



Why our Lord is given to us veiled in the Holy Sacrament

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS.

BECAUSE the sense of man is at a loss in this mystery, and wonders when it seems to be something else, there is a fourfold reason for this veiling of our Lord : the unworthiness of the wicked ; the faith of the good ; moral instruction ; our weakness.

Our Lord must thus be veiled because of the unworthiness of the wicked ; as the sun, or indeed any light, must be veiled from a weak eye. In this the mercy of our Saviour deals most gently with them ; for if the wicked could see Him unveiled, and so received by the faithful, they would be scandalized by the very sight, and would perish wretchedly by a threefold destruction, namely : by horror in the heart ; by detraction in the lips ; by spiritual death in the soul.

When our Lord told the disciples of this mystery, many of them went back and walked no more with Him, because they turned away from the words that He spoke about His Flesh. St. Ambrose says, ' Perhaps you may say, How is it true blood ? for you do not see the likeness of flesh. Listen to the words of Christ. When they heard that He would give them His Flesh to eat they went back. Only Peter said, To whom shall we go ? Thou hast the words of eternal life. Lest, therefore, more might be scandalized, and lest any one should shrink back from this food, and that, on the other hand, the glory of the Redeemer may be more seen, you receive this Sacrament