

Ñigo's Battle of the Spirits

by John Paul de Quay

We pick up our story in Manresa, near Barcelona, where Ñigo, having given up a life of high society and being a scoundrel, is now enthusiastically seeking to become a soldier for God. To that end, he embarks on a year of poverty, prayer and self analysis, in atonement for his past life.

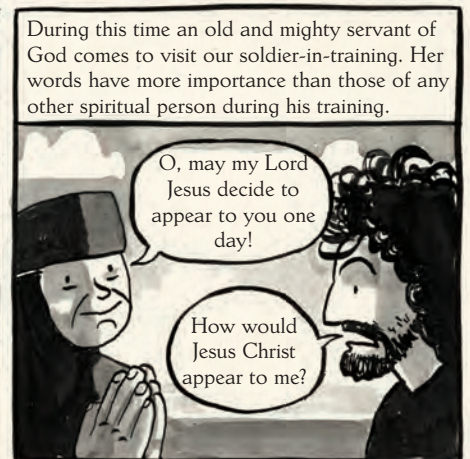
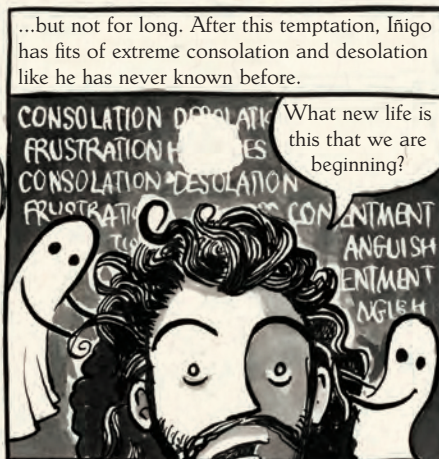
We find Ñigo fully embracing his new life, counteracting his youthful vanity by allowing his hair, fingernails and toenails to grow. He lets himself go with extreme diligence. For a time Ñigo remained in a state of great and steady happiness.



On particularly contented days during his time at Manresa, a beautiful vision would appear to Ñigo, and while it remained he felt great consolation. When it disappeared, he was saddened.



About this time, and knowing little of spiritual matters, Ñigo begins to become tempted by, and confused by, interior voices.

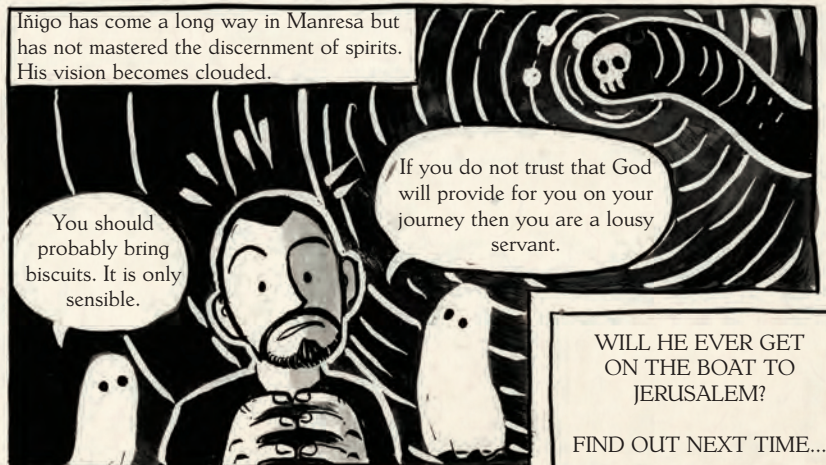
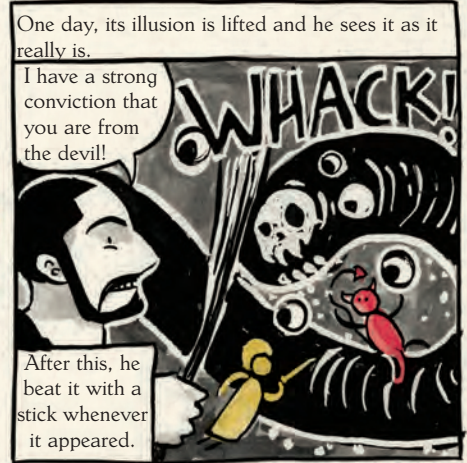
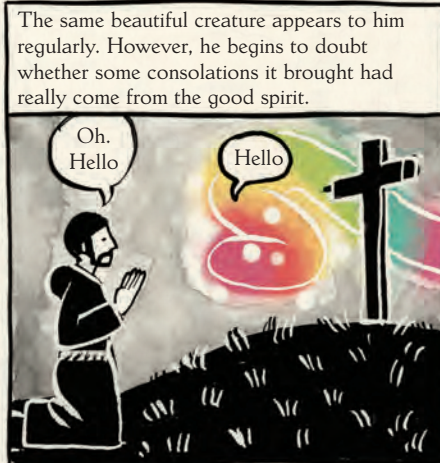


Ñigo's next challenge comes in the form of a battle of conscience. Having meticulously confessed his sins every Sunday, nothing can rid him of his guilt.





With this revelation, Ñigo's training advances. Whether it is Ñigo's dense intelligence, his strong desire to serve God, or his not being able to find a human teacher, Ñigo believes that God is teaching him like a schoolmaster treats a child. God begins to appear to him!



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