

fidence and familiar intercourse established between them, which made them forget the length of the journey and the roughness of the road, and made of it a pleasure rather than a pain.

Nothing is more wearisome and discouraging than a long journey alone, and nothing is more agreeable than the companionship of a dear and congenial friend, above all when we are going to undertake a journey. The conversation of one we love lends a charm to the way, and the hours fly fast in his company. The old proverb says: "A pleasant companion maketh a swift carriage." What a boon then, must have been for Tobias, the company of the archangel! What heavenly intercourse! How many divine secrets revealed and explained! For of whom can an angel speak but of God, when he sees the Beatific Vision upon which his seraphic eyes are fixed even as he walks in amid the shadows of earth! An angel, penetrated with divine bliss must radiate some of this celestial happiness into the bosom of the chosen friend who walks by his side. And so it was. Tobias had not been long in his company before he had vowed to him sincere affection, and the archangel who was akin to the Seraphims was pleased in return to be called by his protégé, "Azarias my brother." But for us, christians, shall not we find in the companionship of the divine Raphael of the Eucharist such celestial delights as Raphael shared with Tobias? Oh, surely. He is Azarias, that is he who rejoices, who delights the heart. *Ego sum Azarias, id est beatus.*

The loneliness of the road to Heaven affrights us, and its solitude overwhelms with awe the human soul, which must live detached from the world, which must escape its dangerous snares so thickly spread, which must not dwell in the charm of its feasts nor be beguiled by its enchantments and pleasures. *Ibi magna solitudo.*

Earth is to the christian a dreary desert, and appalled by the desolate prospect he cries out in terror: "Lord, wouldst Thou condemn me to travel this solitary way? Hast Thou forgotten thy warning to all those who walk alone? "*Væ soli*"! No, Jesus has not forgotten. He is at hand. Behold Him! Will you walk in His company?

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