**Confessions of Hungarian Saints**

***Girl’s voice:***

Thus saith the Lord that created thee, he that formed thee, “Fear not, for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.”

***Saint Elizabeth:***

O Lord my God, to thee alone do I owe my final reckoning, who created me, spoke to me, and set me on a path untrodden.

**SAINT ELIZABETH OF THE ÁRPÁD HOUSE**

***Saint Elizabeth:***

My Lord, what a joy it was to play as a little girl in the streams in Patak, on the banks of the Bodrog River. But the best thing was to kiss the wall of the church, to take refuge in the chapel, to cool my hot cheeks on the stone floor in front of the altar.

My friends made me dance, but one dance was enough for me, just to please the others. The rest, Lord, I gladly gave up to seek your favor instead.

***Girl’s voice:***

For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

***Saint Elizabeth:***

It must have pleased you, Lord, to have Louis, the illustrious Landgrave of Thuringia, take me, the daughter of the King of Hungary, as his wife. Ours was as much a bond of soul as of body. Thou knowest best that in thy love, he and I loved each other.

***Girl’s voice:***

Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm: for love is strong as death; jealousy is cruel as the grave: the coals thereof are coals of fire, which hath a most vehement flame.

***Saint Elizabeth:***

Many times, I rose from my marriage bed because I wanted to speak to you, Lord. Though I could not always pray, at least I had strength in my body that I had pulled myself from my beloved husband’s side.

When there was a severe famine throughout the German lands, I had to comfort and feed the poor children, the destitute, the sick, for we must make the people content.

My confessor Father Conrad of Marburg disapproved of this waste of the treasure’s money. Not only did he disapprove, he betrayed me to my mother-in-law, telling her of how I took bread to the children, and he accused my husband of putting a leper in my bed. From so many accusations you delivered me by a miracle, dear Jesus, my Christ.

Oh Lord, how I waited, waited for letters from my dear husband, Landgrave Louis, after he joined the ranks of the Christian crusaders and Thuringia saw him last.

The Lord Almighty sent his blessing to me, his dearest sister, under my faithful husband’s seal, news of whether he lives or dies. But alas, the third letter told me… of his death!

Dead is my world and all that is dear to me in this vale of tears!

Against your will, I would not have given a single hair to bring him back. After his death, I could be closer to you. Though I had fallen out of favor in my husband’s family, you, Lord, wanted to be with me, and I to be with you, and I would never be separated from you.

***Girl’s voice:***

Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

***Saint Elizabeth:***

I wanted to speak my gratitude to the people too, though I know not why. But the song of thanksgiving *Te Deum*, my God, was sung to you there, in the pigsty, just as it was in the Minorite churches.

At the command of Father Conrad, I served my short life in the Minorite hermitage in Marburg. Although he often disciplined me, never could anyone have forbidden me to abandon my parents, my children, my own will, all the splendors of the world, all that the Savior advises us to abandon in the Gospel.

When we did good to the people, how good it was for us thus to be able to bathe you, to wrap you in warm blankets!

O Lord, now I lie as in my coffin, with three angels watching over me. Where art thou, dear?

***Girl’s voice:***

I am here. Oh good woman, how sweetly you sang!

***Saint Elizabeth:***

Some bird sang to me sweetly, so sweetly. What are we to do if the devil appears to us?

Run, run, run!

Midnight is at hand, when you were born, Jesus, and with your power you created a star the likes of which no one had ever seen before. Thank you that the time is near, and you summon your poor friend to you. Amen.