



A SAINTLY SUMMER **PART III**

ST. HILDEGARD OF BINGEN

FR. BEN BERINTI, C.PP.S.



**“You
understand so
little of what is
around you
because you do
not use what is
within you.”**

Scivias 1.2.29

HILDEGARD OF BINGEN




**THE HOLY SPIRIT AS
GRACE & WISDOM**

THE HOLY SPIRIT AS CARITAS (GRACE/WORLD SOUL)

Oh children of humanity, why have you corrupted tender Love, who gazes far into my depths and flows forth in works abounding? Because She flows within me, from Her in turn flow the living waters. She resembles a budding branch, for, as a virgin's embraces are most tender because of her integrity, even so Love's embraces are more tender than those of any other. But now She mourns, because audacious men tear her to pieces with their evil grumbling. Hence, She flees from them to that height whence She came, and weeps because Her children, whom She suckled at Her fertile breasts, fall sick and will not be cleansed from the corruption of their flighty minds.

O wretched humanity! Why do they take on themselves the misery of alienation and exile, tearing themselves away... She is always ready... Yet they separate themselves from the Bride, whence they are darkened and shadowed by clouds as if they had ruptured heaven.

- *St. Hildegard von Bingen trans. B. Newman (mod.)*

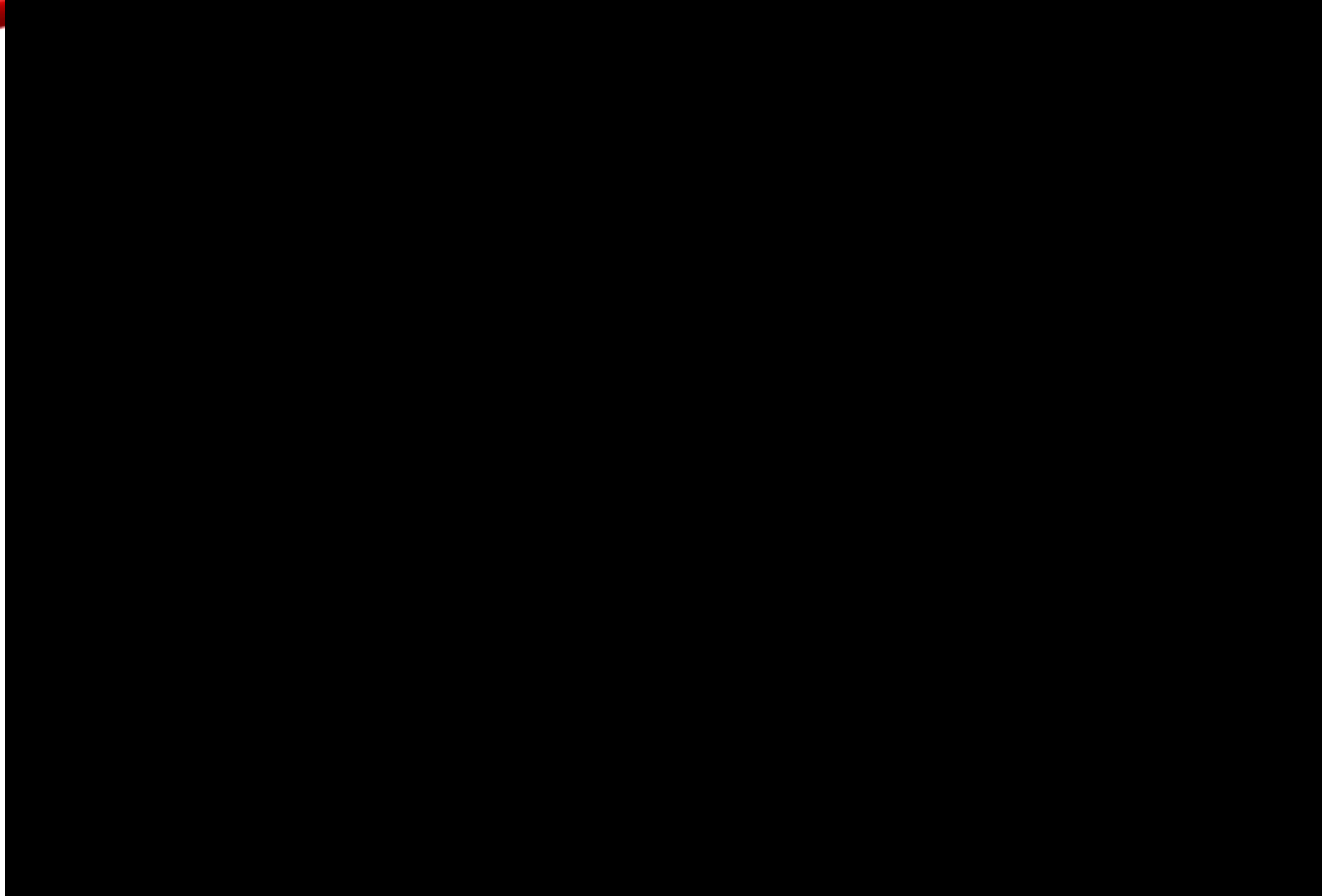



I am the Supreme and Fiery Force who kindles every living spark....As I circled the whirling sphere with my upper wings (that is, with Wisdom), rightly I ordained it. And I am the fiery life of the Divine essence: I flame above the beauty of the fields; I shine in the waters; I burn in the sun, the moon, and the stars. And, with the airy wind, I quicken all things vitally by an unseen, all-sustaining life. For the air is alive in the verdure and the flowers; the waters flow as if they lived; the sun too lives in its light; and when the moon wanes it is rekindled by the light of the sun, as if it lived anew. Even the stars glisten in their light as if alive.

THE HOLY SPIRIT AS WISDOM: SCIENTIA DEI (KNOWLEDGE OF GOD)

She is Divine Wisdom. She watches over all people and all things in heaven and on earth, being of such radiance and brightness that, for the measureless splendor that shines in Her, you cannot gaze on Her face or on the garments She wears. For She is awesome in terror as the Thunderer's lightening, and gentle in goodness as the sunshine. Hence, in Her terror and Her gentleness, She is incomprehensible to mortals, because of the dread radiance of divinity in Her face and the brightness that dwells in Her as the robe of Her beauty. She is like the Sun, which none can contemplate in its blazing face or in the glorious garment of its rays. For She is with all and in all, and of beauty so great in Her mystery that no one could know how sweetly She bears with people, and with what unfathomable mercy She spares them.

“O VIRTUS SAPIENTIAE”





I am Wisdom. Mine is the blast of the resounding Word through which all creation came to be, and I quickened all things with my breath so that not one of them is mortal in its kind; for I am Life. Indeed I am Life, whole and undivided -- not hewn from any stone, or budded from branches, or rooted in virile strength; but all that lives has its root in Me. For Wisdom is the root whose blossom is the resounding Word....

I flame above the beauty of the fields to signify the earth -- the matter from which humanity was made. I shine in the waters to indicate the soul, for, as water suffuses the whole earth, the soul pervades the whole body. I burn in the sun and the moon to denote Wisdom, and the stars are the innumerable words of Wisdom.



From my early childhood, before my bones, nerves, and veins were fully strengthened, I have always seen this vision in my soul, even to the present time, when I am more than seventy years old. ...The light that I see thus is not spatial, but it is far, far brighter than a cloud that carries the sun. . . . and I call it “the reflection of the living Light”. . . and I see, hear, and know all at once, and as if in an instant I learn what I know. But what I do not see, I do not know, for I am not educated, but I have simply been taught how to read. And what I write is what I see and hear in the vision. . . . And the words in this vision are not like words uttered by the mouth of man, but like a shimmering flame, or a cloud floating in a clear sky.

— HILDEGARD OF BINGEN
letter to Guibert of Gembloux (1175)¹

HILDEGARD OF BINGEN



ILLUMINATIONS

DRAWN FROM *SCIVIAS* & *LIBER
DIVINORUM OPERUM*

"Humanity, take a good look at yourself. Inside, you've got heaven and earth, and all of creation. You're a world—everything is hidden in you."

"Trust shows the way."

"A person who lacks the verdancy of justice is dry, totally without tender goodness, totally without illuminating virtue."

"Even in a world that's being shipwrecked, remain brave and strong."

"The fire has its flame and praises God. The wind blows the flame and praises God. In the voice we hear the word which praises God. And the word, when heard, praises God. So all of creation is a song of praise to God."

"The soul is not in the body; the body is in the soul."



"Glance at the sun. See the moon and the stars. Gaze at the beauty of earth's greenings. Now, think. What delight God gives to humankind with all these things. All nature is at the disposal of humankind. We are to work with it. For without we cannot survive."

"The earth which sustains humanity must not be injured. It must not be destroyed!"

"Holy Wisdom, Soaring Power, encompass us with wings unfurled, and carry us, encircling all, above, below, and through the world."

"All living creatures are sparks from the radiation of God's brilliance, emerging from God like the rays of the sun."

"Love abounds in all things, excels from the depths to beyond the stars, is lovingly disposed to all things. She has given the king on high the kiss of peace."

"Like billowing clouds, Like the incessant gurgle of the brook
The longing of the spirit can never be stilled."



“Cerevisiam Bibat! ([drink beer for health](#))”

“The truly holy person welcomes all that is earthly.”

“We shall awaken from our dullness and rise vigorously toward justice. If we fall in love with creation deeper and deeper, we will respond to its endangerment with passion.”

“Underneath all the texts, all the sacred psalms and canticles, these watery varieties of sounds and silences, terrifying, mysterious, whirling and sometimes gestating and gentle must somehow be felt in the pulse, ebb, and flow of the music that sings in me. My new song must float like a feather on the breath of God.”

“A human being is a vessel that God has built for himself and filled with his inspiration so that his works are perfected in it.”



"Our souls should be like a transparent crystal through which God can be perceived."

"Now in the people that were meant to be green there is no more life of any kind. There is only shriveled barrenness. The winds are burdened by the utterly awful stink of evil, selfish goings-on. Thunderstorms menace. The air belches out the filthy uncleanness of the peoples."

"Divinity is aimed at humanity. Every creature is a glittering, glistening mirror of Divinity."

"Every element has a sound, an original sound from the order of God; all those sounds unite like the harmony from harps and zithers."

"The soul is a breath of living spirit, that with excellent sensitivity, permeates the entire body to give it life. Just so, the breath of the air makes the earth fruitful. Thus the air is the soul of the earth, moistening it, greening it."

"Everything that is in the heavens, on earth, and under the earth is penetrated with connectedness, penetrated with relatedness."



“The earth is at the same time mother, She is mother of all that is natural, mother of all that is human. She is mother of all, for contained in her are the seeds of all. The earth of human kind contains all moistness, all verdancy, all germinating power. It is in so many ways fruitful. All creation comes from it. Yet it forms not only the basic raw material for humankind, but also the substance of the incarnation of God’s son.”

“We shall awaken from our dullness and rise vigorously toward justice. If we fall in love with creation deeper and deeper, we will respond to its endangerment with passion.”

“Good People, most royal greening verdancy, rooted in the sun, you shine with radiant light.”



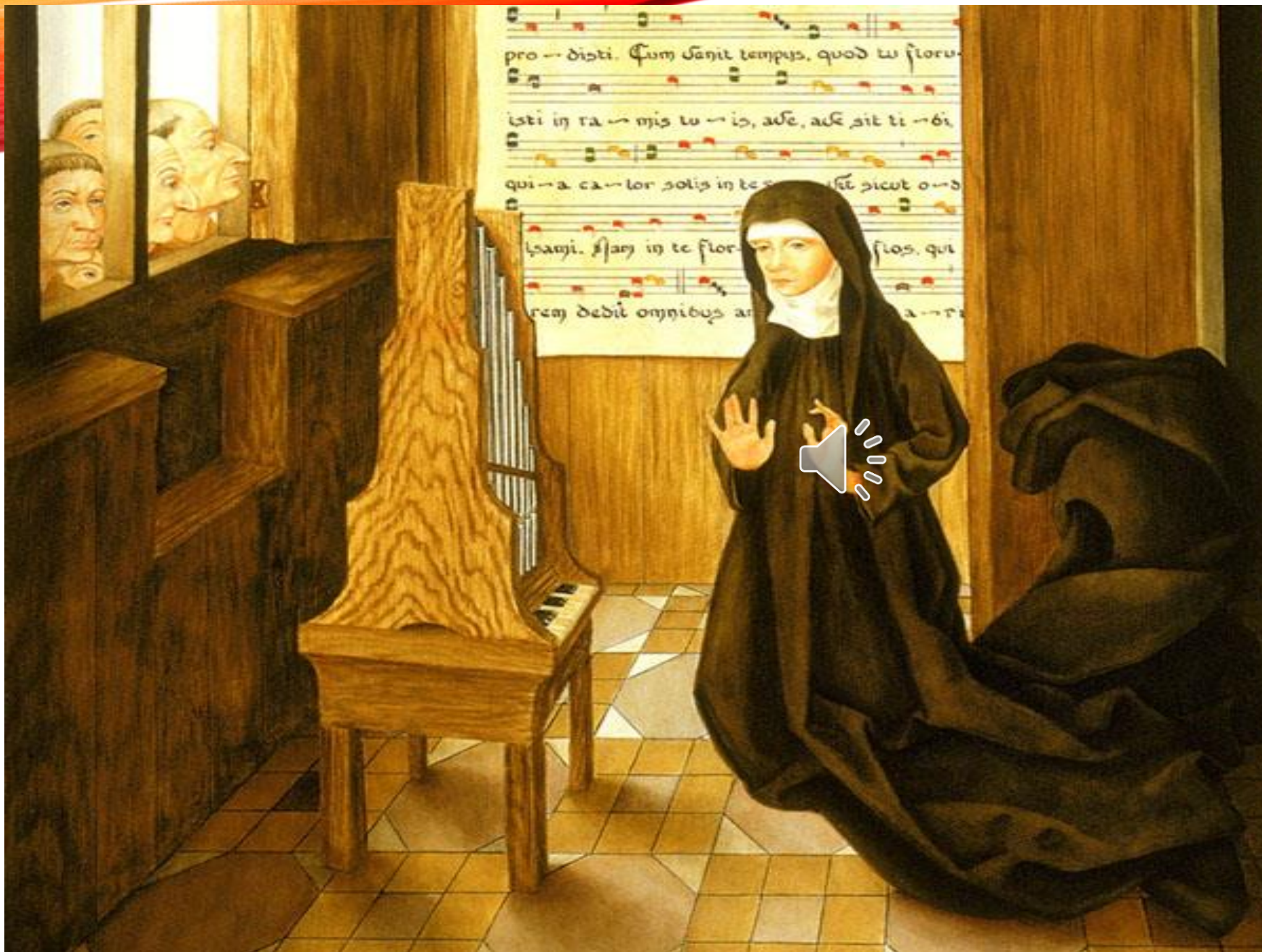
“When the words come, they are merely empty shells without the music. They live as they are sung, for the words are the body and the music the spirit

“All the arts serving human desires and needs are derived from the breath that God sent into the human body.”

“Every element has a sound, an original sound from the order of God; all those sounds unite like the harmony from harps and zithers

“Sometimes when we hear a song we breathe deeply and sigh. This reminds the prophet that the soul arises from heavenly harmony. In thinking about this, he was aware that the soul itself has something in itself of this music...”





“O Rubor Sanguinis”