



The general conclusion is taken from the book *The Most Prudent Virgin: About Medjugorje for the sake of truth*, Tonimir, Varaždinske Toplice, 2024, pp. 224-231

Finally, as evidence of the non-authenticity of the "apparitions" with their messages, we will provide several events or questions and answers from the first seven days, at least some extended terms and through additional years of "apparitions". We want to show how many messages, "apparitions", experiences are opposed to the prudence that the Blessed Virgin Mary showed, according to the pages of the Holy Scriptures, and how we invoke it in the litanies of the church. 1

1 Night Apparitions

Father Luka Pavlović (1947–2021), parish priest and director of the diocesan Shrine of the Queen of Peace in Hrasno (1980–1983), went to Medjugorje with an older colleague immediately after the strange apparition in Medjugorje in 1981. He asked the girls who were weaving tobacco in front of a family's house in Bijakovići if they had participated in the "apparitions" and if they had seen Our Lady. The girls spontaneously responded:

We have been to some 'apparitions', but we have seen nothing but children who say they see Our Lady. The children begin to pray and we with them. Suddenly they stop and look at something. Then, in the middle of the Our Father, they say: 'Here she is...'. And: 'She is gone!' We stare at them and they stare at something in front of them. The children say it is Our Lady. They explain to us what she is like, what she looks like, what she is wearing. They don't say if she has anything on her feet, whether she is barefoot or with shoes. [...]. – Somehow the first few days went like this, one of them continues: we were told by the children, these visionaries, that Our Lady had told them to come tomorrow evening at 11 and that she would "appear" to them on the hill. On which hill at night, dear Lady? For us it was a bit strange, which is true, it is, and even at home the elders told us: "God forgive me, what is the Lady calling you at this hour, in the middle of the night?!" But they let us go. People came from everywhere.

Someone brought a torch, someone a lantern, someone nothing. We were going up, scaling those rocks, when at a certain point one of the visionaries raised his voice: "Turn off the torches, Our Lady will not appear if you don't turn off all the lights!". When the people turned off the lights, we heard the visionaries say: "Here she is...".

And so, for a few moments, everyone is silent. And if Our Lady were really here, you think to yourself... And you pray. Then they told us that Our Lady would come tomorrow night, around midnight. – And the next day at midnight they came back up. This time our parents let us go. They came to me on the hill. People were sitting. Some were praying, some were singing, some were silent and smoking. And so on, the world was as it is. Suddenly someone shouted: "Put out your cigarettes!"

Some don't put them out. "If you don't put out your cigarettes, Our Lady won't appear," they said. And, of course, some put out their cigarettes, and some started shouting at those who still didn't want to put them out. And they all really stopped smoking... [...], the girls spoke really well, exactly as they had experienced, heard and seen, believing and not believing in all these events. On the one hand, you cannot say that you do not believe in Our Lady, and yet you find it strange, as strange as it may be, that Our Lady acts in this way with lanterns and cigarettes. How can you, if it is Her, complain to Her that She leads the "seers" and the people with them up the hill at night, and through the karst of Herzegovina, and yet you see that this is something that goes beyond normal human reason."^[1]

– The biblical Lady is not only wise, but also too wise, not only prudent, but also very prudent, very prudent, and therefore not only as a Virgin, but above all as a Mother and against all maternal feelings, she invites the "seer" children and the people to "move" on the rocky terrain of Herzegovina in the heart of the dark night. This deeply disturbed the healthy, prudent and wise parents of the curious girls, but they gave in again out of fear and left their children before the nocturnal "Lady"! And this phenomenon of Medjugorje appears at night, according to the records of the Parish Chronicle, at least 20 times between 1981 and 1991. And there are no important and vital messages. If this phenomenon of Medjugorje loves darkness, night, midnight, where we all spontaneously fear, and especially discourage children from such nocturnal excursions, can we not fearlessly conclude that all this is under the influence of dark forces that do not want light and brightness, but rather darkness and gloom both in thought and behavior? We do not believe that this could be the biblical Lady, as the Gospels present her as wise and prudent. If, for example, the alleged Lady had ordered to put out the torches, lanterns and even cigarettes, and then had illuminated the hill at midnight as if it were noon, everyone present would have been left breathless, overwhelmed by the overwhelming impression of a miracle. And so? A real monster! She, who is "brighter than the sun", as we sing in the song "The Innocent Virgin", how could she love the black night in this way?

2. Apocrypha removed because of a lie

In the early days of Christianity, over 2-3 centuries, more than 50 "gospels" were created, mainly for commercial reasons. The Church was very strict in selecting the canonical gospels. If even one explicit lie against the Christian truth was discovered, even if everything else seemed true, the Church did not accept the authenticity of such books.

- Why do the "apparitions" of Medjugorje seem unreliable? The truth, above all, liberates and obliges us! It liberates us from the slavery of lies and the reign of deception and obliges us to justice, honesty and truth studied and spoken with love. All the "apparitions" and "messages", "miracles" and "conversions"; confessions and communions; All the curious and passers-by of these 40 years and more cannot justify even the slightest falsehood intentionally constructed or unintentionally produced and attributed to the "Gospa", or that the apparition itself uttered it. This is clear to every believer, regardless of his status and ministry, who humbly adores the Blessed Virgin Mary and sincerely loves the Holy Church of God. A lie is a poison that poisons, not a medicine that heals.

3. Disguises

St. Paul says that the anti-God force knows how to disguise itself, from the outside, as a devil of darkness into an "angel of light" (2 Cor 11:14), to seduce and deceive the faithful; he who is "a murderer from the beginning" and "the father of lies" (John 8:44) remains both a murderer and a liar. And here, in some events of Medjugorje, in some monstrous tricks and magic games of the directors of the phenomenon of Medjugorje, both natural and supernatural, the Most Pure, Sinless, Immaculate, Queen of Angels, disguises herself in total darkness, in the dark night, in smoke and darkness, and moreover, "sin" itself clings to her clothes and veil. And that, according to the testimony of one "seer", everything else is "blackened"? I imagine like coal. And that horrible parody of the Lady of the Gospel, which R. Laurentin absurdly interprets as a "prophetic image", namely that if sin is somehow caught by the Lady, it means that sin is transferred from individual people to the Lady, and this would be a sign that these people should confess. And, what is even stranger, the "Lady" herself calls and induces those present to touch and tickle her, and sometimes they feel something, sometimes not. And then some even leave their sin on her dress!

– Who would have thought to humiliate and defame, parody or mock the Most Holy One of all people in this way, and that she herself asked for it, becoming "black"? Such a thing can only be attributed to a murderer from the very beginning and the father of lies, to mock Almighty God and prove in any way that even the Madonna can be defiled, desecrated, at least externally, on her dress or veil. Common sense, especially the Catholic faith, tells us that this has nothing to do with the Mother of Jesus as she is honored by the Catholic Church. And this should be said clearly, without hesitation or fear!

4. Lies from the beginning: first "sign"

Apart from the fact that some "visionaries" lied at the beginning and claimed that on the first day they went to the hill to look for sheep, and they did not do that, but went "to smoke", [2] here, from the second day, especially from the fourth and fifth, there is talk of a "sign" that the "Gospa (Virgin)" will leave. That sign will happen soon. And that "sign" or "great sign" is also the so-called "third secret" of the ten.

– For 43 years now, there has been no sign, no third secret. The "Gospa" has manipulated the "visionaries" or "visionaries", the people, some of the people believed fanatically and spread their fanaticism, while others remained faithful to the Catholic teaching about Our Lady as the omniscient and not inconsistent Virgin.

5. Intricate and unraveling knots around the "sign"

When the "sign" of the first seven days first came to the attention of the Diocesan Commission in 1982, the "Madonna" forbade the five "visionaries" to reveal the "sign" to the Commission. But the phenomenon of Medjugorje could not reach Visoko, not even by telephone, where Ivan the "visionary" was, and she did not forbid it. He described the "sign". In 1985, the Second Enlarged Commission wanted to clarify the situation, because Ivan was making contradictory statements. But then came Father Slavko Barbarić, a manipulator, who acted on a large scale on his own to finally unravel the entire knot. Contradictions, lies and intricate knots are the order of the day. Not even Father Slavko can stop them. Everyone has deviated from the path of truth: her "Madonna" is falling into contradictions, and some of the "visionaries" are also falling into contradictions, and above all Father Slavko himself is not able to extricate himself from the multitude of contradictory statements.

– When we come across such a "sign" as an obvious lie, we cannot attribute it to the wisdom or prudence of the Virgin. And in this case, the more contradictions there are around the "sign", the more credible the "apparitions" are in the eyes of the Medjugorje fanatics.

6 Three More Days of "Apparitions"

On Tuesday, June 30, 1981, the "seventh day" of the apparition, an explicit lie is attributed to the apparition itself, when all five "visionaries" testify in the parish office that the "Madonna" had stated that she would appear "for another three days" and no more. – However, the apparition goes beyond its statement and, for over four decades, has not ceased to surprise with its bizarreness, causing agitation, confusion and bewilderment not only for normal human souls, but also for a considerable part of the Church of God. Even the Ruini Commission (2010-2014) is undecided about how to count the first "seven days": should it include "three more days" in addition to the "seven" or should it omit them? It has included them, but then again, it is not just the first seven days! Such attribution of days to the omniscient Virgin is neither prudent nor reasonable. Especially since this apparition does not keep its word!

7 Queen of Peace

The controversy over the day on which the alleged "Madonna" declared herself "Queen of Peace" has not subsided to this day. None of the "seers" or "visionaries" used this title in the first seven days, but only from August 1981 onwards. However, a doctor remembered, after 30 years, that she had said that Vicka had told her "on the fifth or sixth day" that this apparition was the Queen of Peace. And the Ruini Commission accepted this as a proven fact, just as it accepted the statement of Father Jozo in his statement of June 29, in which he called herself "Queen of Peace". In Vicka's conversations, and they are not few, there is no point in which this title was included in the first seven days. – Until the publication of the Ruini Commission text in Italian in 2020, it was generally accepted that the Medjugorje apparition did not present herself as Queen of Peace even once in the first seven days. But since at least some members of the Ruini Commission wanted that title to be included in the first seven days, the doctor's testimony was accepted as authentic, even against the testimony of Father Jozo Zovko and all six "visionaries". "My Lady, what are they doing to you?!", said Bishop Žanić in Medjugorje in a famous homily in 1987. Manipulators do not do what is true, but what they like!

8. Three friars from Herzegovina

Three Franciscans from Herzegovina were especially involved in promoting the "apparitions of Medjugorje" and, surprisingly, the "Madonna" established a special friendship with them: with Fr. Jozo Zovko, Fr. Tomislav Vlašić and Fr. Slavko Barbarić.

Fr. Jozo Zovko, parish priest of Medjugorje (1980-1981), was the first of the Franciscans to appear on June 29, 1981, that is, on the sixth day after the beginning of the phenomenon. Then again in mid-July of the same year. And while he was in prison in Foča for a year and a half (1981-1983), the "Madonna" sometimes "appeared" to the "visionaries" of Medjugorje together with Fr. Jozo. At the same level. The apparition declared him a "saint" twice during his life (Kronika, October 21, 1981). There is not a single warning against him. And in gratitude, he has persevered to this day in promoting the cult of "Our Lady of Medjugorje".

The same goes for Father Tomislav Vlašić, who was already present in Medjugorje on June 29 and met briefly with the "visionaries", and in early 1982 came to Medjugorje as a "chaplain" without the bishop's knowledge (he was confirmed only in July 1982). In 1983 he informed Hans Urs von

Balthasar that the boys would go to a monastery. None of that. He failed. In 1984 he introduced himself to the Pope as the one who "by divine providence guides the visionaries of Medjugorje". He asked the Pope to receive him. We do not know if he received it. And we know about his return to excommunication.

Since the end of his studies, Father Slavko Barbarić has been constantly linked to Medjugorje and the apparitions of Medjugorje, since 1982. Even after Father Tomislav's transfer, he hopes that he was "chosen by God's providence" to spiritually guide the "visionaries". From the beginning of September 1984 he takes over the direction of the Chronicle. And on that day he praises Father Tomislav Vlašić and his prudence: "With his pastoral and spiritual experience, he has channeled that great source that gushed forth on the day of the apparitions". This is what it is about: that this Franciscan trio "channeled" that great source that gushed forth on the day of the apparitions, but unfortunately...

- Most prudent Virgin - Throne of Wisdom and Mirror of Justice - would never have allowed the deceiving friars to lead her wherever they wanted. And this Medjugorje does exactly as the mystifying friars want. At Father Zovko's suggestion to Mirjana to "force" the "Madonna" to come down to the church, she "reluctantly", but nevertheless, comes down from the hill. And since the bishop has forbidden the "apparitions" in the church, everything was transferred to the parish office and then, over time, to the room of Father Slavko Barbarić, where the entire series of "apparitions" from April to September 1985 is listed. Thus, the already "private" apparitions are "privatized" even further, even in his room! Perhaps the naive boy Jakov said it best. He says in a conversation with Father Jozo Zovko, June 30, 1981: "In this way, when I ask a question, I think to myself that he will tell me and he tells me." This is exactly how these three charismatics of Medjugorje behave: while they think to themselves that she will tell me, she tells them! Fr. Jozo is a "saint", and Fr. Slavko was declared in heaven the day after his death. Furthermore, Fr. Tomislav and Fr. Slavko were "providentially" chosen as spiritual guides of the "visionaries". And they adhere exactly to the "Messages of Our Lady"!

9. Birthday: the first three years on September 8, the next forty on August 5.

A great inconsistency, or rather a blatant falsehood that the alleged apparition manifests and promotes, is the fact reported in the Chronicle of the Apparitions that the "Madonna" celebrated her birthday on September 8 in 1981, 1982 and 1983, and this is demonstrated by her splendid clothing, her particular cheerfulness and the fact that she accepted the children's greetings.

– And then, suddenly, on her own initiative, she interferes in the liturgical calendar and wants to change the thousand-year-old practice of the Catholic Church, suddenly announcing that her 2000th birthday is August 5, 1984. All those who know that the authentic Madonna does not interfere in the liturgical system of the Church, not even with other people, much less with herself in the apparitions recognized in history, were deeply confused and expressed the belief that this was not the Catholic Madonna. We do not know exactly when the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady occurred, and yet we solemnly celebrate it on December 8, nor her Assumption into Heaven, which we solemnly celebrate on August 15. How could she not correct precisely this in her thousands of "apparitions" in Medjugorje? She had to correct at least the Immaculate Conception, which according to this latest "her" calendar of "apparitions", Mother Anna carried Mary in her womb for only eight months, from the Immaculate Conception of December 8 to Our Lady of the Snows of August 5. Why is the Conception not moved by a month? Or: why did she not clearly establish it in those 18 authentic apparitions in Lourdes in 1858, four years after Pope Pius IX, the Blessed, had proclaimed the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, which until then was celebrated on December 8? Obviously someone else, not the prudent Lady, is interfering with such interventions in the system of the Catholic Church.

This radical demand for change in the liturgical practice of the Church shows that the "Madonna of Medjugorje" is neither the Wise Virgin nor the Prudent Virgin, much less the Most Prudent Virgin, the Most Wise Virgin, as we invoke and call her in the Litany of Loreto!

10. The Church is the "pillar and bulwark of truth"

A certain number of clergy and lay people support Medjugorje as a place of "supernatural apparitions and revelations" and not only persistently visit the place, claiming that "the Madonna", despite all the reasonableness of the moderation of the Church, "still appears", but they even put pressure on ecclesiastical institutions, including the highest ones, to recognize the events of Medjugorje as authentic apparitions.

– However, how can the Church of Christ, on the basis of such visits to a parish, ranging from mere curiosity to fanatical enthusiasm, declare such "apparitions" supernatural when three legally established ecclesiastical commissions for the investigation of what happened in Medjugorje, through the local bishop Žanić and the Bishops' Conference in 1991, have confirmed that it is not possible to say that these are supernatural phenomena and revelations? And how could the Church be "the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Tim 3:15) if, under the pressure of such supporters, often fanatics, she recognized such questionable and unreliable "apparitions", which do not present the omniscient Virgin, but rather a vague and inconsistent phenomenon?

11. The rush to the unconfirmed and the inauthentic

What is particularly surprising is the fact that such believers and priests, if they already desire visions and messages, do not draw from the sources of authentically recognized apparitions, for example in Lourdes, Fatima and elsewhere, but turn to unrecognized apparitions in Medjugorje, where they think that the alleged Lady "appears" incessantly.

- Well, such a frequency of apparitions is already contrary to the style of the prudent and wise Virgin who appears in the New Testament, that is, she appears only about ten times, and this in a completely discreet, prudent, wise way, without falling into contradictions and without attracting any darkness upon herself.

12. The truth is stronger than any mass action

A multitude of people, even believers, does not create the truth, but in this case perhaps threatens it even more. The Lord Jesus stood alone—His Mother and a few disciples sympathized with Him—both at the Gabbatha (High Place) of the trial and at Golgotha of the crucifixion. He stood as the only Truth against the faceless crowd, all the clergy, great and small, and all the national and international establishment in Jerusalem. When Jesus testified that He was the Truth, they ironically responded to Pilate, "What is Truth?" (John 18:38), which was to prove that their personal gain, political power, and immediate victory were more important to them than any human and divine truth! Although the Truth was dead and buried that Good Friday, He was resurrected three days later. Therefore, the multitude is not evidence of truth. – Even all valid confessions made, communions received and rosaries recited in Medjugorje, although they have the power to grant active graces as in other places, do not in themselves prove any authenticity of the "supernatural apparitions" in that parish.

13. "With many words..."

The daily "seers" and the daily and unstoppable "apparitions" represent more of a religious spectacle than a true ecclesial testimony of peace, unity of faith and communion of love in the local Church. To whom does this incalculable number seem a serious matter? Will we transform our Catholic

orthodoxy into a strange superstition? When Jesus wanted to teach his disciples how to pray to God, he warned them not to trust in many words and not to be like the pagans who “think that they will be heard for their many words” (Mt 6:7).

– There are those who think that the more numerous and frequent the “apparitions”, the more authentic they are. It is contrary to the spirit and behavior of the omniscient and prudent Virgin to “appear” for decades, follow the “visionaries” to appear to them at the appointed time, wherever they are, and repeat so many “messages” as if she were convinced that the competent ecclesiastical authorities would believe her because of her “multiplicity of words”!

14. The “apparitions” of Medjugorje do not commit anyone in themselves

The alleged “apparitions” to six “visionaries” in Medjugorje since 1981, half of whom still occur daily and the other half only once a year (one of them claims that Our Lady “appeared” to her every two months from 1987 to 2020!), have long since crossed the boundaries of the Parish and Diocese, both in terms of notoriety and supporters of the “visionaries” throughout the world. Furthermore, these phenomena have found their followers, from traveling salesmen who are shown concrete benefits, to religious enthusiasts who travel thousands of kilometers to confess and pray the rosary in Medjugorje! Despite everything, these “apparitions” have no legal basis and therefore do not commit anyone in the Church to anything, neither morally, nor religiously, nor humanly.

15. End of binding revelation

The revelation that a Christian is obliged to accept ended with the death of the last apostle. Every private revelation that the Church has recognized, it has recognized because it has determined that it contains nothing contrary to faith or morals and that the writings relating to it can be read without danger or even with benefit. However, this does not impose any obligation on the faithful of Christ to believe in it.

– In the phenomenon of Medjugorje, there are many elements that are not in accordance with prudence, coherence, honesty and human orthodoxy. The Chronicle of the Apparitions, interviews with the “visionaries” and messages from the “visionaries” and other documentation collected in the study of this phenomenon are, in a significant number of cases, not in accordance with Catholic faith and morals and cannot be read without danger to faith and morals. The events and experiences of individuals and groups associated with Medjugorje are not and cannot be a substitute for the acceptance of the complete corpus of faith and morals that the Catholic Church commands us to serve.

[1] Luka Pavlović, „In Medjugorje 20 Years Ago“, Ogledalo Pravde Mirror of Justice, Mostar, 2001, pp. 17–18.

[2] Bishop Zanić on Medjugorje, p. 176