

exterior respect only as a first act, a preliminary act, which will lead us to His Heart, upon which He will make us rest in peace.

If we saw Him in His grandeur, we should tremble, we should fall to the ground, we should never make an act of love. Ah ! we are not yet in heaven ! There are books that speak only of the majesty of God. That is all very well in passing ; but to pause on God's greatness, to make our whole prayer on it, is not desirable, for it fatigues. But before our *good* Lord we can pray one hour, two hours, without straining the mind. If distractions come, we ask pardon, and this as often as they present themselves. We do not become weary, for we know that we shall always obtain the pardon we ask. But in the former case, after some distractions, we quit prayer quite discouraged.

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The consideration of the goodness of Our Lord honors Him. It puts it into operation, for His goodness can flow only upon what is lower than itself. In making myself very low and very little I am inundated by His graces, by His sweet effusions. We then place ourselves with the poor, the lowly, whom Our Lord so much loves. We say to Him : "Thou art so good ! Ah, behold one upon whom to shed Thy goodness !"

It is then that we speak. Otherwise we do as is customary before kings ; we tremble and remain silent not knowing what to say. But the Eucharist by Its sweetness renders the tongue like that of little children, and we know all children are eloquent. The goodness of the Eucharist makes our prayers more sweet and easy. We are prone to pride ourselves on our graces, and to regard ourselves as proprietors of them. Our Lord does not like that ; He bestows them upon us that we may make them fructify to His glory. He allows us then to be assailed by distractions in order to humble us. We want to pray without distractions, and we cannot. "I will give up prayer," says some one, "for I am only laying up sins by it."

No, no, that is false ! Confide in the goodness of Our Lord, and your faults will no longer frighten you. Mercy will pardon you. It is personified before you.