



HOUR OF ADORATION

The Adoration of the Christ Agonizing
Pater, Fiat !

I. — Adoration.

"*Fiat...*" At first sight these words : Jesus in prayer, prayer, Jesus in adoration, seem contradictory. Is not Jesus God? Is it possible, then, that God kneels before God, makes a petition to God? God, in effect, has need of nothing, and if anything could possibly be wanting to His happiness, a single act of His will would suffice to obtain it. And yet the Gospel shows Him to us on His knees, praying, and adoring God, His Father.

It is that Jesus is not only God, but He is the Man-God, possessing, consequently, a human nature, and a created nature, with the obligation to adore God and with needs to express to Him. Jesus, forgetful, then, of His quality of Son of God, abases Himself before the Divine Majesty, as if He were the last of men.

He begins by separating from His Apostles, even the dearest. It is in the company of His Father, and not among men, that He will find solace. He kneels, He prostrates face downward.

The Holy Spirit deigned for our instruction and consolation to preserve the formula of prayer and adoration which at this moment escaped from the Heart and the lips of Jesus. "*My Father !*" He knew the power of the word *Father* over the Heart of God. "*All things are possible to thee.*" It was as if He said : " I do not recoil from redeeming humanity, but the cross, and such a cross! Is that, then, the only means? Canst Thou not, My Father, find some other way of reconciliation ? "

Human nature was not created for suffering, and its instinct is to reject it energetically. In Jesus, although it could tremble under the sentiment of a lively sorrow, it could not be rebellious to the