

Vida

First Edition: written first half of 1562 in Toledo in home of Dona Luisa de la Cerda. [Book lost]

Second Edition: Completed towards end of 1565 at S. Jose, Avila.
Manuscript at El Escorial.

Camino

First Edition: Written 1566 at S. Jose, Avila, at the request of the sisters.
Manuscript at El Escorial.

Second Edition: Written late 1566, early 1577, at S. Jose, Avila.
Manuscript at Carmel, Valladolid.

Fundaciones

Written 1573 to 1582: Various times and locations. Manuscript at El Escorial.

Salamanca 1573: Chapters 1 – 9.

Avila & Valladolid late 1574: Chapter 10 – 19.

Toledo August – November 1576: Chapter 20 – 27.

1580 – 82: Chapter 28 – 31 and Epilogue

Moradas

Written 1577: 2nd June to 18th July up to 5th dwelling places chapter 2 at Toledo Carmel. November 1577, from 5th dwelling place chapter 4 to end, at S. Jose, Avila. {5th dwelling place, chapter 3, place of writing unknown}.

Manuscript at Carmel, Sevilla.

Writings of St. Teresa: Part Two

Letters: 470 letters [approx.]

Spiritual Testimonies: 65 documents – also called “Spiritual Relations” or “Mercies {Favours} of God”

Soliloquies: 17 Prayers

“Meditations or exclamations of the soul to God written by Mother Teresa of Jesus in the year 1569 on different days according to the spirit the Lord gave her after communion”.

Meditations on the Song of Songs: 7 Chapters

“Conceptions of the love of God”

Poetry: 30 Poems [approx..]

Constitutions:

“Constitutions for the Sisters of the Order of Our Lady of Mount Carmel of the First Rule Without Relaxation, Given by the Most Reverend General of the said Order Fray Juan Bautista Rubeo”

Making a Visitation:

“A treatise on the Manner of Visiting the Convents of the Discalced Nuns of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Composed by Mother Teresa of Jesus, their Foundress”

A Satirical Critique:

“Seek yourself in Me”

Response to a Spiritual Challenge:

“Knights and daughters of the Virgin”

Teresa de Ahumada {47 years}

Born: 28th March 1515. *"We were in all three sisters and nine brothers."*

Baptism: 4th April 1515. Named Teresa after her maternal grandmother.

November 1528 her mother dies: *"When my mother died I was twelve years old or a little less...I went afflicted before an image of Our Lady and besought her with many tears to be my mother."*

1528 – 31: Read every book she can get hold of and writes a novel [lost]. Much socialising and many friendships.

1531: Marriage of eldest sister and Teresa enters Augustinian boarding school. Begins to consider possibility of Religious vocation.

2nd November 1535: Enter Carmelite Convent of the Encarnation, Avila.

26th December 1543: Death of her father.

17th August 1559: Index of prohibited books published by Inquisidor General, Don Fernando de Valdes. *"The Lord said to me; "Do not be sad, for I shall give you a living book."*

1560: Meeting with friends, decision to found a new convent. Writes her first *Spiritual Testimony*.

Dec 1561 – June 1562: Toledo at home of Dona Luisa de la Cerda. Writes 1st edition of book of her **Life** [lost].

24th August 1562: New Convent, San Jose, Avila

December 1562: Teresa moves to new community.

Obstacles: "Converso" Family, Woman, Woman of prayer, World and Church controlled by men, poverty of education,

Challenges: Life not being lived to the full. Difficulty of finding someone to understand her prayer.

Growth: Begins new life: *"The life dealt with to this point was mine; the one I lived from the point I began to explain things about prayer is the one God lived in me... May the Lord be praised who freed me from myself."*

Teresa de Jesus {20 years}

1562 – 1567: *“From what I can understand now, the five years I spent in San Jose in Avila seem to me to be the most restful of my life.”*

1565: Completes second edition of book of her **Life**.

1566: writes commentary on **Song of Songs**

1566 – early 1567: Writes both editions of **Way of Perfection**

1566: visit of Alonso Maldonado, Franciscan Missionary in Mexico – expanded vision of Church and world

1567: Visit of Carmelite General Rubeo to Avila – approval of new community and support to make many foundations.

1567: First meeting with St. John of the Cross

1567 – 1582: Travels, Foundations, etc.

18th November 1572: *“Spiritual Marriage”* fullness of Christian mysticism

25th August 1573 begins writing book of **Foundations**

1576/7/8 Time of greatest opposition and persecution.

1577 writes **Interior Castle**

1582 Final foundation – Burgos

4th October 1582 dies at Alba de Tormes

Obstacles: Opposition from all sides: Church, Carmelite Order, Inquisition, Government, influential people, etc. etc.

Challenges: Found a Religious Order of women and men: *“Here I was, a poor discalced nun, without help from anywhere – only from the Lord – weighed down with patent letters and good desires, and without there being any possibility of my getting the work started.”*

Growth: Foundress, writer, teacher, saint, doctor of the Church, etc.

Fullness of human and Christian maturity.

Teresa of Avila - Book of her LIFE

Prologue

Intention, motivation, purpose: "The Lord has for some time wanted me to do this".

Introduction No. 1

Chapters 1 – 10: Early life, family, Vocation journey, early years in Religious Life. Beginning of life of prayer, crisis, struggles, conversion experience.

"How the Lord began to awaken this soul."

Introduction No. 2

Chapters 11 – 21: Treatise on Prayer – four means of drawing water.

"Those who are beginning to be servants of love"

Introduction No. 3

Chapter 22: The place of Jesus, human and divine, in the life of prayer.

Life of encounter with Jesus Christ

Chapter 23 – 31: "A new book begins here, I should say new life."
Real beginning of book.

Foundation of S. Jose, Avila

Chapter 32 – 36: "God will be served in this house."

Deeper experience of God

Chapters 37 – 40: "This is the way I now live"

Epilogue

"You are so obliged to the one who has so entrusted her soul to you."