

In regards to this:

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

*Do you want to know (in part) how the Lord illuminated
the eyes of the mind of St. Francis of Assisi?*

From the “**OMNIBUS OF FRANCISCAN SOURCES:**”

“One night, He who possess the rod of the justice visited St. Francis with the sweetness of grace in a dream; and since he was eager for glory, He seduced him with the mirage of a higher Glory. (Cf. F.S. 326)

In fact, immediately afterward, **there appeared to him in a vision (in a dream)** - Cf. F.S. 326) a splendid palace, in which there were weapons of every kind (knight’s armor, shining shields, and similar objects of war - Cf. F.S. 1399) and a very beautiful bride. In his sleep, Francis heard himself *called* by name and flattered with the promise of all these goods. (F.S. 586)

When he awoke, he arose that morning full of enthusiasm. Interpreting the dream according to worldly criteria, he imagined that he would become a great prince. Therefore, he resolved to depart towards Puglia to become a cavalier. (F.S. 1399)

He set out walking toward Spoleto, and there, while resting in a half-sleep, he heard a voice asking him where he was going. Francis revealed his ambitious project to him. And the voice said: - Who could be more useful to you: the Master or the servant? He answered: - the Master! So the voice resumed: - Why, therefore, do you abandon the Master to follow the servant, and the Prince, for the subject? Francis then asked:

- Lord, what do you want me to do?

The voice [of the Lord] responded:

- Return to your city [of birth - Cf. F.S.587],

*and there you will be told what you have to do,
since **the vision [in the dream]** that appeared to you
has to be interpreted in a totally different way.*

Awakening [from the half-sleep], *he reflected attentively on this revelation* [that is, that he had to interpret the visions in the dream in the correct way].

[Yes,] While the previous dream [that is, the vision in the dream] had sent him almost outside of himself with happiness, this new vision [in the half-sleep] obliged him to recollect himself inwardly. Astonished, *he considered and reconsidered the message he had received so intensely* that he didn't sleep a wink that night.

At the break of dawn, in great hurry, he redirected the horse* towards Assisi, pleased and jubilant. He expected that God, Whose voice he had heard, would make him understand His [Full] Will.

By now, his heart was changed...he longed only to conform himself to the Divine will.” (Cf. F.S. 140)

THE INTERPRETATION OF THE *FIGURATIVE AND SYMBOLIC* MESSAGE OF THE VISION IN THE DREAM...

Yes, this was his only desire, to totally conform himself to the will of the Lord – as I think you who are now reading also want to do. Indeed, after this, Francis not only changed the direction of the horse towards Assisi, but [as the Lord had advised him] he also changed the direction of his thoughts on the previous vision, now giving it the correct interpretation: understanding that...

the weapons he had seen in the vision in the dream
were not weapons of war to sharpen,
but spiritual weapons to put on (cf. Eph. 6:13) –
and so understanding that...

he had to gird on the [belt of] truth,
put on the breastplate of Justice, and,
having always in hand the shield of Faith,
take the helmet of Salvation and
the [double-edged[#]] sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

(Cf. Eph. 6:14 -17; Ps 44: 4 -5); # (Cf. Ps. 149:6; Rev. 1:16); ~ (Cf. Lk 12:35; Jn 8:32)

Yes, these were the weapons that he had seen figuratively in the vision; these were the weapons that God had symbolically told him to wear so that, as a kind of new David, he could free Israel from the ancient outrages of its enemies in the Name of the God of Armies: receiving, instead of military glory, *a Glorious and hidden Divine investiture!* (Cf. F.S. 327)

So, as you have well been able to understand (my dear little brother or little sister in vocational discernment), St. Francis, too – like us and before us – has already passed by this difficult directional crossroads, saying (as I think also you are saying now), *Lord, what do you want me to do?* And did you see what the Lord had already shown him in that particular vision I just related to you?

He showed him a very beautiful bride –
yes, the most beautiful bride that could be possibly desired!
And that is: LADY POVERTY!

Yes, with that particular interior perception (see Mag. 294), Francis understood and comprehended (almost like a lightning bolt) that the bride symbolized that he had to totally marry the ideals (and the Life) of Christ! (Cf. Sacred Licence B)

In fact, Francis was so happy and full of so much joy because of this dream and this celestial indication, that his friends, seeing him so transformed, asked him: -What, Francis, do you want to take a wife? And he responded: - I will take the most noble and beautiful bride that you have ever seen, superior to all the others in beauty and wisdom! (F.S. 331)

Yes, she is the truly immaculate bride, the true religion which he had embraced (made even more nobly rich and beautiful by her poverty (Cf. F.S.1402)!), and the Kingdom of Heaven is the hidden treasure that he (like you) was searching for! (Cf. F.S. 331B)

(Fr. F. with V.V. commentary) (Cf. initials at page 535 B)

N.B. if you are looking for the asterisk that refers to the horse,
check the following page...

WHO IS THE ONE WHO FALLS FROM THE HORSE, OR CHANGES THE DIRECTION OF THE HORSE?

N.B.

* To “fall from the horse” or “change the direction of the horse,” in Biblical language, also means to “drop” or “redirect” (in the right direction) the course of our old mentality: which, like a horse or mule, didn’t want to reason, even though (unlike them) we have the gift of intelligence!

As, indeed, it is written (in confirmation of this):

*I will make you wise, I will indicate for you the way to follow;
[but] do not be like the horse and the mule,
without intelligence... (Ps. 32: 9)*