



FEAST OF ALL SAINTS

Let us make haste
to our brethren who are awaiting us.
Why should our praise and glorification,
or even the celebration of this feast day
mean anything to the saints?

What do they care about earthly honors when their heavenly Father honors them by fulfilling the faithful promise of the Son? [...]

Clearly, if we venerate their memory, it serves us, not them. But I tell you, when I think of them, I feel myself inflamed by a tremendous yearning.

Calling the saints to mind inspires, or rather arouses in us, above all else, a longing to enjoy their company, so desirable in itself. We long to share in the citizenship of heaven, to dwell with the spirits of the blessed. [...]

The saints want us to be with them, and we are indifferent... Come, brothers... we must seek the world which is above and set our mind on the things of heaven. [...]

When we commemorate the saints we are inflamed with another yearning: that Christ our life may also appear to us as he appeared to them and that we may one day share in his glory.

Until then we see him, not as he is, but as he became for our sake. He is our head, crowned, not with glory, but with the thorns of our sins.

As members of that head, crowned with thorns, we should be ashamed to live in luxury; his purple robes are a mockery rather than an honor.

When Christ comes again [...] the glorious head of the Church will appear and his glorified members will shine in splendor with him, when he forms this lowly body anew into such glory as belongs to himself, its head.

Therefore, we should aim at attaining this glory with a wholehearted and prudent desire.

That we may rightly hope and strive for such blessedness, we must above all seek the prayers of the saints.

Thus, what is beyond our own powers to obtain will be granted through their intercession.

Saint Bernard