

The Prophetic Office of the Church

- || -

Prophetic

‘Desert’ serves the following part of
the Christian Journey :

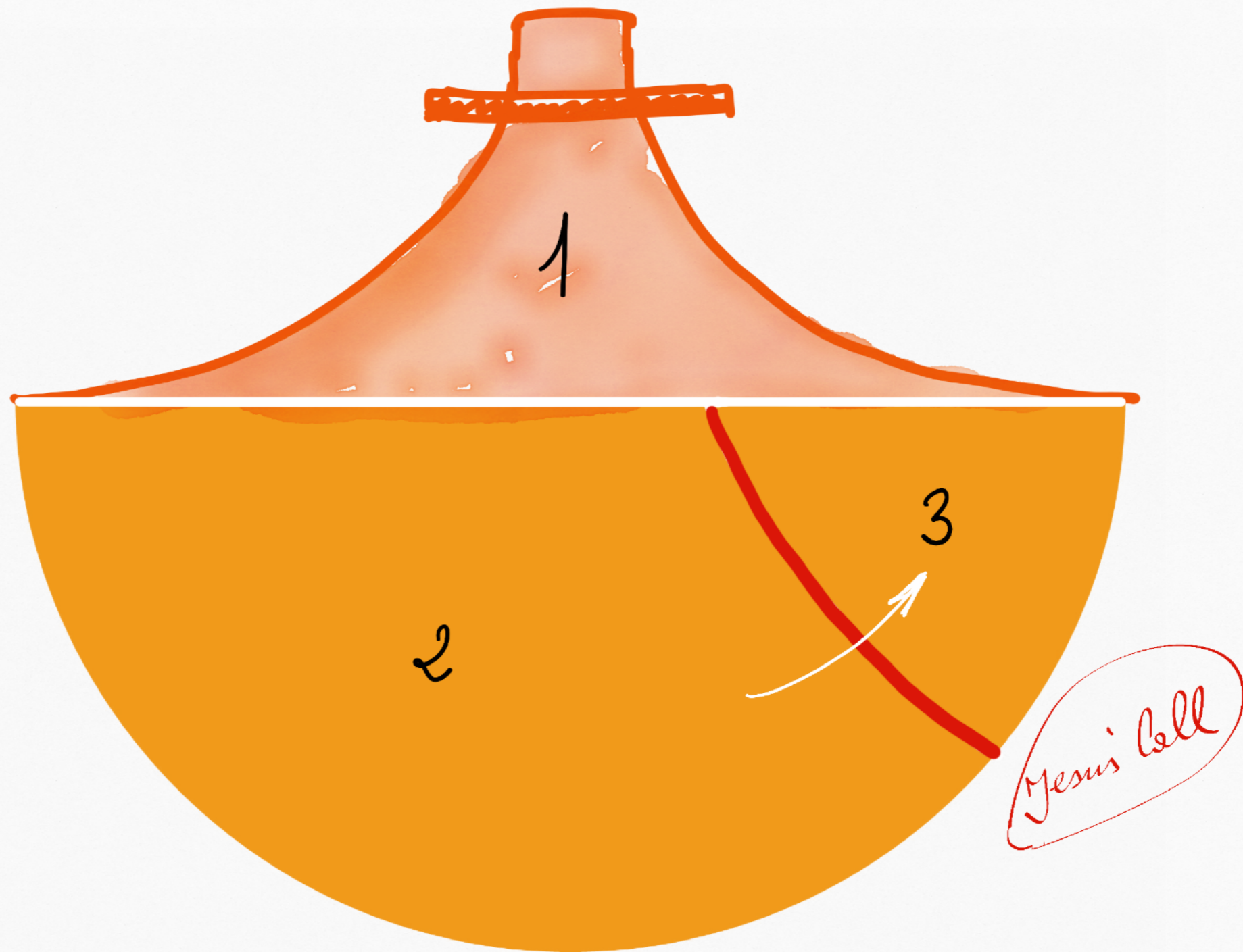
Mystagogy, Mysticism, Witnessing.

People who belong to the Prophetic Office are:

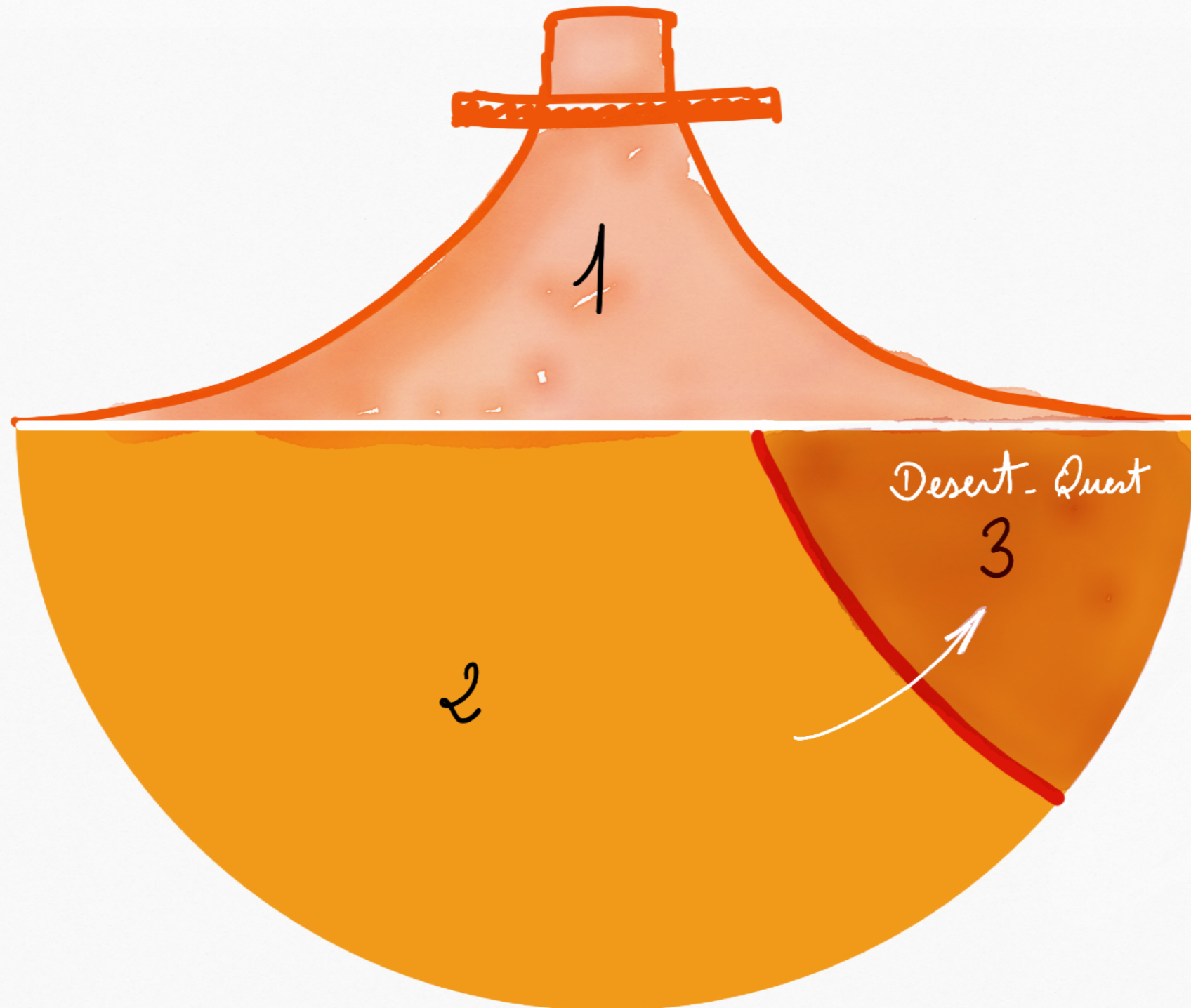
All the Persons who actually receive the Call to follow Christ closely. They then join one of the following categories:

- Monks and Hermits
- Religious
- Secular Institutes
- Movements of the Church
- Remain individual Lay persons (married or single)

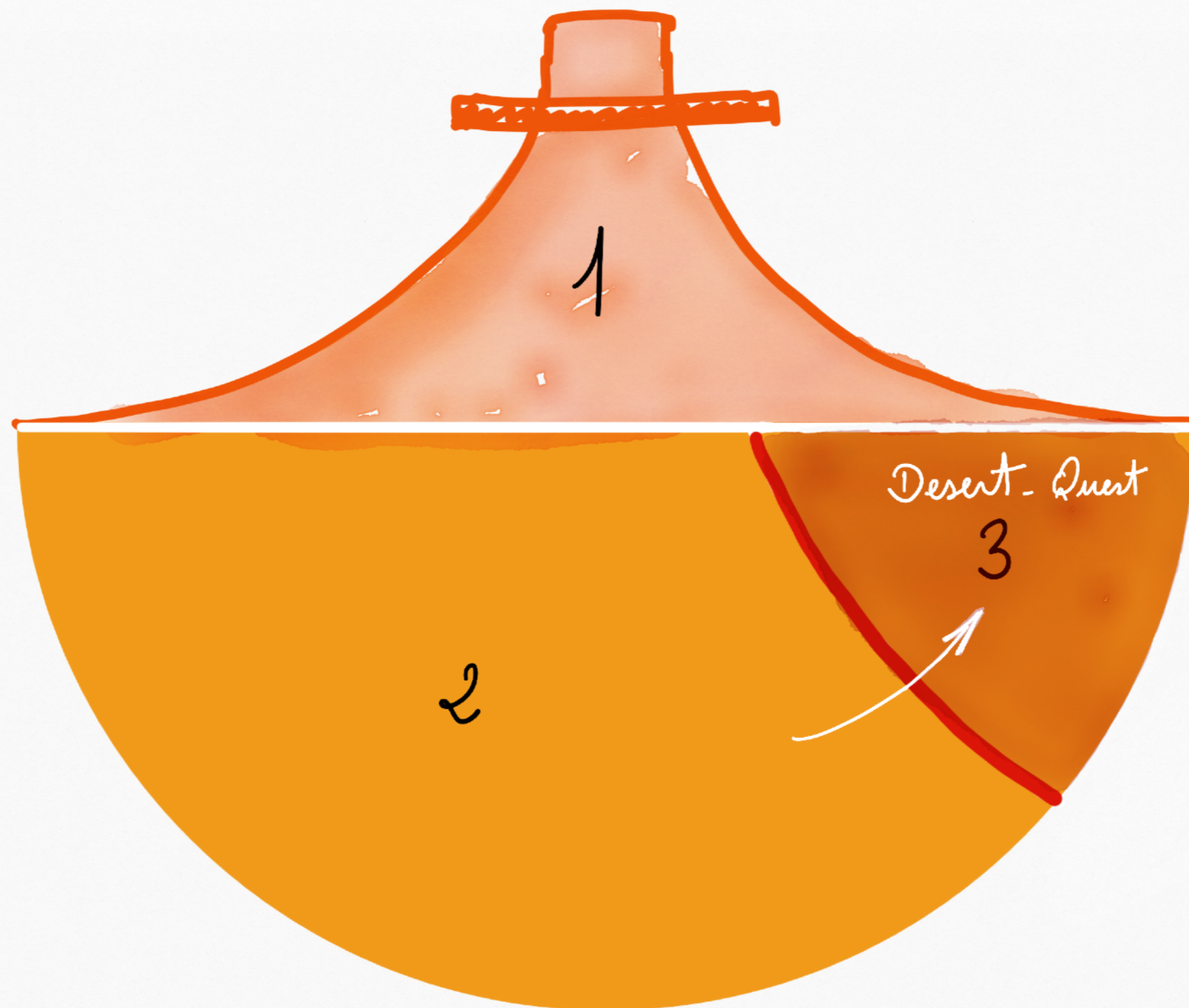
Some might hear one day Jesus' Call to follow Him closely



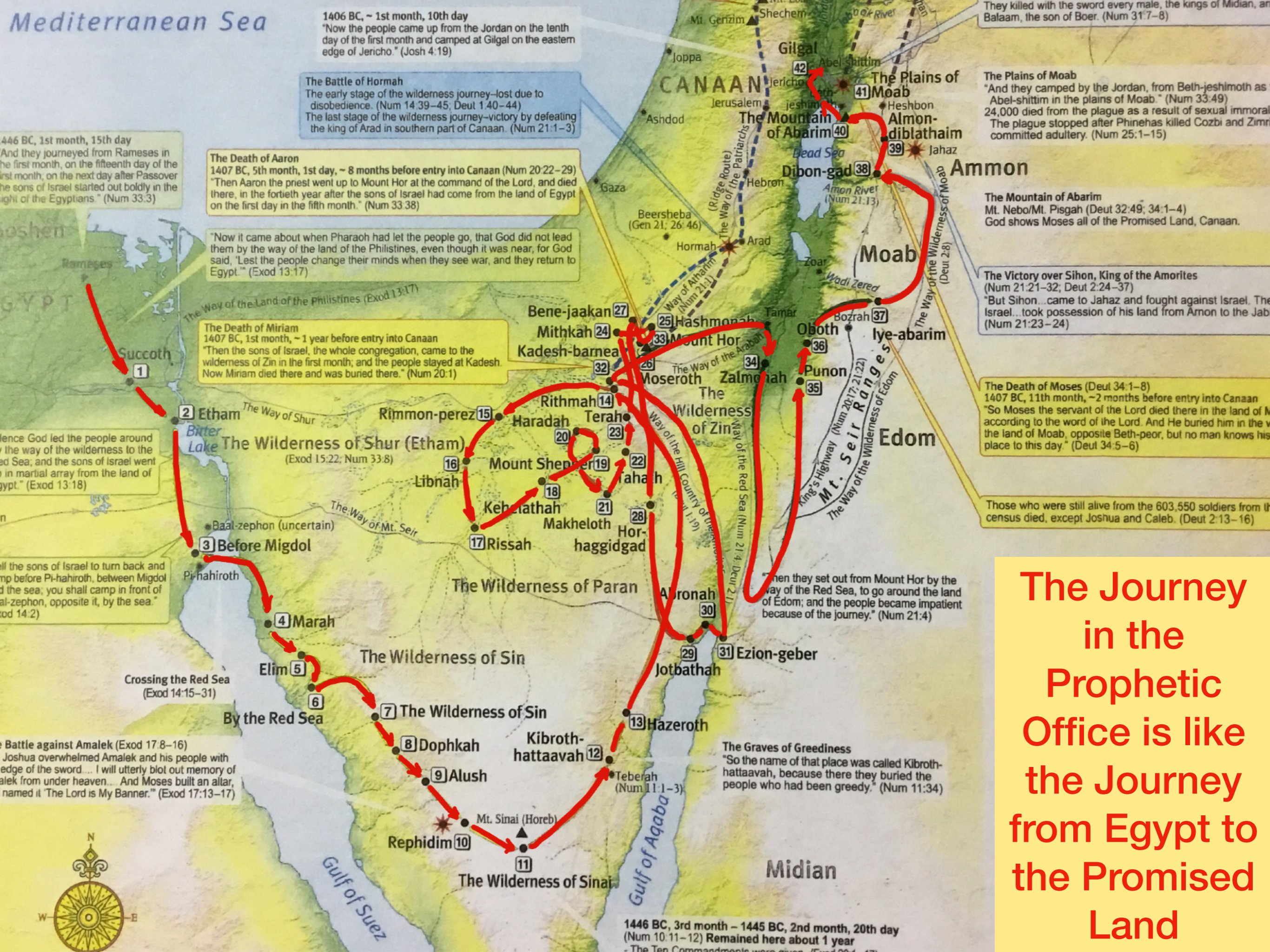
The red dividing line (between 2 and 3) is very important as it makes a very clear contrast between the Priestly Area (the Parish) and the 'Desert' Area where Jesus' Call is fulfilled.



The Prophetic Office of the Church is meant to help all persons who hear Jesus' Call to undergo the entire journey of growth until they reach its fullness.



Mediterranean Sea



1406 BC, ~ 1st month, 10th day
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The Battle of Hormah
The early stage of the wilderness journey—lost due to disobedience. (Num 14:39–45; Deut 1:40–44)
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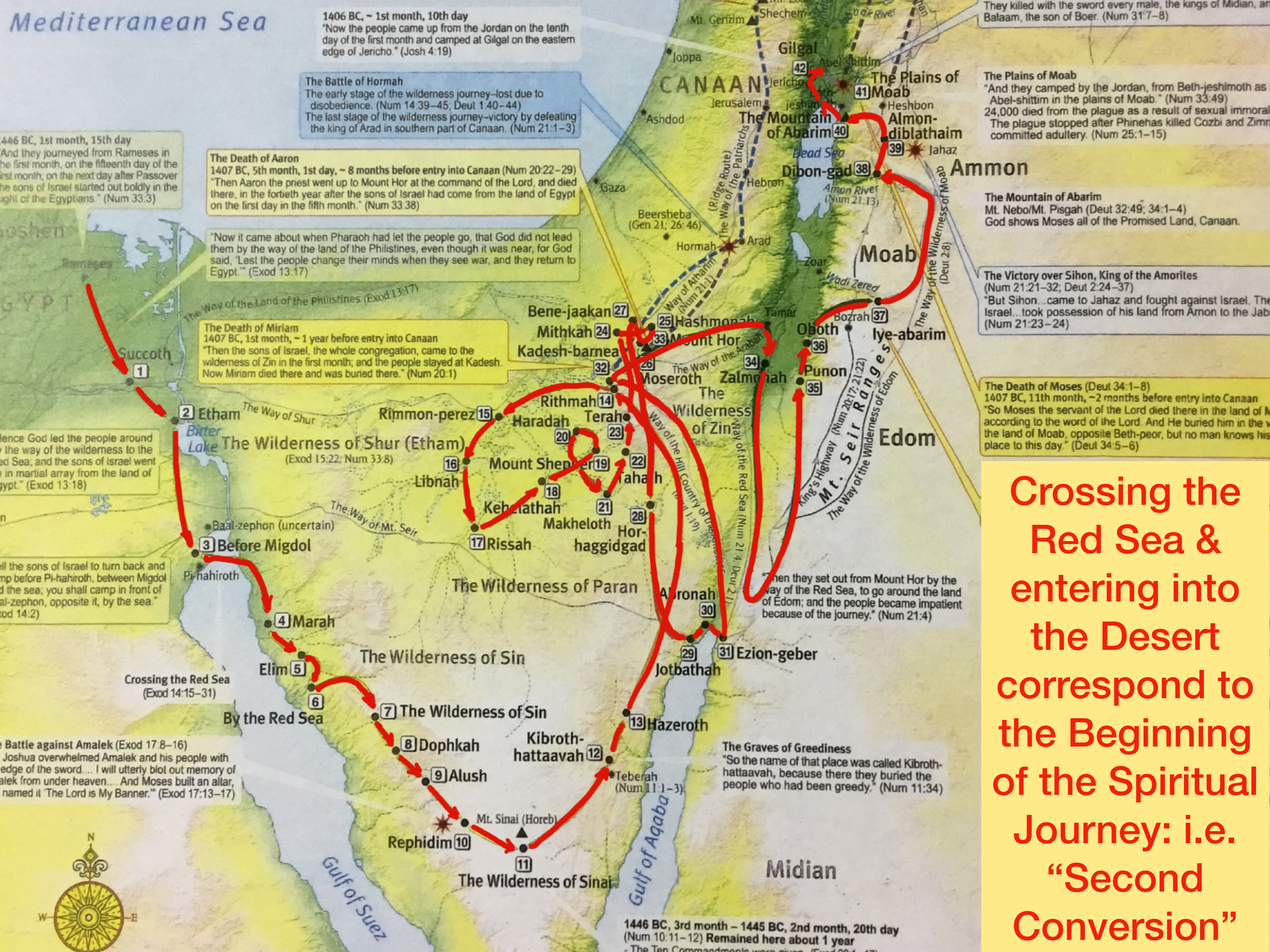
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The Journey in the Prophetic Office is like the Journey from Egypt to the Promised Land

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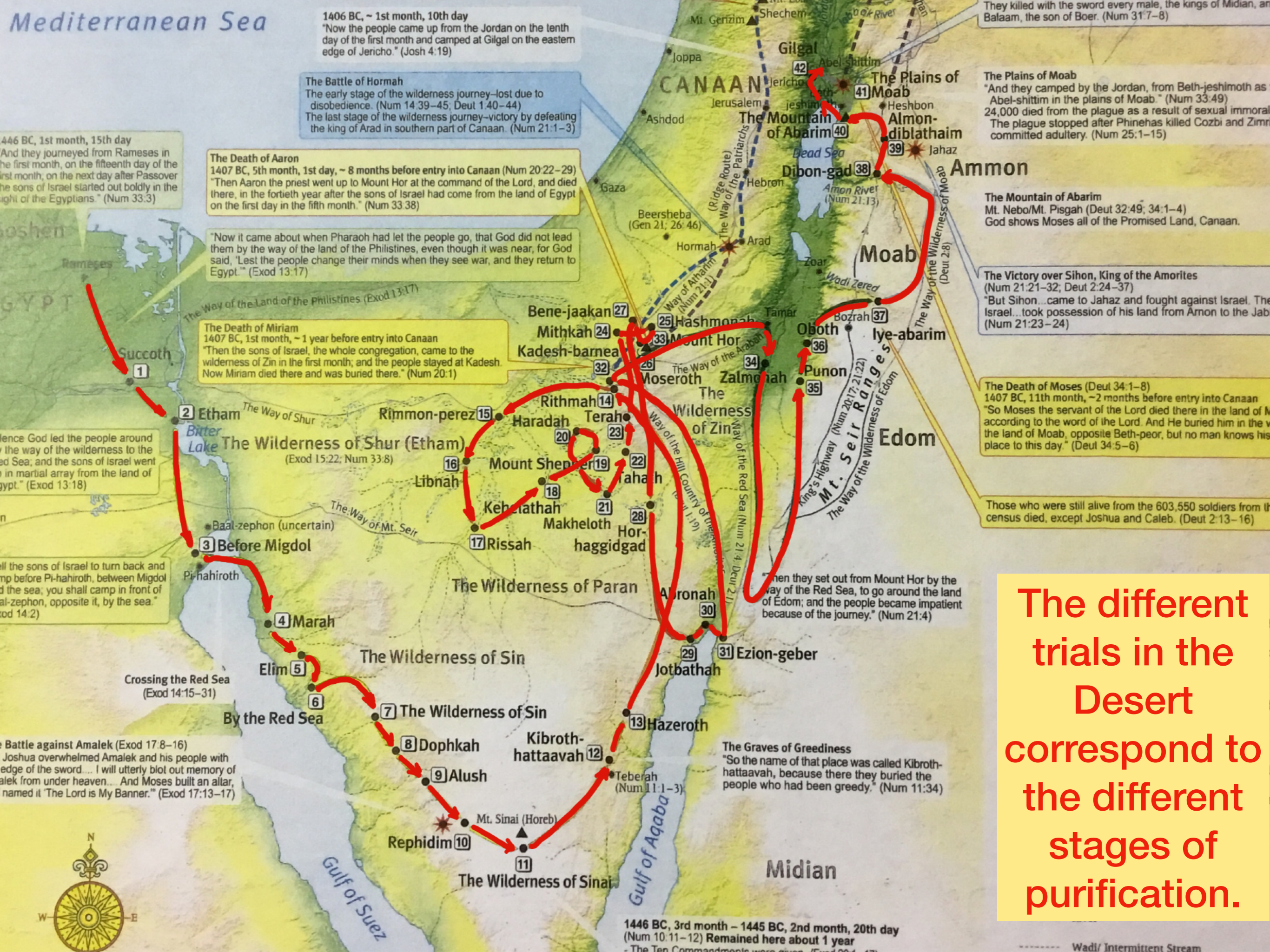
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Crossing the Red Sea & entering into the Desert correspond to the Beginning of the Spiritual Journey: i.e. "Second Conversion"

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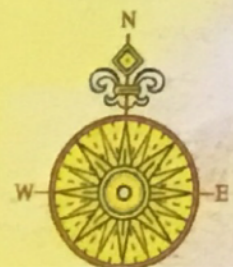
Those who were still alive from the 603,550 soldiers from the census died, except Joshua and Caleb. (Deut 2:13–16)

"Then they set out from Mount Hor by the way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the people became impatient because of the journey." (Num 21:4)

The Graves of Greediness
 "So the name of that place was called Kibroth-hattaavah, because there they buried the people who had been greedy." (Num 11:34)

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The different trials in the Desert correspond to the different stages of purification.



----- Wadi/ Intermittent Stream

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Crossing the Jordan and entering in the Promised Land correspond to the Spiritual Betrothal and Union with God

Entering and exploring
the Prophetic Office
is also like climbing
the high Mountain of Perfection

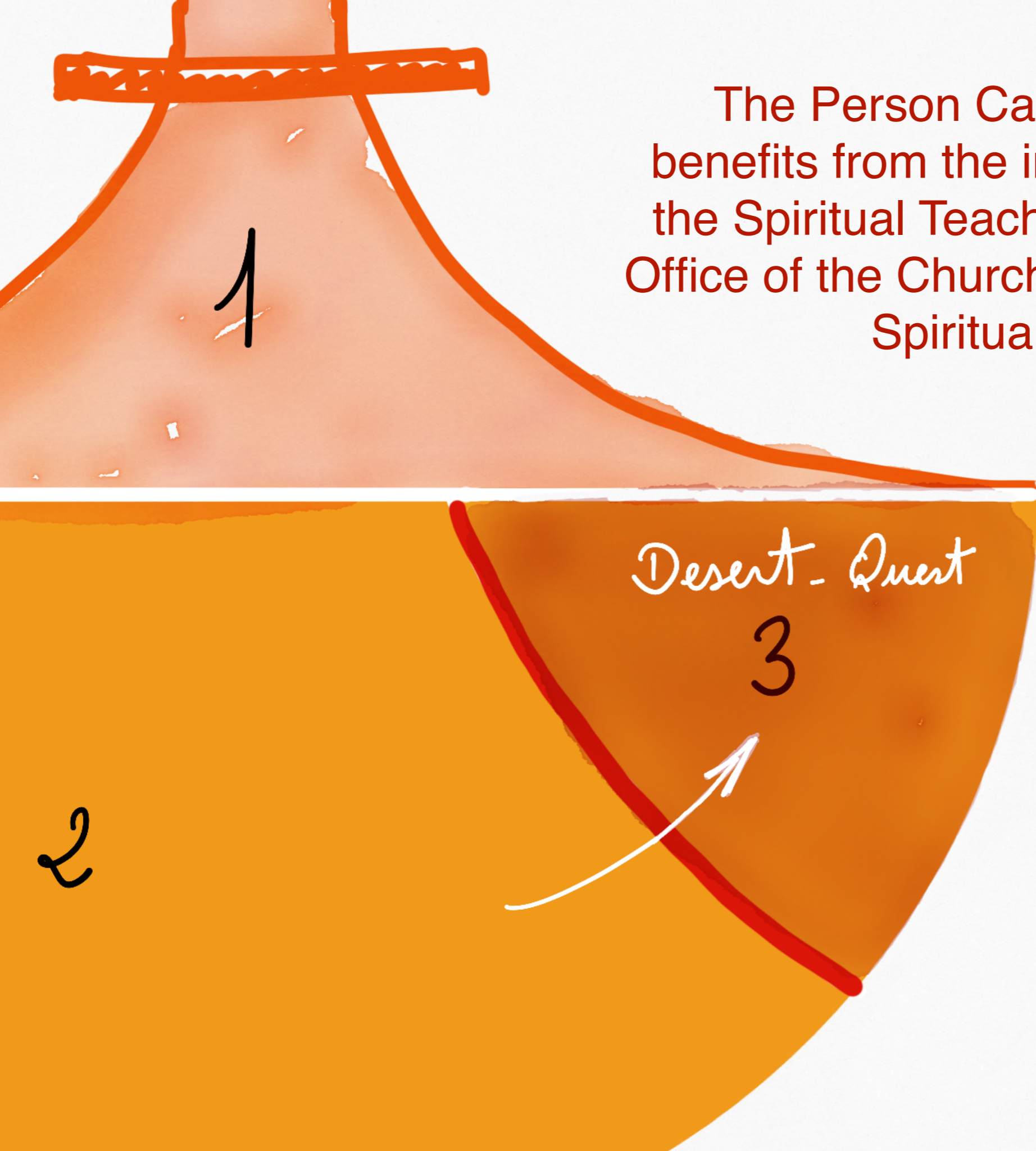


The Journey in the Prophetic Office
is from the base of the Mountain (3) up to its summit (7)

Then it
continue
down, in a
spirit of
imitation of
Christ
to dying in
Christ (10)



The Person Called to the Desert
benefits from the immense richness of
the Spiritual Teaching of the Prophetic
Office of the Church that comes from the
Spiritual Masters.



Let us look now closely into the Prophetic Office

3

The Prophetic Office is in fact the “Desert” where one delves, leaving everything, investing all one’s energy in seeking and finding only God.

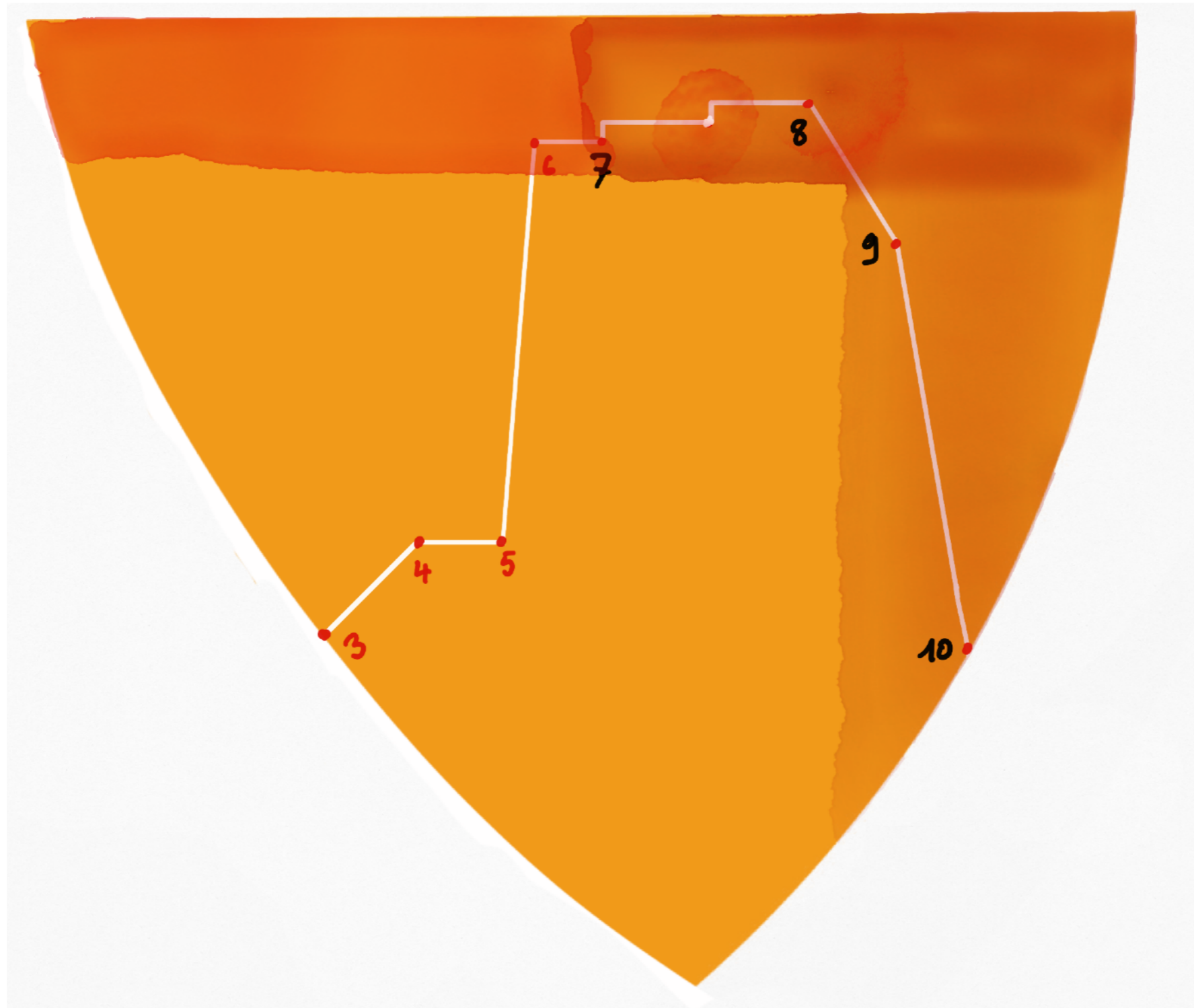
Let us think of St Antony the Great who hears the Lord’s Call sells his belongings, leaves his Parish close to the Nile and delves East into the Desert, seeking God only. (See St Athanasius, “Life of St Antony”)



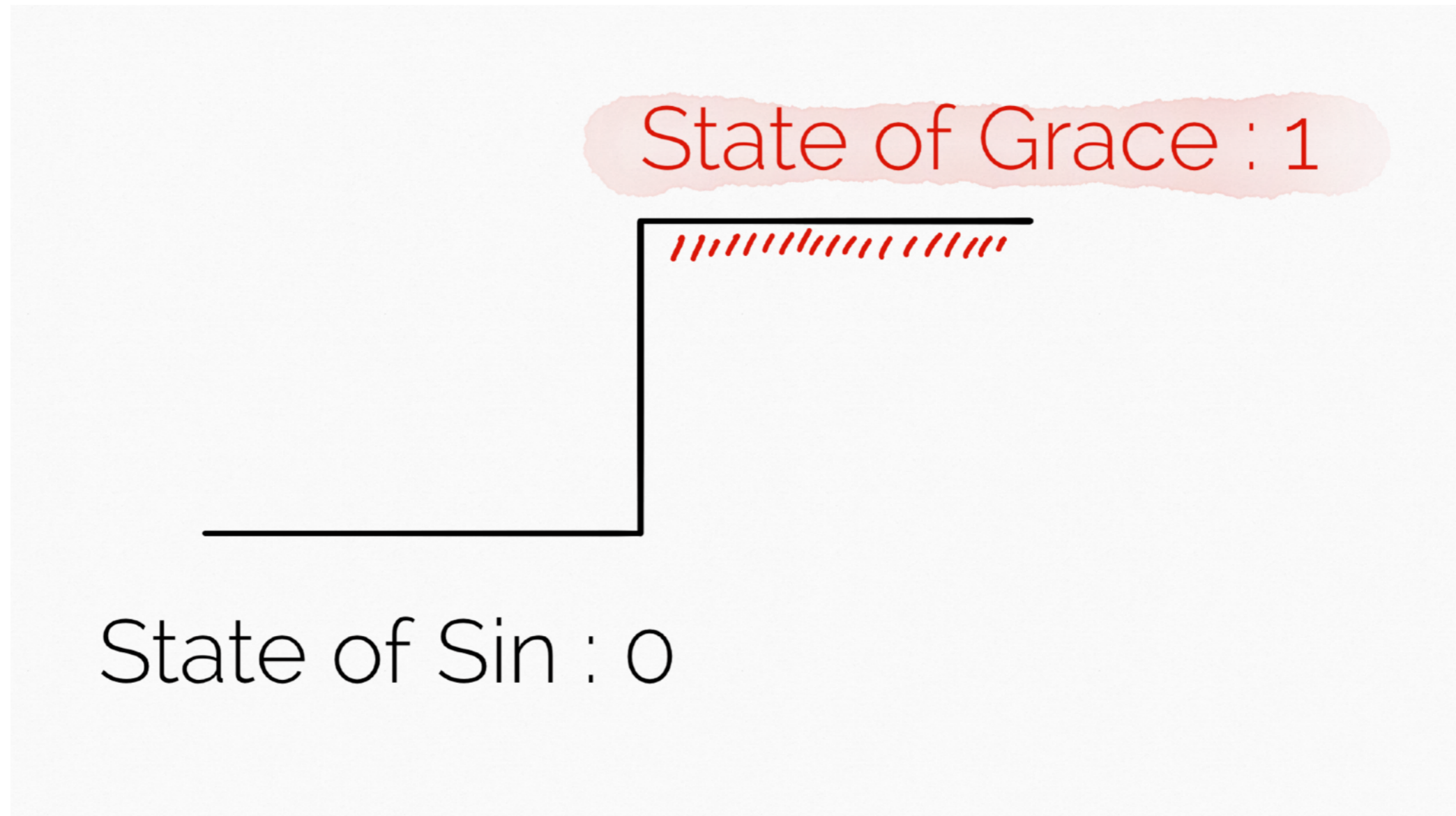
The Prophetic office is the place where one receives all the needed help to grow spiritually and reach Union with God and fullness of Love.

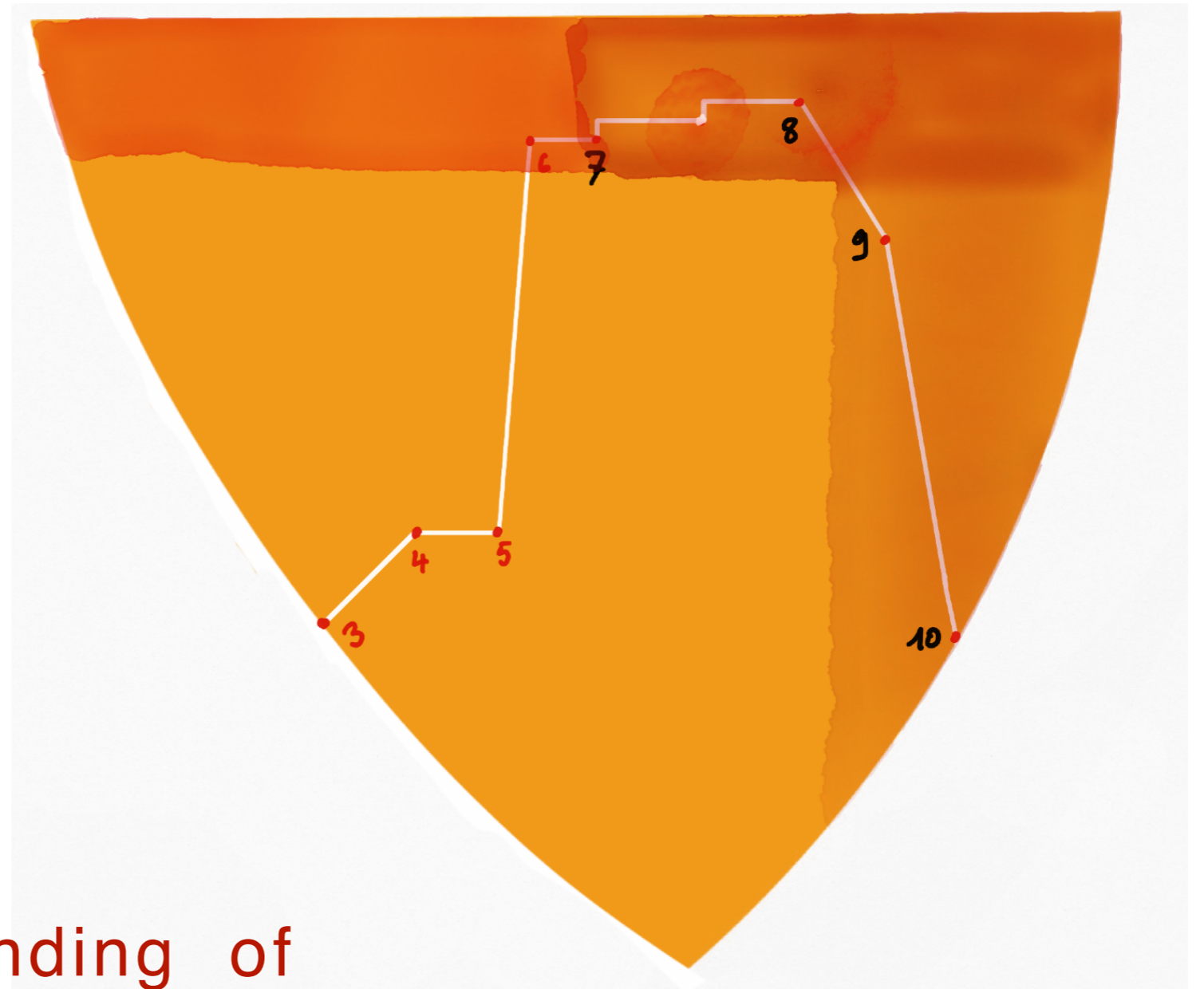


First and foremost, if we look at the entire Prophetic Office,
we find that it is characterized by
a “**journey of growth**” (from 3 to 10) where one progresses
ever closer to God.



The Priestly Office is commonly lived in a binary understanding of Christianity :
“state of sin” vs. “state of grace”.

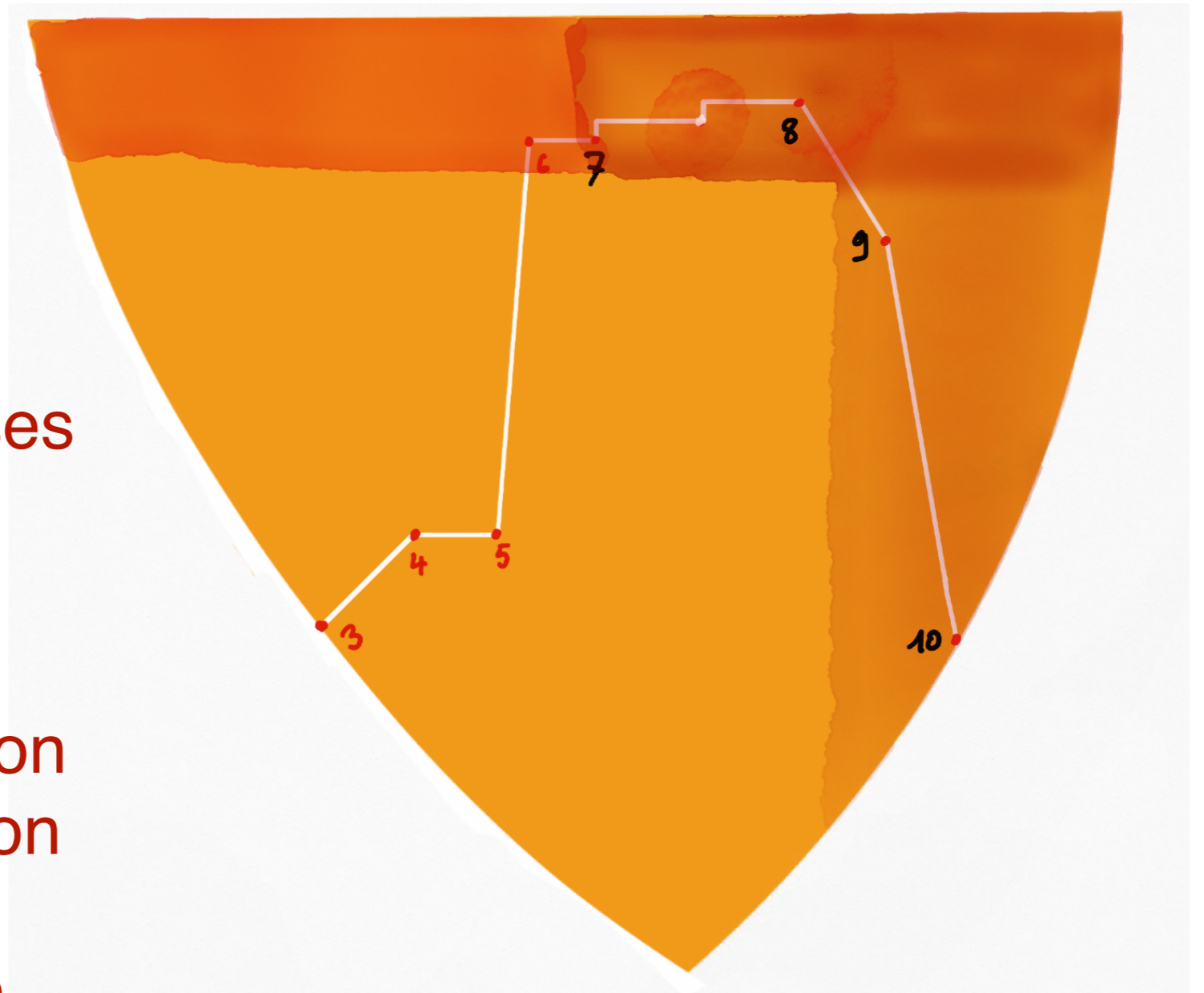




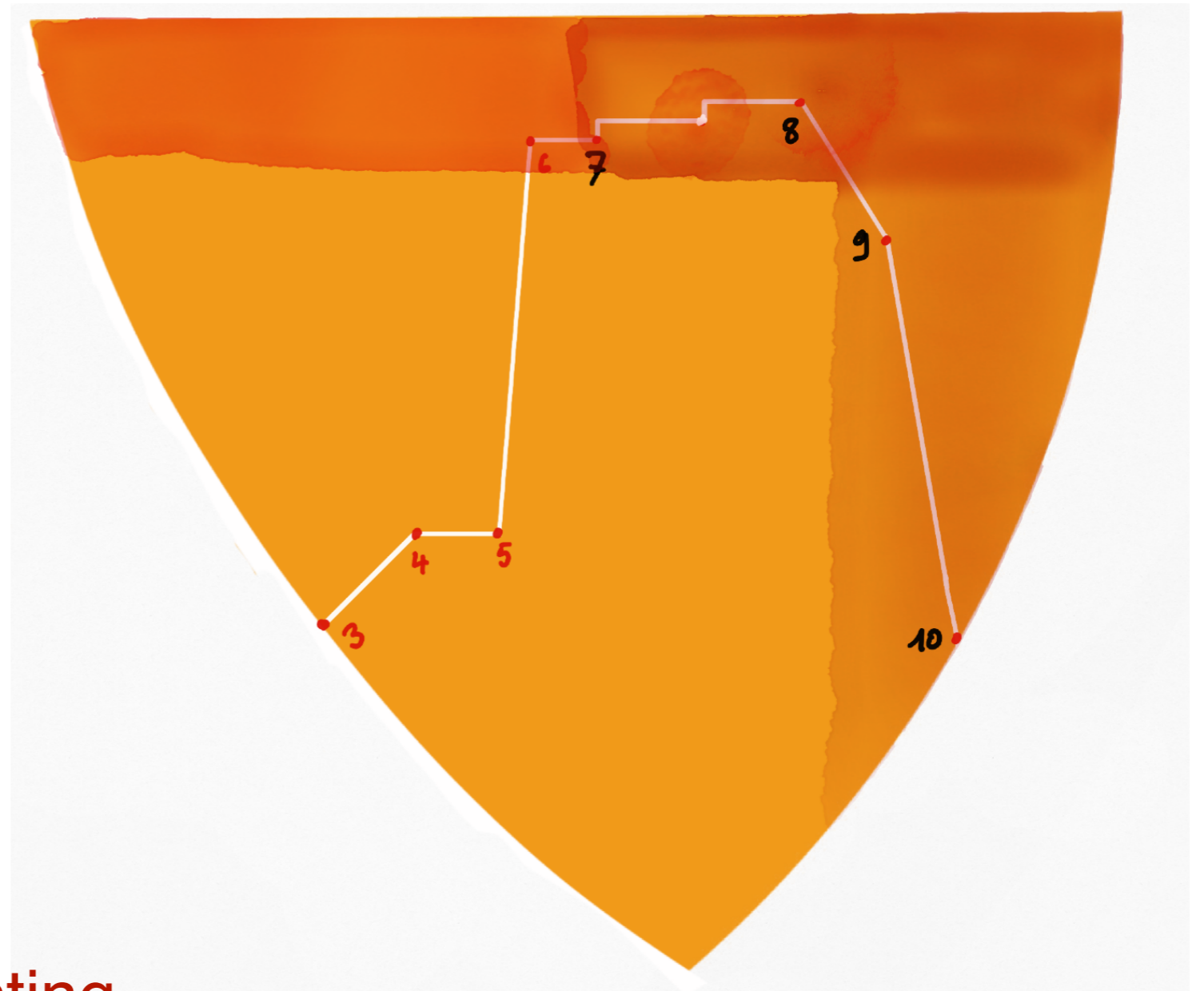
This new understanding of Christianity is tremendously different from the binary one. And therefore a change in outlook is crucial.

The Stages of the Journey

- 3: Answering Jesus' Call - Second Conversion.
- 4-5: Purification of the senses - Union of Will.
- 5-6: Deepest purification.
- 6-7: Spiritual Betrothal.
- 7-8: Spiritual Marriage (Union + Celebration). Intensification of Love.
- 8-9: Sparkling* Flames with the Holy Spirit.
- 9-10: Participating in the Lord's Passion.
- 10- Dying in the Fullness of Charity.

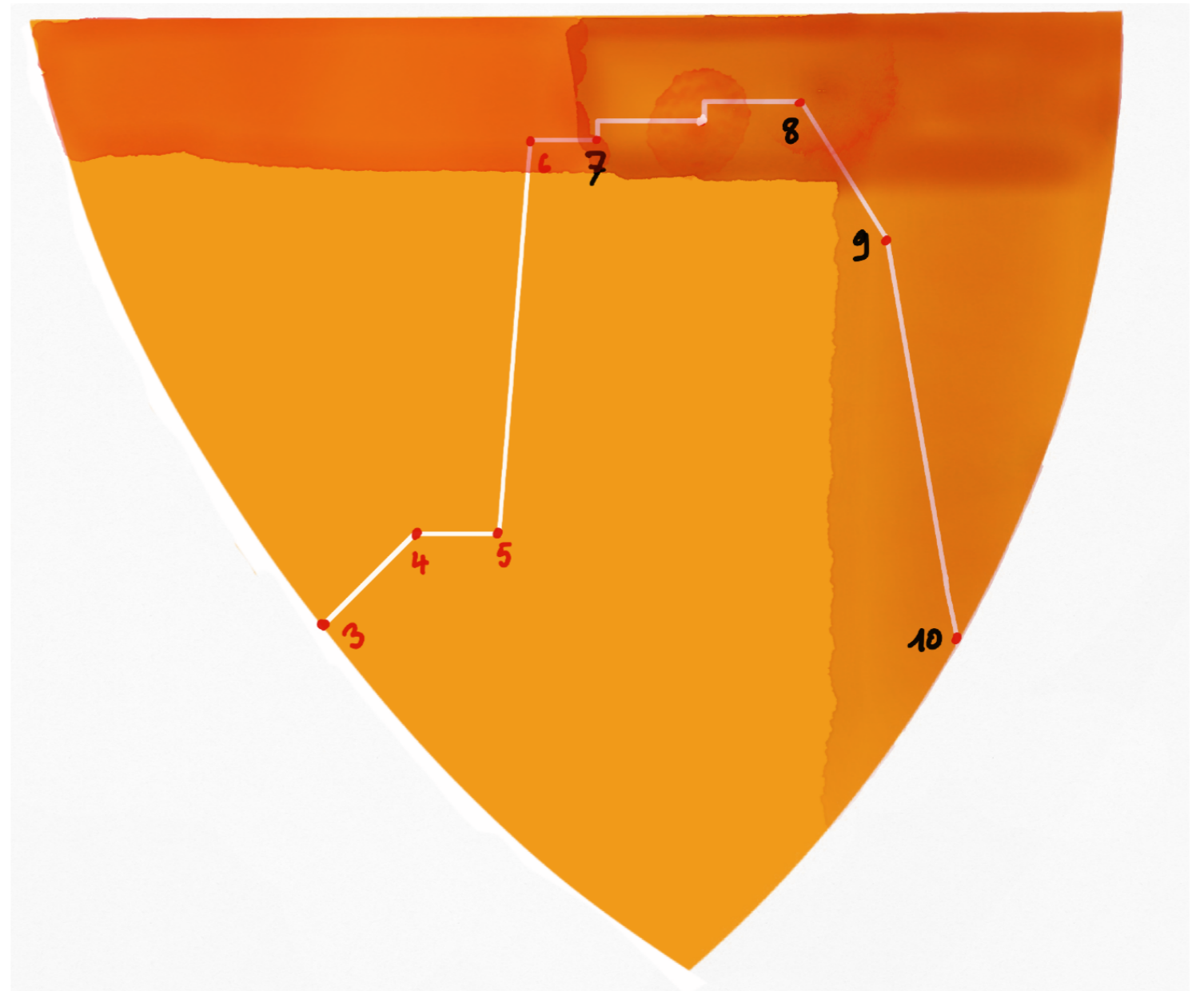


* Sparkling is a joint action of the Holy Spirit and the transformed human being, sending forth to God Divine Flames.



The second most interesting and comforting thing about the Prophetic Office is that it offers a “proved doctrine” to help people attain Perfection (*Lumen Gentium* 43).

"On this Mountain the LORD of hosts will provide for all peoples a feast of rich food and choice wines, juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines. [...] For the hand of the LORD will rest on this mountain." (Isaiah 25:6.10a)

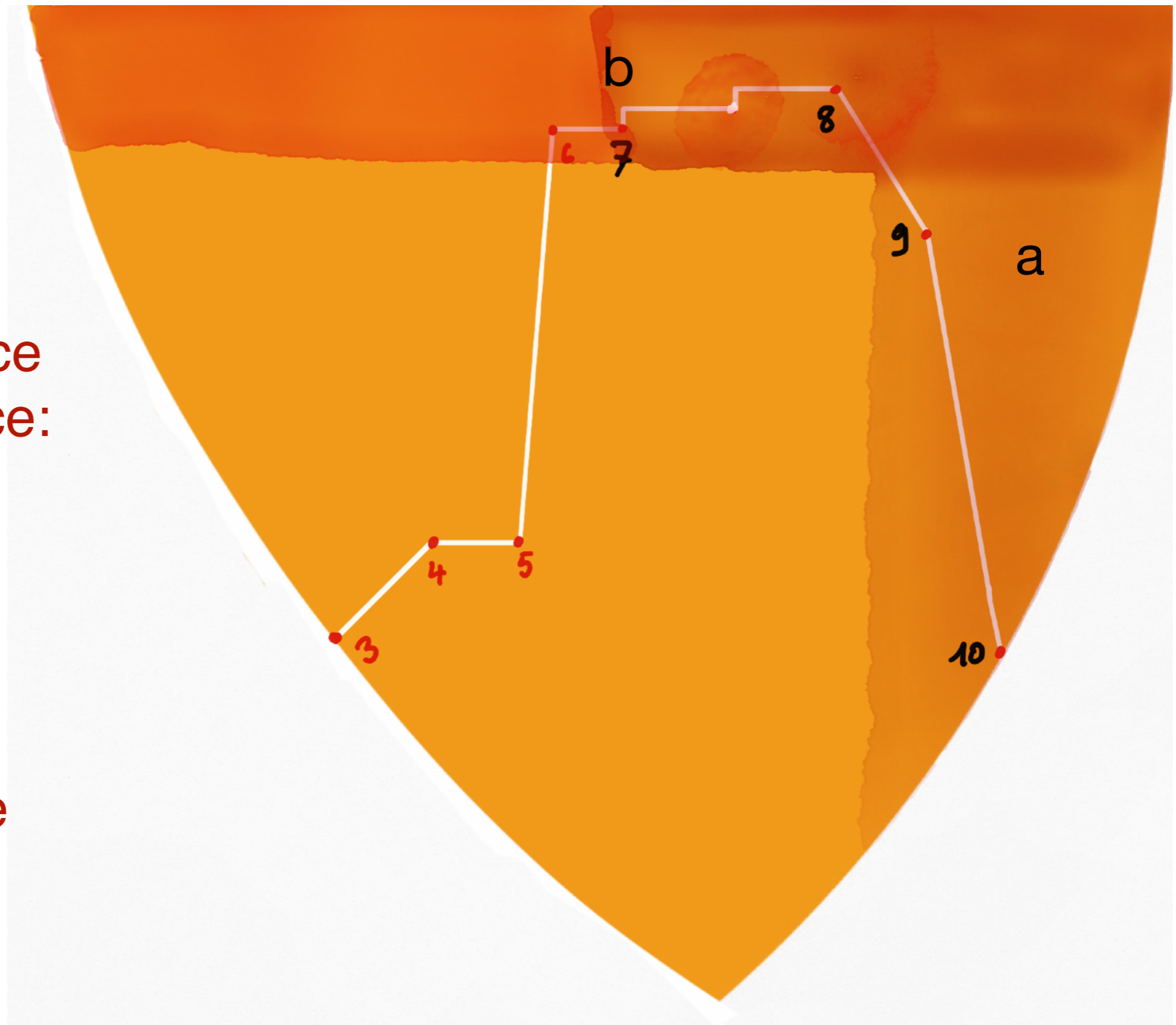


This “Mountain” is the sign of the extreme richness and abundance of the Graces the Lord wants to give us and, also, it is the sign of the immense amount of Sacred Doctrine that shows the way, supports the effort, and sheds the needed light for progress in these mysterious regions.

Two more elements are important to notice in the Prophetic Office:

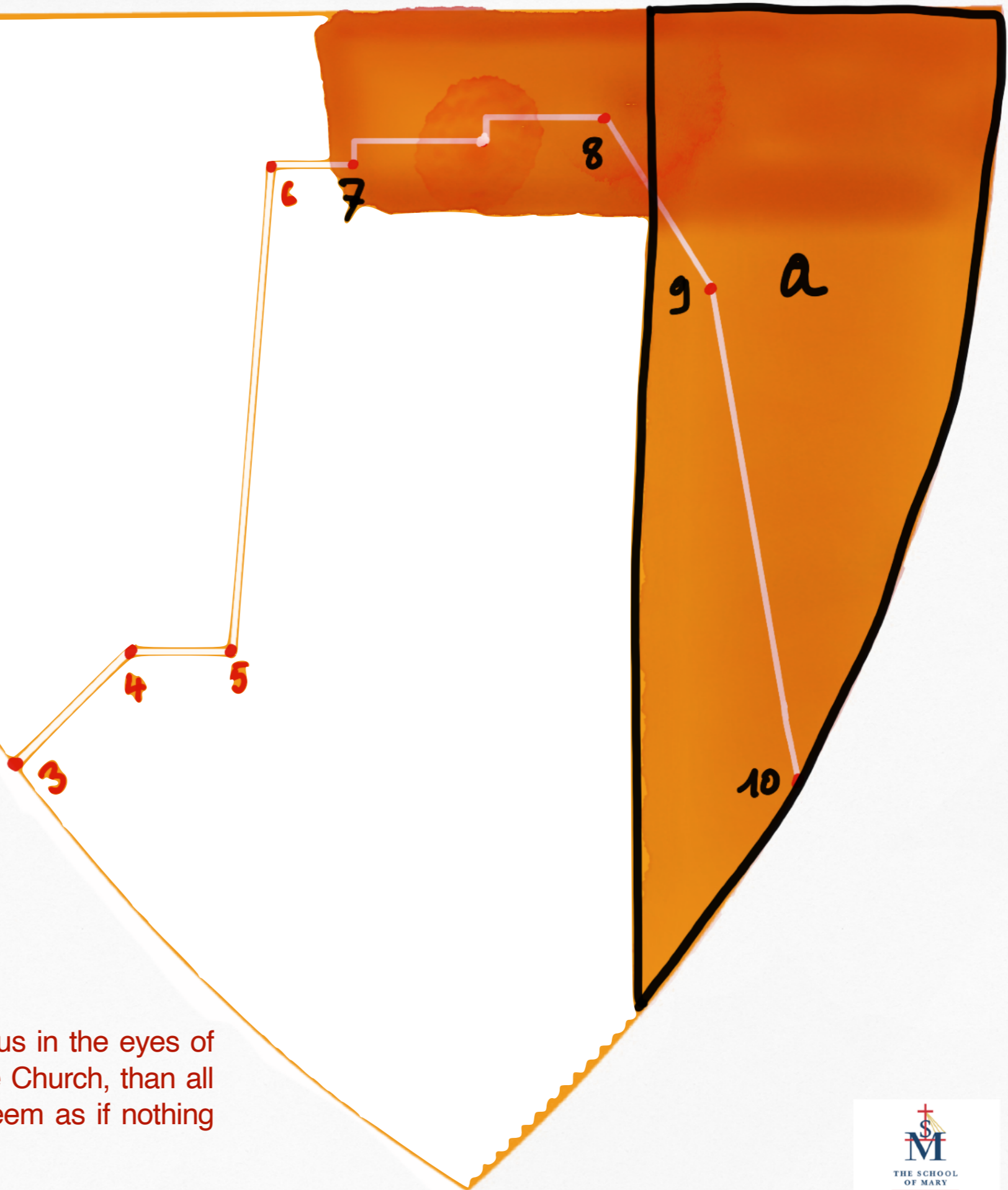
a- The hidden but holier number of the inhabitants of this “Desert”.

b- The Masters of Spiritual Life who are in charge of Forming all the seekers.

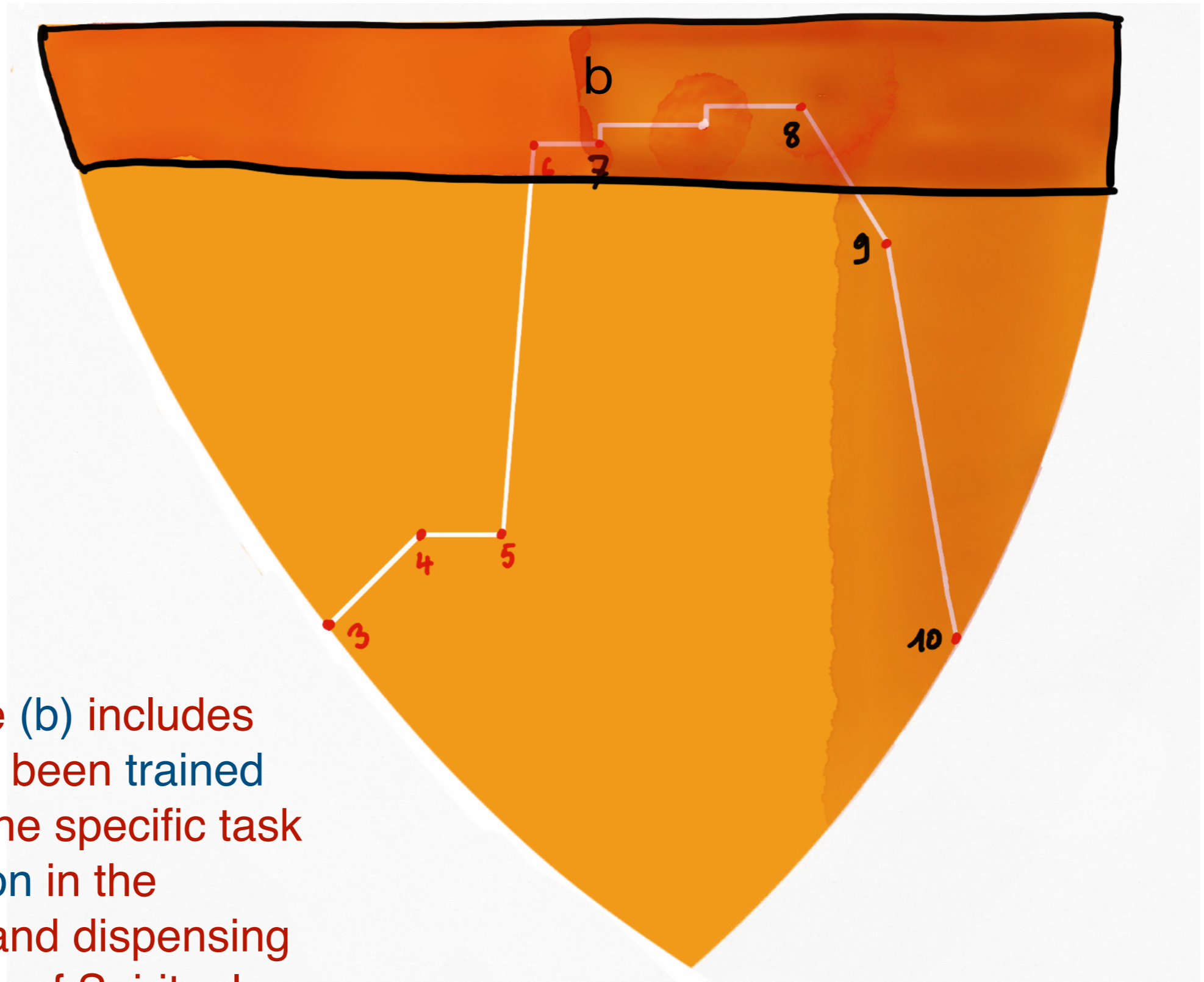


These two categories of persons are expressed on the drawing by the two shaded areas, one vertically (**a**) and one horizontally (**b**).

The vertical one (a) includes all those who have become united with Christ and therefore have a new fecundity. The new purity and union with Christ grants that each act achieved is of much greater use and is more meritorious for the Church (i.e. Priestly Function).



“because an act of pure love is more precious in the eyes of God and the soul, and more profitable to the Church, than all other good works together, though it may seem as if nothing were done” (St John of the Cross SC 29,2)



The horizontal one (b) includes everyone who has been trained and prepared for the specific task of offering formation in the 'Prophetic Office' and dispensing the Divine Doctrine of Spiritual Life.

Our Lady and the Prophetic Office

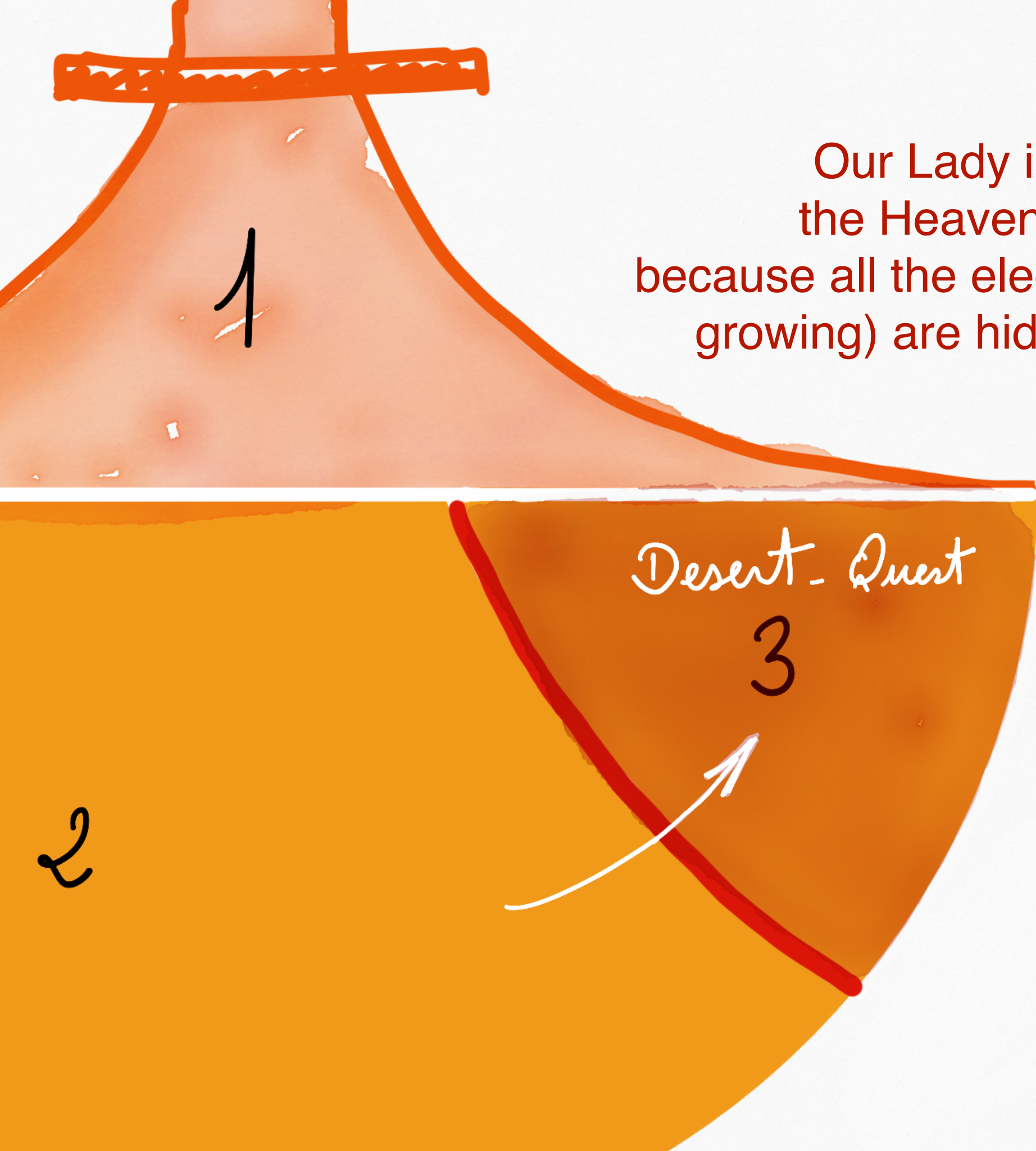
Our Lady is compared to the
Mountain itself or its height



Reaching Union with Jesus
introduces the bride into the Bridal Chamber.
The Bridal Chamber is also an image of Mary

In fact the
Bride is
purified and
transformed
into, Mary,
becoming a
living image
of Her





Our Lady is also called
the Heavenly Jerusalem
because all the elect (and here they are
growing) are hidden in her Womb.

Desert - Quest
3

2

St Augustine says that all the Elect are
hidden in Mary.

3

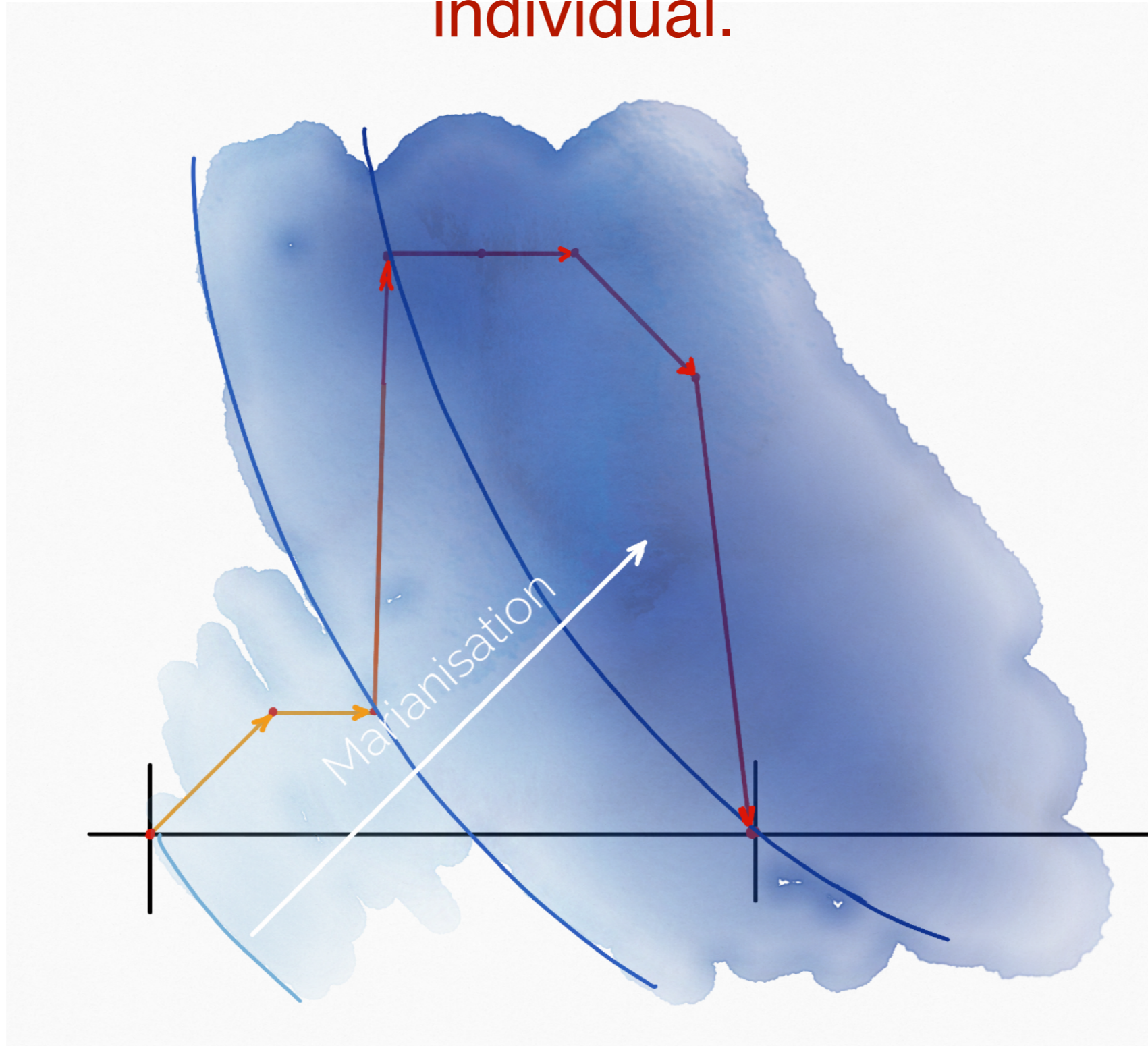
The Prophetic Office is the place
where
Mary dwells as true and absolute Lady
of the Place.



© EPA



It is fair to say that the Process of
Growth is in fact
a growing Marianisation of the
individual.



The Stages of Marianisation

3-5: Our Lady is not yet necessarily perceived as vital.

5-6: Entering through the “narrow door” i.e. Love of Mary and adopting Her Faith i.e. “the narrow path”.

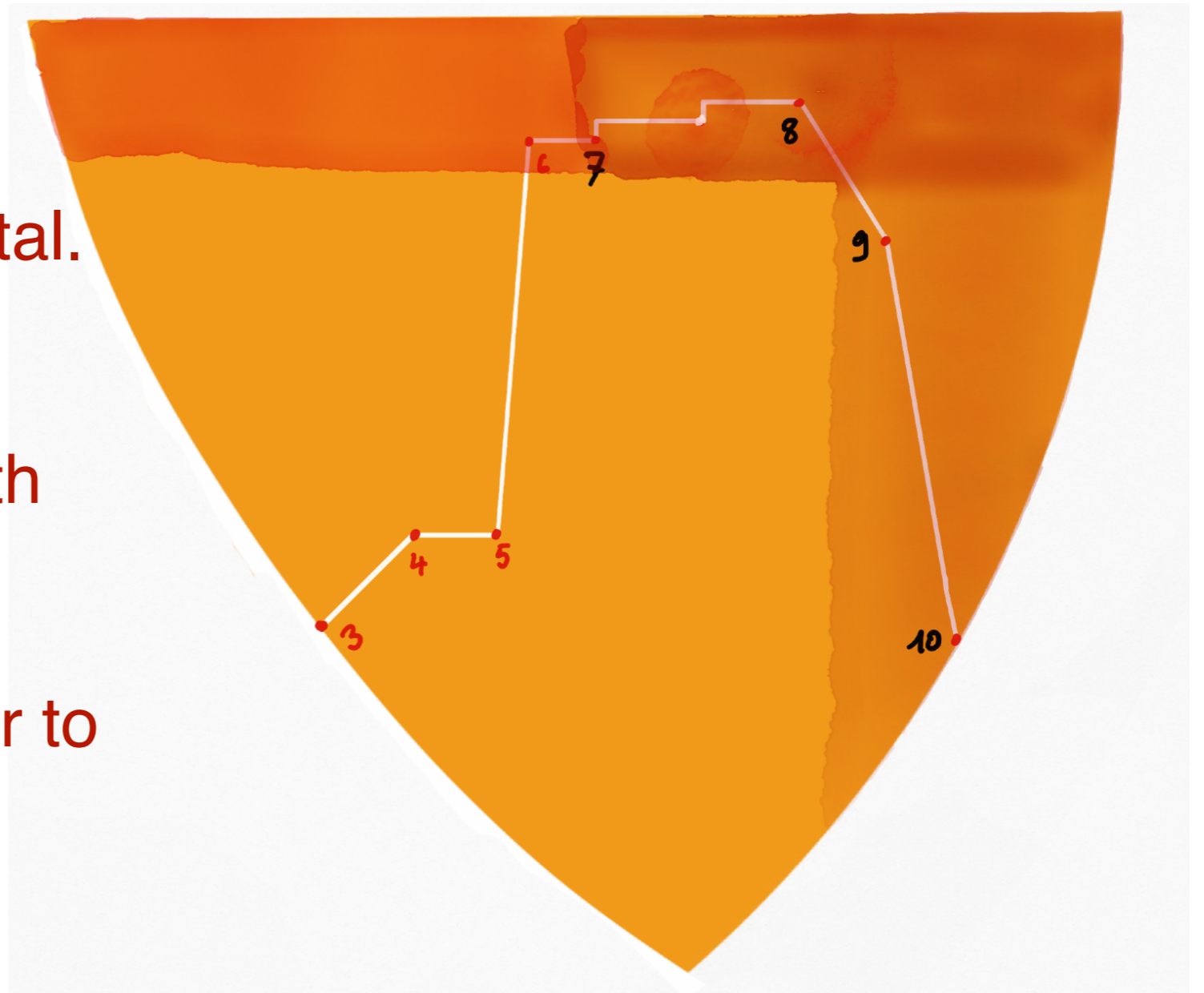
6-7: Being prepared by the Holy Spirit as a bride similar to Our Lady.

7-8: Entering into the Bridal Chamber i.e. Mary herself.

8-9: Sparkling Flames with Her & Guided by Her.

9-10: Participating in the Lord’s Passion with Mary.

10- Dying with Her support.



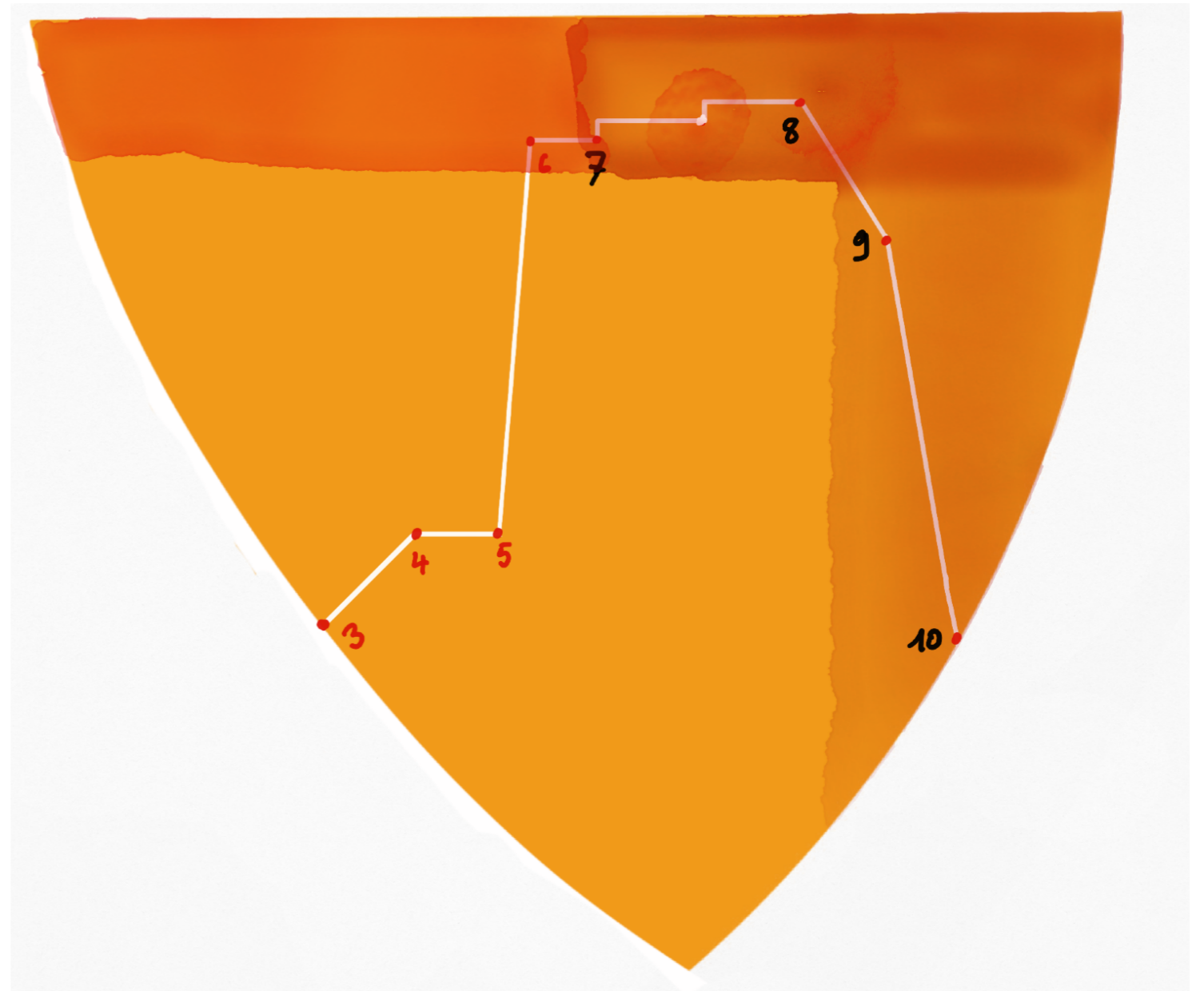
Mary is the Seat of Wisdom

Mary teaches in
Silence



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For more please visit
www.schoolofmary.org

