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# LIVING WATER

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"CALL UNTO ME, AND I WILL ANSWER THEE, AND SHEW THEE GREAT AND MIGHTY THINGS, WHICH THOU KNOWEST NOT."—Jer. 33:3

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## Another Friend of God, Henry Suso

By Henrietta Matson

The heart panteth after the waters  
 The dying for life that departs—  
 The Lord in His glory, for sinners,  
 For the love of rebellious hearts,  
 Call back all the days of the ages,  
 All snow-flakes come down from above,  
 All flowers of summers departed  
 But think not to measure His love.

Behold Him, O soul, where He told it,  
 Pale, bleeding, and bearing thy sin;  
 He knocking, saith, "Open beloved,  
 I pray thee to let Me come in,  
 Behold I have borne all the judgment;  
 Thy sins, O beloved, are gone;  
 Forgotten, forgotten forever,  
 God seeketh, but findeth not one.

Behold with what labor I won thee,  
 Behold in My hands and My feet  
 The tale of my measureless sorrow—  
 Of love that made sorrow sweet,  
 A flax-thread in oceans of fire,  
 How soon swallowed up it would be!  
 Yet sooner in oceans of mercy  
 The sinner that cometh to Me.

—Henry Suso.

Amongst the "friends of God" known to Dr. Tauler was Henry Suso, a poet and a minstrel. He wrote many choice and beautiful hymns, pouring out his love to Christ, or telling of His great love for us, in the sweetest strains. It is said of him that he had a tender sympathy, not with men alone, but with all the small creatures that God has made; and his poetic nature was early manifest in his rapturous delight in the sights and sounds of the beautiful earth around him. The gladness of the spring-time, the crimson morning light upon the snowy Alps, the swift rushing of the Rhine, and the deep blue shadows on the lake near his father's home, all caused him intense delight. But though so alive to the beauty which God had so richly strewn around him, and to human love, his heart was dead to God. As he grew to manhood his mind was ill at ease, but it seemed to him if God would only keep him from outward sin that would bring him to ill repute, it mattered not how many little sins he allowed himself.

Sometimes he thought he would fight against all temptations and give his heart to God, but the evil one said "Count the cost, it is easy to begin but hard to hold out," and so though weary and hungry at heart, he went on in sin. From the age of thirteen he was in a Dominican convent, where he was being educated to be a monk. When he had been

there five years, and was then eighteen years of age, he one day, went into the Chapel alone, seeking after God, and suddenly a light and glory filled his soul, and he saw and heard in his innermost heart, that which no tongue can tell, for he had come into the presence of the living God. All the things that he had desired were now passed away from him and had become as nothing. He was lost in joy and love and rest of soul. Whether it were day or night he knew not, for he had tasted of the sweetness of eternal life. When he came to himself, he seemed to have

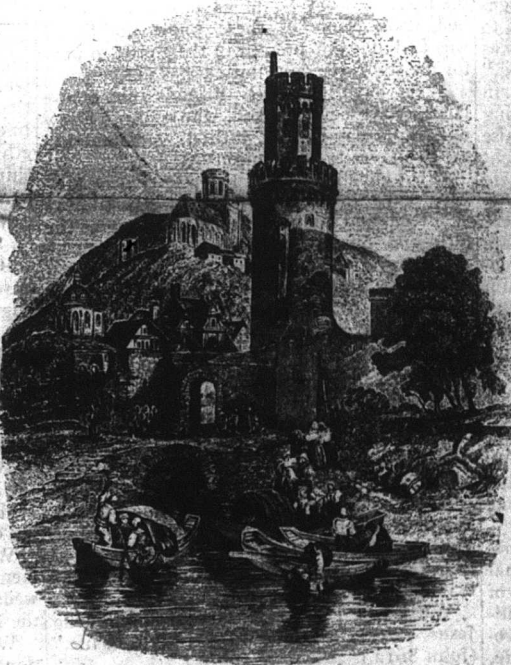
it is as though the enemy of souls had cast his black wing over it, to hide and if possible forever darken the heavenly sunlight which had beautified it. The evil teaching and the corruption of the Romish Church which prevailed, dimmed the light within this soul that so truly and really loved the Lord. He had the idea that only a life of suffering and self-torture was seemly for those who were following Christ, rather than ease and comfort. And so he began to "mix for himself bitter cups of Myrrh," instead of waiting for any bitter cup the Lord was pleased to give him.

For twenty-two years he gave himself up to self-inflicted pain and torment. So great was the folly and ignorance and sin which clouded over the blessed teaching of the Spirit, keeping him constantly employed in devising means of suffering for himself, when he might have been telling forth the love of Him who died for him, and magnifying the name of Him whom his soul really loved.

But God did not leave His servant to wander on in his own inventions, He showed him a more excellent way. He showed him that all his outside penances and tortures, proceeded from his own mind while he was as unwilling as ever to bear the contradiction of his will that came from other men. "If thou hast to submit to another, thou wilt go out of thy way. If thou art praised it gives thee joy; if thou art reproached it gives thee pain." Then followed temptations to an easy life and comfort and enjoyment, but God was faithful in dealing with His servant, and taught him, Himself, and graciously showed him what the life that is hid with Christ truly means, and that it was Satan who would drive him from one extreme to the other in the self-life.

He saw that he had been looking to himself, to his works and penances rather than to Christ for the victory which alone comes through faith in the love of God.

About this time the Lord led His servant to Nicholas of Basle, to Dr. Tauler and others of the "Friends of God," who opened up the deep truths of God to him more perfectly. He became associated with them and was used mightily in bringing many souls from the power of Satan. Many of his sermons which are left on record have enriched and



A CASTLE ON THE RHINE

come from another world, and from that moment heaven had indeed entered his heart. He had entered the secret place, where Christ became the Beloved of his soul, and from whence flow the hidden springs, which water the garden of the Lord.

"Above all joy, beyond all beauty is He who is the gladness and the fair Presence in my heart for with Him joy ever follows me—all things are mine in Him and He is mine."

But this beautiful picture of Christ revealed in a human soul, is crossed by a dark shadow—