



*A theological, pastoral, and human journey through one of the most mysterious ways of coming to the true faith*

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## Introduction: When God Speaks Through Dreams

Throughout the history of salvation, God has spoken in many ways. Sometimes through prophets, other times through nature or specific people... and also through dreams. This is not a minor or strange occurrence: Sacred Scripture is full of moments in which dreams are vehicles of divine revelation. In the Gospel according to Saint Matthew, for example, Saint Joseph receives divine commands in dreams to protect the Child Jesus (Mt 1:20; 2:13).

Today, in the 21st century, when instant communication and hyperconnectivity dominate daily life, one might think that dreams as a means of divine communication belong to the past or to legends. However, the opposite is true. Thousands of people around the world, especially in contexts of religious persecution or spiritual isolation, are experiencing profound conversions to Catholicism motivated by dreams or visions. And many of them — and this is especially notable — come from Islam.

This article aims to explore this phenomenon in depth: its theological meaning, spiritual implications, authenticity, pastoral relevance, and how it can serve as guidance and reflection in our daily lives.

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## 1. God Still Speaks: The Reality of Dreams as Revelation

**“For God speaks in one way and in another, though man does not perceive it. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on men...”**

*(Job 33:14-15)*

God has not ceased to communicate with His people. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that public Revelation closed with the death of the last apostle (CCC 66), but this does not mean that God has stopped acting in the personal story of souls. There are what the Church calls *private revelations*, which are not meant to add anything new to the deposit of faith, but can help people live the faith better in a particular time and context.

When a person has a dream or vision in which Christ or an angel appears, it is not necessarily



an illusion. There are well-documented cases — conversions that have led to true martyrs of the faith, especially in lands hostile to Christianity. These testimonies are not the invention of eccentric mystics or religious fanatics, but sincere, profound experiences that have transformed entire lives.

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## 2. Real Stories: When Christ Appears to Those Who Are Not Looking for Him

In recent years, there has been a growing phenomenon of Muslims converting to Christianity — and many specifically to Catholicism — after dreaming of Jesus. In some dreams, Jesus appears as “the Man in White,” or simply says words like: “*I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life*” (Jn 14:6), or “*Follow me.*” In other cases, the dreams are more symbolic, but the person who receives them awakens with a new certainty, a thirst they had never known before.

One widely shared example is that of a Syrian man who dreamed for three consecutive nights of a man in a white robe pointing him to an abandoned Catholic church. On the third night, the man in the dream said: “*Go there, and listen.*” When this Muslim man obeyed, he found a priest who had just reopened the temple and who spoke to him about Christ. That was the beginning of his conversion.

Another testimony is that of a young Iranian woman who dreamed of the Blessed Virgin Mary handing her a rosary. She had no idea what the object was, but she began to investigate, found images of the Virgin, and eventually began receiving catechesis in secret. Today, she is an active member of an underground Catholic community.

These testimonies, far from being mere emotional anecdotes, have a profound theological value. They speak of a divine initiative that seeks to rescue souls even in contexts where explicit proclamation of the Gospel is impossible or extremely dangerous.

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## 3. Theological Relevance: A Particular Call in a Time of Crisis

These conversions challenge us as a Church. At a time when many baptized people abandon the faith due to indifference or relativism, God manifests Himself powerfully to those who have never heard His Word or have only heard a distorted version of it. It is a sign of hope and also a wake-up call.



Theologically, we can understand this through the concept of **prevenient grace**, that action of God that moves the heart of man even before he realizes it. As Saint Thomas Aquinas teaches, “*no one comes to God unless God draws him first*” (cf. *Summa Theologiae* I-II, q. 109, a. 6).

Moreover, these cases show us that the **living Christ** is not limited by human methods of evangelization. He acts sovereignly, through the Holy Spirit, and reaches hearts by paths that sometimes escape our logic.

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#### 4. Spiritual Discernment: How Can One Know If a Dream Is from God?

The Church, with the wisdom of centuries, teaches us that not everything dreamed comes from God. Saint Ignatius of Loyola, in his *Rules for Discernment*, speaks about how to distinguish movements of the soul that come from the Good Spirit from those that come from the enemy or from the subconscious.

Some practical criteria:

- **Consistency with Revelation:** no authentic dream from God will say anything contrary to Scripture or the Magisterium.
- **Spiritual fruits:** a true dream inspires conversion, humility, a desire for prayer, and a thirst for the sacraments.
- **Perseverance:** it is not about a momentary emotion but a change that endures over time.
- **External confirmation:** God often places people, texts, or circumstances along the way to confirm what was dreamed.

Therefore, when someone experiences this kind of dream, **it is vital to go to the Church**, seek spiritual guidance, receive catechesis, and begin a serious path of formation. Emotion alone is not enough: the Catholic faith is a journey that involves the whole of life.

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#### 5. Practical Guide for Living or Accompanying a Conversion Through Dreams



For those who have had the dream:

1. **Pray and ask God for discernment.** Do not make impulsive decisions. Speak to Him from the heart.
2. **Find a trustworthy Catholic priest.** Tell him your experience with humility.
3. **Read the Gospels**, especially the Gospel of John. There Jesus presents Himself as Light, Truth, and Life.
4. **Begin catechesis.** Faith is not only emotion: it is formation, sacraments, and life in community.
5. **Do not be afraid.** Christ seeks you because He loves you. He will not force you, but He invites you.

For Catholics who accompany:

1. **Listen with empathy.** Do not ridicule or trivialize mystical experiences.
2. **Help with discernment**, offering biblical and catechetical reading.
3. **Connect the person with a parish community** that will welcome the new convert.
4. **Pray for them**, especially when they come from contexts in which they may be persecuted.
5. **Be a living witness of the Gospel:** sometimes the testimony of an authentic Christian life confirms more than a thousand words.

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## 6. Applications for Our Spiritual Life

Even if we have never had a revelatory dream, this phenomenon can teach us a great deal:

- **God keeps calling, always.** Are we listening?
- **The soul thirsts for truth**, even without knowing it. Are we helping to quench it?
- **Conversion is a lifelong process.** It is not enough to have believed once.
- **God acts with power and tenderness**, even in darkness. Let us trust in His providence.

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## Conclusion: A Call to Wake Up

The dreams that lead to conversion are not fairy tales or legends. They are testimonies that



Christ is still alive, acting, seeking His sheep even in the most closed-off corners of the world and the human heart. They remind us that the God who became incarnate is still present, and that the Catholic Church is not a museum of ancient truths, but the living home where the Good Shepherd wants to gather all His children.

**“And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams.”**

*(Acts 2:17)*

May we not be found asleep when the time of our own awakening comes.

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Have you dreamed of Jesus? Of Mary? Of something that has touched your soul? Do not dismiss it as a mere product of the mind. Heaven may be speaking to you. And if you are already within the Church, may these testimonies inspire you to value the gift of your faith more than ever, and to share it with courage and love.