



“ My Soul Is Ready to Die With Sorrow... ”

In the Garden of Olives, “ My soul, ” Jesus said, “ is ready to die with sorrow . . . ” (Mt. XXVI, 38).

Kateri mirrored this phase of our Savior’s suffering in her life. Tongues unkind, razor-sharp, slashed away at her reputation and immersed her in sorrow. In the spring of the year following her Baptism, Tekakwitha accompanied her people during the hunting season. One of her aunts, possibly envious of her exemplary life, spied on her in order to discredit her with Father de Lamberville.

It was then the custom among the Iroquois for nieces to call their uncles *father*. Once or twice Tekakwitha forgot this and simply addressed her uncle by his name. His wife rushed to the missionary and blamed her niece:

“ So Kateri, whom you think is so virtuous, is after all a hypocrite who deceives you. Even in my presence she solicited my husband to sin ! ”

After questioning Kateri, the priest completely exonerated her and remained convinced that the Holy Ghost had always preserved this flower of His garden from the slightest taint.