



*This poem by Dom Marcos Barbosa “In praise of the Nativity” is from 1963 and appears in his work “Poems of the Kingdom of God”. It is dedicated to Our Lady, on the occasion of his birth into this world, a feast that the Church celebrates on September 8 — nine months after the Immaculate Conception. (By the same author, and honoring the same event, we have already published it here for your birthday.)*

*Dom Marcos is from Cristina (MG), he was a Benedictine monk (hence the “dom” that precedes its name), was directly involved in the translation Brazilian Divine Office, became a member of the Brazilian Academy of Letters in 1980 and passed away in 1997. His poetry was appreciated by names such as Gustavo Corção and Cecília Meireles.*

*To facilitate the understanding of some terms in the poem, we have enriched it of notes, which are located just below the verse text.*

In praise of the nativity

"Our Lady Girl"  
"born of Ana and Joaquim,"  
"from a kiss they both exchanged"  
"in front of the Golden Door [i]."  
"Giotto tells in comics"  
"this touching story [ii],"  
"and the legend becomes true"  
"through the centuries."  
"In old sterile bodies"  
"a tremor suddenly passes"  
"and the girl rose sprouts"  
"of the black rough trunk."  
"Snow White, what else"  
"will have a side like this so white,"  
"eand which one will have awakened"  
"to the kiss of the greatest Prince?"  
"The dark Cinderella,"  
"born without wrinkles and stains,"  
"with your tiny foot"  
"crush the cruel serpent."  
"Mary-doesn't-go-with-the-others,"  
"After João marks"  
"with the bread that came down from heaven"  
"the road that leads to the Father [iii]."  
"O Rachel, Esther, Judith [iv],"  
"Gideon's fleece [v],"  
"all dewy with grace,"  
"free of all guilt!"  
"Everyone turns to you,"  
"people seek your face,"  
"Oh flower born in September"  
"and resurfaced in August [vi]."  
  
"The angels that harvested you [vii]"  
"took you in their hands"  
"with trembling fingers and souls,"  
"such is your beauty!"  
"Hail, Ark of the Covenant [viii],"  
"Hail, wife of Cantares [ix],"  
"poet of " *Magnificat* "","  
"hail from Hail-Mary!"  
"The sun serves as your tunic,"  
"twelve stars crown you [x],"  
"the rosary is your script,"  
"the rainbow is your door [xi]."  
"Mary humble land of men, "  
"in the humble land of men, "  
"takes possession of the crown, "  
"prepared before dawn."  
"Sources tell us about you, "  
"the gardens are your image,"  
"the clouds are your throne,"  
"the moon your footstool. "  
"Hail Queen, slave"  
"of God and of all of us [xii], "  
"mother of men, mother of the church,"  
"mother of Christ, my mother! "  
"Mãe nossa, que estás no céu,"  
"Our mother, who art in heaven,"  
"appearing between the waters"  
"or in the cleft of the rocks [xiii]..."

References

"Dom Marcos Barbosa, " *Poems from the Kingdom of God* ". 3. ed. Rio de Jeneiro: José Olympio, 1980, pp. 116-117"

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