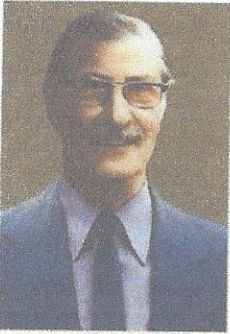


ABOUT GARABANDAL

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All the Garabandal events were extraordinary and in this new series we want to single out some of the best. We begin with a few extracts from the testimony of Brigadier Juan A. Seco, who was in charge of the Civil Guard at the time of the apparitions, and saw a great number of ecstasies. This is followed by some stunning phenomena.



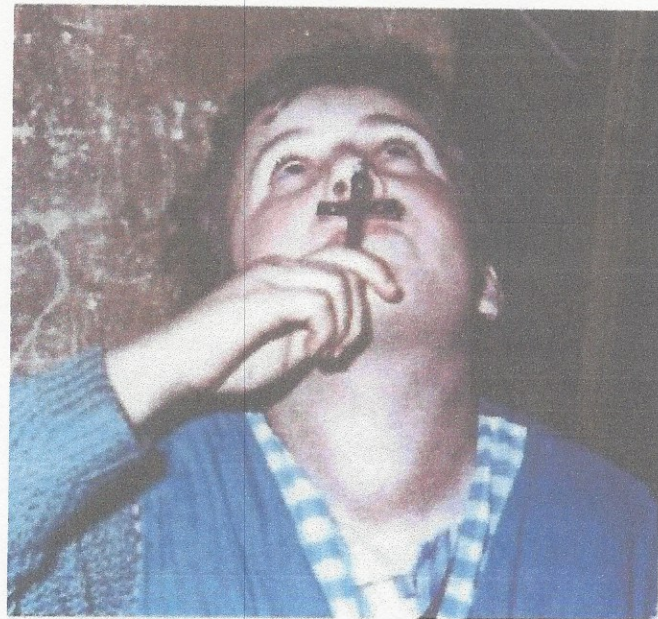
The Painter's Medal One afternoon a friend of mine, a painter, came back to Garabandal with a married couple. He already had been to Garabandal and witnessed a previous apparition, and had been given a medal kissed by the Virgin. But now he returned wondering if the medal had really been kissed. I remember very well what happened that day. We were in Ceferino's cafe. The painter gave two of his own medals and a third one to Mari Loli. One was an ordinary medal of the Virgin, and the other was oval shaped with the word "Alicia" on one side and a cross imprinted on the reverse. Mari Loli was somewhat surprised, and not particularly interested in presenting it to the Virgin as she could not see Her image on it. Finally she agreed to offer it to Our Lady to kiss.

When she went into ecstasy and offered the painter's medal, Mari Loli said, "Just look how ugly you look here, when you are so beautiful." When she offered my friend's medal to the Virgin we heard Mari Loli ask, "This one has been kissed already?" My friend became very pale and disconcerted at this wonderful proof for all of us. His wife, who had wanted to take a nap instead of coming to see the ecstasy, was grateful that she saw with her own eyes how the Virgin identified the already kissed medal.

Etaquio's Medal The story is as follows: The Indiano's elderly mother lived in Garabandal and he came to visit her from Mexico leaving his wife behind to manage his business. (An Indiano was someone who left the village and migrated to Mexico to make his fortune.) As soon as his daughter finished her school year, she and her mother came to join him. Having learned what was happening in Garabandal, Etaquio's wife brought with her a medal that Etaquio had left in Mexico. Once in Garabandal, without telling him anything, she gave four chains, each with an attached medal, to Loli and told her, "After you give these medals to the Virgin to kiss, put them on each of their respective owners."

Loli fell into ecstasy in her room and I went upstairs to witness the scene. After offering the medals to the Virgin to kiss, she took one and placed it around Etaquio's wife's neck who upon seeing it was so overwhelmed that she began to cry. Then Loli took another medal and placed it on their daughter. A third medal belonging to their son, who was not present, was given by Loli to the wife for him. Holding onto the last one, she went downstairs to the bar-cafe below and walked through a crowd of people until she found the Indiano who was having a few drinks. When she was about to place the medal around his neck, he backed off and said, "This girl is mistaken. I didn't give her any medals." But then, he looked at the medal and said, "Dear God, this is the medal I left in Mexico." His wife had wanted to carry out this test witnessed by all of us. It was just one of so many wonderful events that occurred in Garabandal.

Pope's Kiss too Another Indiano, cousin of a man named Joseito from Cosio, had given several medals to Mari Loli for the Virgin to kiss. I remember that among those medals Loli in ecstasy picked up one and said,



Loli in ecstasy in 1962

"This medal has been kissed by Pope Pius X" (or XI; I don't remember exactly which). In any case the Indiano confirmed what Loli said.

A Medal Healing One day my friend Brigadier Crecencio of the Santander Civil Guard and nephew of Don Valentin (the priest at Garabandal) gave me a medal to give to one of the girls to have kissed by the Virgin. I don't remember for sure, but I think I gave it to Loli. When this was done I returned the medal to him in Santander. After some time another nephew of Don Valentin was hospitalized at the Casa de Salud de Valdecilla with an inflamed abdomen. They said only a miracle could save him. They applied the above mentioned medal kissed by the Virgin, and he began to urinate something like a "poison" and was miraculously healed.

Jacinta and Loli in ecstasy before the Brigadier



The Kissed Ring In another ecstasy Conchita had five gold wedding rings on the kitchen table. One was Dr. Ortiz's, another his wife's, and I don't remember to whom the others belonged. She picked them up, offered them to the Virgin to kiss and put them back on the table. She came toward me and I thought she was going to offer me the crucifix to kiss as she and the other seers always did when I was in Garabandal. Instead, she offered me one of the rings, telling me, "Take it, so you can take it to Barcelona." The ring belonged to a sister of Paquita Olivella from Barcelona, who told me that one day she saw it gleaming.

Priests The priest who had replaced Don Valentin was present at that ecstasy and Conchita was heard telling the Virgin, "A new priest has arrived to relieve Father Valentin." She then preceded to remove the priest's glasses so she could make the sign of the cross over him. From his first day in Garabandal, this priest received plenty of proofs. According to what I was told, when Don Valentin came back to the village and his replacement returned to his destination, the Bishop said to him, "I sent you to prove that the apparitions were false, and you come back more convinced of their truth than the girls themselves."

One afternoon a Belgian priest arrived in Garabandal and told us he had made mistakes in talking about some apparitions as true and he had asked the Virgin to help him understand and know the truth, and that was why he'd come to Garabandal. If he could be convinced of the veracity of the Garabandal apparitions he would come back and many would come with him. Conchita, in ecstasy, went to the Belgian, unbuttoned the neck of his shirt, pulled out a medal, and gave it to the Virgin to kiss. The Belgian then disappeared. Three days later he was back.

Two priests from Bilbao were making fun of Conchita while she was in ecstasy and offering the crucifix to the pilgrims to kiss. She did not offer it to them, and repentant, they went to Jacinta and asked her to pray a Rosary with them in reparation for their behavior. After the Rosary, Mari Cruz in ecstasy came and offered them the crucifix and they felt at peace, and thanked the girls.

OTHER INTERESTING FACTS

I mentioned that the doctors sent by the Bishop's commission in July, 1961, were only in the village three days. The first day, as reported to me by Mr. Roche de la Nansa, was when the girls were [supposedly] not going to the *cuadro* to meet the Virgin because Dr. Morales was going to stop them in the street and hypnotize them. This turned out to be a great failure for Dr. Morales.

The second day they were there was October 18, 1961, when the first message was delivered. The girls were escorted by the Civil Guard to protect them from the crowd. Dr. Morales's behavior was less than edifying.

The third time was when they tried to sneak the girls out of town at night when everyone was asleep, without permission from their parents or the town. ***[All of the above was told by the Brigadier in 1969.]***

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