are bare*. All things that concern man's life, and consequently his salvation, are bare; but the rest are clothed. In many places also where they are clothed they shine through their clothing, like a face through a thin veil of silk. The truths of the Word also appear and shine through their clothing more and more clearly in proportion as they are multiplied by a love for them, and are ranged in order by this love (*Doctrine of the Sacred Scripture* 55).

## **A Cloud and the Glory**

*The sense of the letter of the Word is like a cloud, and the spiritual sense is the glory*, the Lord Himself being the sun from which the light comes (*True Christian Religion* 780).