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### Strength And Gentleness: A Page Of The Ecris Spirituels of Ven. F. Libermann

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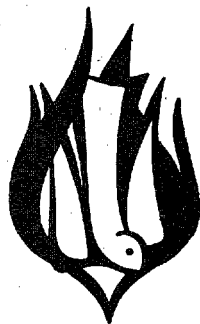
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## STRENGTH AND GENTLENESS

*(Ven. Libermann, ES.S. 38)*

“When the virtue of strength is based only on detachment from the world, it is already very good, but it is mixed with imperfections, and self-love often has a part in it. It is harsh and does not produce good effects. It degenerates into hardness and into roughness of character. It upsets our peace of soul. When its origin is to be found in union with God, and when it sees everything and loves only in him, it then takes on a character of magnanimity, of generosity, of freedom and, at the same time, of gentleness, sweetness and humility, which always produces good effects on the upright souls with which we have to deal, and keeps us in the peace and love of God.

Gentleness comes from the same source as firmness. This virtue, one of the most beautiful that Our Lord has brought to men on earth, is not exercised only on others, but first of all affects ourselves. It proceeds directly from our union with God, and is a ray of Jesus’ love penetrating our souls in order to refine them and rid them of the roughness and hardness which fills them. This ray of love spreads around a calmness which makes itself felt in all our actions. People who possess this attractive gentleness open their souls to God with tenderness, and receive everything from his love calmly, the joys as well as the hardships; with patience and peaceful humility of heart before God, they put up with their own inadequacies and imperfections; they maintain with the neighbour and with themselves such a calmness and tenderness of heart that they win over everyone and lavish God’s blessing on all hearts open to receiving it. It can be seen from this that gentleness is above all an interior virtue and that it is far from being opposed to firmness”.