

were allowed to tell the people that the visions would soon be ending.

But at times, the contradictory nature of what the visionaries were saying is clear from the further questions that, prompted by Marinko, they asked the Gospa. The first of these, put by Ivanka, concerned their ability to endure their new situation, to which the Gospa apparently replied: "You will be able to, my dear angels!" The second, of far greater importance, concerned "how long she was going to remain with us." Ivanka told Fr Zovko that she had replied: "As long as you want, as long as you wish!"¹⁰⁶

Once again, it is totally inconsistent with authentic manifestations of the supernatural, that Our Lady's appearances should in any way depend on human desires.

Thus, on the one hand, the visionaries were apparently looking to find a way out of their predicament as public figures, while on the other hand, the claim was being made that the Gospa was prepared to appear to them almost indefinitely. It may well be that by this, the seventh day, 30 June, Ivanka, and perhaps some of the other visionaries, were beginning to lose the ability to discern the reality of what they maintained was happening. This is perhaps not surprising when one considers all the pressures they were facing from their families, the local community, the Franciscans, and the Communist authorities.

Ivanka and the "Unbelieving Judases"

Then, as the tape continued, there is the incident concerning the lady doctor present during the vision, who asked if she could touch the unseen Gospa. Ivanka recounted how the Vision had apparently responded: "There are always unbelieving Judases. Let her come near!" Fr Zovko immediately seized on this remark: "But Judas was not without faith," to which Ivanka responded: "Without faith! But he was a traitor!" Vicka also used the word "Judases" in recounting this incident to Fr Janko Bubalo. Fr Zovko was puzzled by this phrase, as he couldn't understand why the Gospa had mentioned Judas since he had had faith like the other apostles.¹⁰⁷

On this evidence, we are obliged to ask why in his reputedly authoritative *Chronological Corpus of the Messages*, Fr Laurentin should have changed the Gospa's response to: "*There have always*

been doubting Thomases. Let her come."¹⁰⁸ Why should he have been willing, in this instance, to change the wording of a message in order to present it in a better light? Whatever the explanation might be, it seems beyond doubt that the Blessed Virgin could never have used such an expression.

Fr Zovko Takes Control

At this point, it seems that Fr Zovko came to a decision to try to put a stop to the visions, or at least bring them under control, endeavoring to get the visionaries to say that the Gospa had said that she wouldn't be coming any more, and thus the people should stay at home. He also put the accusation that Marinko not only wrote the questions put to the Gospa but also her answers, an accusation which Ivanka strongly denied.¹⁰⁹

Fr Zovko then asked why the Gospa didn't appear in the church, before asking Ivanka to explain what was really happening. Her reply was revealing, in the sense that it seems to indicate that she sincerely believed she was seeing *something*: "I believe in it, I see her. What can I do? If people would see her and I wouldn't, I wouldn't believe it either."

It hardly needs to be pointed out that it is quite unthinkable to ask the Blessed Mother to do what we want in the manner here being suggested by Fr Zovko.¹¹⁰ Farther on, Fr Zovko asked about the sign the Gospa would leave, to which Ivanka replied hesitantly that people were "talking about water," presumably in the hope that some sort of miraculous spring would appear. The most natural interpretation for this is that a connection with Lourdes was being made, and this is a point which will be discussed in more detail further on.

Fr Zovko's suspicions are equally evident in the following statement: "Can't you see that satan [sic] is present there and not the Gospa?" He said this because of the amount of cursing that was still going on amongst the local people, before coming back insistently to his point that the visions would have to stop: "Listen, Ivica [Ivanka] are you going to obey me? Go and tell the people!"¹¹¹

After once again discussing Marinko's role in formulating the questions put to the Gospa, Fr Zovko then began to insist to Ivanka that he should be the one to compose what they would say to the