

## THE AMAZING LIFE - STORY OF THERESA NEUMANN (1)

**[Editorial Note:** Modern Science was born about four centuries back. Observation, experiment, inference, logic and mathematics were its main tools. It created an egoistic illusion that the human intellect was a superior product of evolution and was capable of understanding, mastering and even conquering all the laws and secrets of Nature. The illusion reached its climax during the last decade of the 19th century.

But the cracks started appearing right from the Christmas week of the last century and during the following decades, the illusion crumbled to pieces. Nature was not that simple and layers of mysteries cropped up. Today there is no exaggeration in the statement that the much boasted human scientific intellect has not understood, and is not capable of understanding even a speck of dust. Physicists do not understand matter; biologists do not know what Life is. Psychologists have failed to delve into the mysteries of the mind.

But the great illusion of the 19th century still clings to many. It is the devil's instrument to lure the humans away from God. Although numerous events occur which defy all sciences and all "common sense", they just close their eyes. They do not want to disturb their illusion. In doing so they even defy the same intellect on which they so relishly rely.

Here is the real story of a series of miracles, which occurred in the 64 years long life of a Christian saint, **Theresa Neuman. Not that she was somebody from the remote past. She was born in 1898 and died in 1962.** She was a witness to the two major dramas of the devil, the two world wars. One Dr. Buchinger, with his proverbial German thoroughness, investigated the miracles of Therese's life, when his prima facie view that all this was "pure fable" was astoundingly upturned. These are his words in the book he wrote at the end of his investigation:

**"All honour to our Science and its methods, but here something is at work which defies rational explanation. So it seems to me. In this case, we must evidently leave the solid ground of our science and enter the realm of parapsychology, mystery and magic .....**

The name of the book is "Wirkliches and Wirkendes". (The Real and the Workable.) What a title!

A pleasant warning, as you start reading; Dosu Baba has written this real life story with such fervor and devotion that your eyes may get moistened and your heart may beat a little faster. May this be a shower of devotion for you. **As Therese loved her Jesus, may you love your Zarathushtra!**

The main sources of the story are "**The Circle of Faith**" by **Dr. Marcus Bach** (Hawthorn, N.Y.), "as fresh "as a breeze and as honest as sunlight" - as Boston Post described it; and "**Miracles**" by **D Scott Rego** (Dial Press N.Y. also Contemporary Books Inc. Chicago - 1982), an excellent account of the miracles of the Christian world: Levitation, Stigmata, Bilocation, Divine Images, Manifestations of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Miraculous healings etc. - **Editor]**

It was March the 10th 1918. A fire broke out in Konnersreuth, a small village in Bavaria, located close to the Czech boarder. The flames originated from a home and were threatening to grip the whole village. The simple villagers frantically formed a bucket brigade. A sturdy and simple looking girl or 20 years was a link in the chain of the villagers passing buckets from one hand to the other. She was standing on a chair and passed the pails of water to a man on a ladder. The heat was intense and there were frenzied cried of "hurry, hurry". In her extreme anxiety and eagerness to help, she became hysterical. Suddenly her arms became stiff and she reeled and fell headlong to the ground.

She was taken to her home and remained for weeks in a state of shock, with severe head wounds. And thus began the numerous journeys, from home-bed to hospital of **Therese Neumann**, the eldest of the eleven

children of a village tailor and farmer. After the accident, she could never stand for long without a sense of falling. Once she fell down the cellar stairs, another time from a ladder. Her home to hospital errands were spread over a period of 7 years and 40 days and during that period not only the head wounds and the falls but all kinds of ailments came on her, including blindness, paralysis and almost death.

As Therese was lying in bed, blind and invalid, she thought "Why did You put the idea in my heart, when I was a healthy child, to become Your servant, a missionary in Africa, Oh Jesus!" Jesus was her Love. She belonged to Him and He to her. "And why is man so cruel and beastly? How was it possible for the children of God to become so easily the servants of the devil?" The thoughts came to her from the death and destruction she had witnessed as a teenager during the world war-I. "Was my Jesus once more being led to the Cross?"

And some time before her severe accident, she was tried to be criminally molested by an assailant, whom, although she could beat off the incident, left a wound in her heart. A physician said, "Fixed in her mind was the deep seated belief that sex, as well as war, made beasts of men. From this time on, her affection turned completely to Jesus, who alone among men, was perfect and pure".

But Therese's ailments-ordeal was the beginning of a plethora of unbelievable miracles, which stayed with her till her death in 1962.

It all began when one day somebody just told Therese, as she was lying in bed, about a young student of priesthood, who had to leave the seminary because of a throat ailment. This upset Therese's heart. "Why oh Jesus, one who wanted to serve You had to leave Your service?"

You should do something about him..... But **why should He alone take on Himself the sufferings of all of us, the mortals? Why should I not serve Him by taking up on myself at least a small part of the agonies of others?** As it is I am an invalid; a little more pain won't make any difference. Let me serve You, my Jesus, that way ..... Let the pain of that young man; may be given away to me....." And Lord Jesus granted her prayers!

Therese's throat began to be afflicted and the young priest's, improved! After a time, he was fully cured and returned to his church school. The whole disease was transferred to Therese. Her voice was almost gone. One more illness was added to the already formidable list.

But it was not to be just one more. Lord Jesus went on granting her prayer whenever she wanted to take over on herself the pains of others! She "took over" her father's rheumatism; the stomach ailment of a farm woman; a hospital patient's fever; a soldier's wounds; even a mother's delivery pains! The blind 'transferred' their blindness to her. The lame came on crutches to her and walked out of Neumann home without them. 'ill?' "Give it to Therese" - became almost a jest.

What are you doing, oh Lord, to this girl? Her friends wondered. For seven long years You make her suffer! You are the Son of God; You have His power and His Kingdom within You. But she? So frail and fragile and infirm! In such severe pains, all from head to toe, seven minutes feel like seven years. Why, Oh Lord!

But the ways of the Lord are beyond the domain of human babbles. He had something else in His 'mind'. Seven years and forty days passed since the accident of 10th March 1918. **On 29th April 1925, Therese's blindness suddenly vanished! Her sight came back. "It came back to me like a wonderful light" she said.**

Had the day, 29th April 1925, any special significance for Therese? Yes, it had. On that day, Pope Pius XI declared one Therese of Lisieux (1873-1897), a young French nun a Saint. She had died at the youthful age of 24, about a year before Therese Neumann was born. But she had great attraction for the French saint, who was a model for her. "She knew what it is to love Jesus", Neumann Therese used to say about the French Therese. Exactly on the day she was declared a saint, Lord Jesus filled Therese Neumann's eyes with His divine Light! "I wanted to be like her" she used to say. **"When she was dying and was asked what she was saying in her prayers, she said, 'Nothing. I love Him'".**

The sight had returned at the moment the French Saint was canonised! (This has been checked and verified). Her sister ran to Father Naber, the Parish priest. He came running. "Tell me Resl, how did this happen?" He asked. (Resl was Therese's home name).

"I saw Holy Maria", she said.

"Did you hear a voice?" Father Naber asked.

"Yes. It said, you have taken the sickness of others and have patiently carried your own. The Blessed Master wills that you should see'. Then when I thanked the vision, it said 'Therese, would you not also like to walk again?'"

"What did you say to that?," the Father asked.

"I said, 'To walk or not to walk to lie here or not to lie here-it doesn't matter. **Whatever He wants me to do, that is good enough for me**".

**In her next vision, Lord Jesus appeared before her!** Whenever she talked about this, her eyes twinkled with intense devotion; she clasped her hands in ecstasy.

"What shall I say? Soon I was sitting on the side of the bed. I knew I could walk again. But all that is physical. Think of what happened in my heart! I saw Him! I heard Him speak!! What more does a person want than that? What more is there to live for than that?"

Are you not moved, my dear reader? **That is the way we should love our Asho Zarathushtra.**

If you are acquainted with Ilm-e-Khshnoom and other Mysticisms, you will see how all the "Keyshah" i.e. Karmic wheels of Therese were turned very fast through pain and suffering. She finished her bad Karma through sheer Love and Devotion to her Jesus and was now ordained to give a divine message to the humans of this Godless century who in their Satanic ego, greed and lust have brought the Mother-earth and God's creation on it to near extinction. **There is God and there IS Jesus and there is Mother Mary. And Love DOES work; and Devotion is the way towards God; and selflessness is His light on the way. And if the human being knows all this, it can through its selfless thoughts and deeds and God's truth and words on his tongue, instill bliss and ecstasy into the Soul of the Mother Earth. THAT is the message of Gatha 28-1:**

"Vanghaheyoosh Khratoom Mananghaho, Yaa Khshjneyvishaa Geushchaa Urvaaneym"

And Ahoonvad Gatha is the channel of the Christian Faith, the 'Jeerum' of the Saoshyant Lord Jesus Christ, and that is why the three 'Magi's from the East went to bless Him!..... A few days after the miraculous 29th April 1925, Therese's left foot, which was decayed from lack of movements, regenerated new skin. This happened when somebody brought to her rose leaves from Saint Therese's grave and they were placed under her bandages.

On 17th May 1925, the formal procedures of the Church to canonise St. Therese were completed - 18 days after the first declaration of the Pope on 29th April. On that day-the 17th May - **Therese Neumann's paralysis disappeared.** On September 10, the death anniversary of the Saint. Therese recovered fully, left her sick bed ..... and proceeded to give further messages to the God-starved humanity through her fresh miracles.        ...

### THE THIRD TERESA EXPLAINS

**"Suffering - pain, humiliation, sickness and failure - is but a kiss of Jesus .....**

**Suffering is a gift of God, a gift that makes us most Christlike.**

**People must not accept suffering as a punishment". - Mother Teresa in "Words to Love" (Ava Maria Press Notre Dame, Indian - 1983 p.64)**

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## **A LIFE – FULL OF MIRACLES**

**- THERESE NEUMANN**

### **"MY LORD'S AGONY IS MY AGONY" - "STIGMATA"**

#### **35 YEARS WITHOUT FOOD AND DRINK !!**

[ **The story so far:** Therese Neumann was born in 1898 in Konnersreuth, a small Bavarian village. At the age of 20, she had a serious accident while helping the villagers to fight a fire. She remained bed ridden for 7 years, with shock, paralysis, and all kinds of ailments. While in bed she "took over" the sufferings of others and relieved them of their agonies! By the end of seven years, she was a living heap of all kinds of pain and diseases. Suddenly on 29th April 1925, she saw Holy Maria standing before her and her blindness vanished. That was the day on which one other saint, Therese of Lisieux (who had died before Theresa Neumann was born) was declared a saint by Pope Pius XI. That French Therese was the model Saint for our German Therese.

On 17th May 1925, Therese's paralysis disappeared and on September 10, the death anniversary of the French Saint, she recovered fully. Now further .....]

To have the pain and ailments of others transferred to her own body, and after 7 years of acute suffering to be cured completely through the visions of virgin Mary and Lord Jesus is enough pointer that miracles do occur and non-saintly intellect has a limit. But the Forces Divine are well aware of the human fault of running away from the truth. They therefore continued to work on Therese for a further period of 36 long years.

It was the near evening time on a memorable Friday of 1926- few weeks before Easter. Therese was in her room thinking, as she did every moment, of her Divine Love, Lord Jesus. Suddenly she found a vision entering her consciousness. It was Her Lord Jesus going through his last physical journey towards the Cross .... Nails were being forged in His hands..... As he knelt on the great rock, the sharp spear was thrust in His side. In her consciousness, Therese was herself feeling the same bouts of pain the Lord was undergoing, and at the thrust of the spear, she felt she was also bleeding. But it was not a delusion. She instinctively placed her hand at the spot and drew it back. **Her fingers were red with fresh blood.** She thought she was dying. **"I am pierced as He was and I shall go to Him"**. She lay with closed eyes, waiting "to go to Him". The bleeding was continuing ..... for several hours. But she did not feel weak. On the contrary, the pain and throbbing in her head and ears had vanished.

"I was thinking only of Him, and that leaves no time for thought of self", she explained to Marcus Bach. ("The Circle of Faith" - Hawthorn (N.Y.) (1956) - page 32).

Such an Yogic explanation!

The event repeated on the next Friday..... and the next and the next.....In the Holy Week of Christ's Passion, she felt in her consciousness the whole chain of events leading to Lord Jesus's crucifixion, as if she herself was living every moment of the horribly unbearable bouts of pain. His arrest, trial, condemnation, His being turned over to the mob, His march with the heavy Cross on His shoulders towards the final spot, His stopping for breath, the ships and nails through His hands and feet - all was actually felt and undergone by Therese herself all along together with Her Holy Lord.

On the Good Friday of 1926, the wounds appeared on her right and left hands. **They "remained open for two weeks. Then a new skin began to form, covering the sores with a thin tissue. On many Fridays throughout the years the scars would open and bleed, and on each Good Friday they were accompanied by the marks of the nails in the feet, an occasional bleeding on the wounded side and, several times, by the marks of the thorns on Therese's head. Tears and blood usually streamed from her eyes just before the final agony".** (Marcus Bach - *ibid* p. 33).

In Christian Mysticism, the word "Passion" is used for the sufferings of Christ from the last supper to His death on the Cross. It has been made the subject matter of numerous paintings by great master artists of all centuries after Him. In Loretto Chapel at Santa-Fe New Mexico, U.S.A., there are 14 marble statues showing the successive stages of the last journey of Lord Jesus - a uniquely spiritual experience to behold. "Christ dying on the Cross" is a great event of profound spiritual and "mystical significance, affecting every soul born and to be born as Christian on this earth. Faramroze Chiniwalla has treated this subject on p. 548 of his First "Nikeez", while expounding the tavil of Yazashney Ha 19 passage 18, ("Kaya Ratvo.....) and the line in Patet Pashemani - "Pa Kheshiye Yazdan Dar Hom..... Dadan Bedeham". (Kardeh 1.....).

The miraculous phenomenon of the intense devotees of Lord Jesus Christ suffering the Passion in their own bodies and developing the scars and wounds at the same or similar places as had appeared on the Lord's Holy Body, is called "Stigmata". Therese Neumann's was not the only case on stigmata. One Dr. A. Imbert-Gourbeyre a French Physician and authority on the subject has traced 312 cases of stigmata from the beginning of Christianity to the end of the 19th century. The figure is disputed - often as being on the lower side. About 60 stigmatists have been beatified or canonised as Saints by the official Church. All attempts "to explain away" the phenomena as psychological or psychiatric or psycho somatic have failed. They defy "the science" and "common sense" of man. They declare the arrival of the non-saintly human intellect before the mystical barrier and proclaim its inability to penetrate the barrier. They, however, do establish the existence of the barrier and direct the non-saintly human to strive to penetrate it by following the path of whichever Daena the human is born into. The science and common sense are the offsprings of human experience only on this side of the intellectual barrier. What is beyond it, is beyond the mind of common non-saintly man. The rejection of this Truth, simple and profound at the same time, has led our present day humanity to what it is today - a drugged state of selfishness and Godlessness, requiring to inject in their lives the famous 12 steps of Alcoholic Anonymous and Narcotic Anonymous.

To go back to the life-story of our Saint, the stigmata of Therese drew crowds of people to her home in the village. Most of them were simple minded faithful devotees of the Lord. They actually saw the agonies of their Lord reflected in the pains of Therese and they cried. They felt that the blood oozing from her hands and toes and their own tears were washing away their sins, their infirmities, their faults of the flesh. Their tears of devotion had awakened their Lord in their hearts. The springs of divine love were finding their way through the eyes. "This is our Lord who washed our sins through His own Blood....."

But it was not only the tearful eyes that looked at her. Other highbrow eyes of pompous scepticism and cynicism, doubts and disbelief, also arrived-eyes of the doctors - and psychologists and investigators, with red flashes of defying ego. Humbug, nonsense, swindle, fraud, buffoonery ..... (English language is very rich in such words). But before they could 'prove' "the fraud" of this "psychopathic woman", another miracle sprang up.

### ***Therese Neumann gave up eating and drinking !!***

Soon after the stigmata appeared in 1926, she drank only a small cup of tea daily. That did not attract much attention. But one day in 1927 a vision again appeared before her saying that she no longer needed any earthly food or drink. **From, 1927 till her death in 1962 she did not eat anything, she did not drink anything!**

Professors and Doctors were flabbergasted. One Dr. Otto Buchinger arrived in Konnersreuth with his team to expose "the pure fable" with his scientific equipment. After a thorough German fashion investigation, the learned Doctor wrote a book "Wirkliches and Wirkendes" (The Real and the Workable), in which he declared without any hesitation that this was no fraud. Here was something which defied the modern science. The phenomena and the miracles were inexplicable by any so called rational thinking. Some mysticism was at work here. How can a human being seemingly in mortal flesh stop eating and drinking? How can a simple woman actually physically suffer the same agony as Lord Jesus suffered on the Cross? And develop the same scene in her own person and body?

Even the church had sent three nurses to find out the truth or otherwise of the miracle of "inedia" (the ability to survive without food and drink). She was kept under the closest -watch, even when she was bathing, to ensure she is not gulping down any water! When she rinsed her mouth, the water taken in and thrown out

was measured, to find whether any water was swallowed. There was no escape. Miracle went on happening. (This checking by the Church was done from 14-7-1927 to 28-7-1927.)

The only thing Therese put on her tongue was the sacred Wafer, which the Church Priest offered during communion ( a kind of collective prayer). The Wafer just disappeared on her tongue! It was observed that **at times the wafer would fly from the priest's hand and float through the air into her mouth.** This is recorded in a Book: "Therese Neumann von Konnersreuth" by Fritz Gerlich (1929), and even photographed. At times during her ecstasies, she would fall to her knees and stretch out her tongue, when a host wafer would suddenly materialise on it! (D. Scott Rego's "Miracles" Contemporary Books Inc Chicago - 1982, page 69)

Therese's miracles do not end here. There is one more - perhaps most amazing to those who think that science explains everything and that anything defying the laws discovered by science does not exist. It was observed that **the blood that came out during stigmata defied gravity.** The phenomenon was carefully witnessed on 8-7-1927 by a reporter *from* "Berlin Hefte" at Therese's home. He was present during the Passion on that day. He reported: -

"Soon a drop of blood which increased in size formed at one of the foot stigmata. It grew and grew in size until finally it dropped from the wound. Gravity would have commanded that the drop of blood flows downwards. But it didn't. It flowed almost directly upward towards the toes, exactly as happened almost 2000 years ago on the Cross of the Christ". (D. Scott Rego - *ibid* page 69)

This is then the story of a great woman Saint of this century, who defied all the egoistic psyche of modern science and modern thinking. She proved that the Lord of your Love has His eyes on you. He can come to you in unpredictable ways. Only one condition should be satisfied. you should be, as Marcus says, "desperately, deeply, violently in love with Him."

May you, my Parsi reader, have the same Love and Attraction towards Asho Zarathushtra as Therese had for her Lord. Pray that your consciousness may awaken to the presence of your Paigambar Saheb within you. May His Lightening thunder on the dark clouds of confusion, and the Rain of His grace immerse you fully and completely.

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### **Dr. Otto Buchinger on Therese Neumann**

" I must declare that despite all care and watchfulness, we were unable to arrive at any conclusion or explanation as to the fasting of Therese Neumann or as to the phenomenon of Stigmata. There is no indication that hysteria is here at work. What we can conclude but that in the truly devout stigmatist of Konnersreuth there is - whether we like it or not – something spiritual which causes these phenomena. All honour to our science and its methods but there is something at work which defies rational explanation." ("Wirkliches and Wirkendes." - quoted by Dr. Marcus Bach in "The Circle of Faith" Hawthorn, 1956.)

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