

between God and Satan. The Devil is like a rabid dog tied to a chain; beyond the length of the chain he cannot seize anyone. And you: keep at a distance. If you approach too near, you let yourself be caught."

One time Father Francesco was about to leave Padre Pio's cell. Pio said: "Do not leave, otherwise the devils (cosacci) come." Francesco left after awhile but few steps away he heard a terrible noise, and came back. Padre Pio had been assaulted.

Because Padre Pio's health was not good, in October 1911, after a physical examination by Dr. Antonio Cardarelli in Naples, he was sent by his superiors to Venafrò for convalescence. According to the diagnosis of the celebrated physician, the young friar's days were numbered, and he could not travel long distances, which is why he was sent to Venafrò, the location of the closet convent. During the month and a half stay in that convent, the community noticed the first supernatural phenomena: divine ecstasies lasting up to one hour, and diabolic apparitions lasting a few minutes. While in Venafrò, a likely Padre Agostino entered Padre Pio's cell, saying: "I'm here to confess to you." Suspecting something fishy, Padre Pio said: "Repeat after me *Long Live Jesus*." The devil screamed "No!" and disappeared.



**Devil's interference-letter written to Padre Pio. His Guardian Angel sprinkled it with holy water and it became legible.**

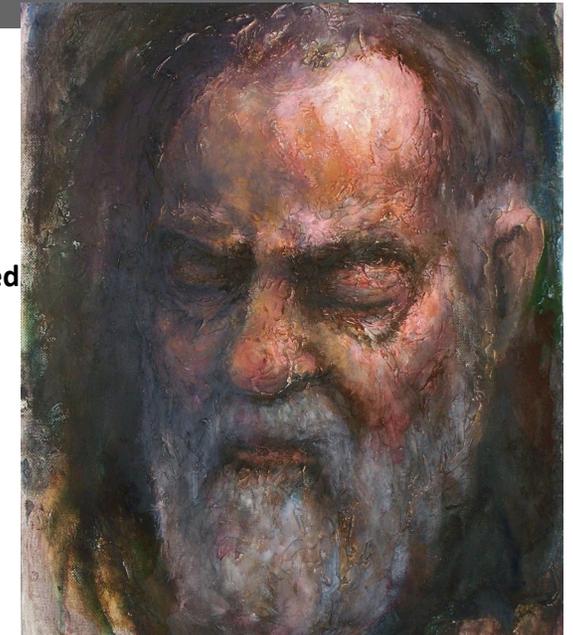
In 1964 Padre Pio was assaulted by the devil who gave him a terrible blow on the spine, and he fell, and had a black eye and swollen face. In a letter to Padre Benedetto dated 18 March 1913, Padre Pio stated: "These devils don't stop striking me, even making me fall down from the bed. They even tear off my shirt to beat me! But now they do not frighten me any more.

Jesus loves me, He often lifts me and places me back on the bed."

\*(excerpted from: //caccioppoli.com; www.padrepio.catholicwebservices.com)

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## ***Padre Pio Encounters the Devil***



**Padre Pio's bloodied and bruised face after his encounter with the Devil.**

## ***Padre Pio and the Devil***

\*The Devil exists as much today as he did in the past. He continues to seduce mankind into sin. The attitude of a disciple of Christ must be vigilant and strong in any confrontation with Satan. You cannot be indifferent to his existence. It seems that the mentality of people today is to relegate the figure of the Devil into ancient mythology and folklore. *Baudelaire* justly affirms that "The Masterpiece of Satan in the Modern Time" is to have people believe he does not exist. It is not easy, therefore, for many to imagine the recent appearance of Satan when he came from hell to fight against Padre Pio. These battles were bloody in nature, as described in many letters that Padre Pio sent to his Spiritual Fathers. On one occasion, he received three broken ribs and a five stitch cut over his eye. When questioned by Fr. Alessio as to who put the pillow under his head while Padre Pio was still lying on the floor from Satan's attack, Fr. Alessio heard a voice say: "If the Lady in White did not come to save him, I would have killed him tonight."

One of the first contacts that Padre Pio had with the prince of evil occurred in 1906. One night, Padre had returned to the convent of Saint Elia of Pianisi. He could not fall asleep that night because of the enormous summer heat. He heard the footsteps of someone coming from a nearby room. Padre Pio thought, "Apparently, Friar Anastasio could not sleep either." He wanted to call out to him so that they could visit and speak for awhile. He went to the window and tried calling to his companion, but he was unable to speak. On the ledge of a nearby window, he saw a monstrous dog. Padre Pio, with terror in his voice, said: "I saw the big dog enter through the window and there was smoke coming from his mouth. I fell on the bed and I heard a voice from the dog that said, 'him it is, it is him.' While I was still on the bed, the animal jumped to the ledge of the window, then to the roof and disappeared."

The Devil attacked Padre Pio with numerous types of temptations. Padre Augustino also confirmed that the Devil appeared to him under many different forms. "The Devil appeared as young girls that danced naked, as a crucifix, as a young friend of the monks, as the Spiritual father or as the Provincial Father; as Pope Pius X, a Guardian

Angel, as Saint Francis and as Our Lady." The Devil has also appeared in his horrible forms with an army of infernal spirits. There were other times when Padre Pio was approached by the Devil but without any apparition. He was troubled with deafening noises and covered with spittle, etc. Padre Pio succeeded in freeing himself from these attacks of the Devil by invoking the name of **Jesus**.

The struggle between Padre Pio and Satan became more difficult when Padre Pio freed the souls possessed by the Devil. Father Tarcisio of Cervinara said: "More than once, before leaving the body of a possessed, the Devil has shouted, 'Padre Pio, you give us more trouble than Saint Michael!'; also, 'Father Pio do not steal the bodies from us and we will not bother you.'"

In one of the letters to Padre Agostino, dated 18 January 1912, Padre Pio stated: "The Devil does not want to lose this battle. He takes on many forms. For several days now, he has appeared with his brothers who are armed with batons and pieces of iron. One of the difficulties is that they appear in many disguises. There were several times when they threw me out of my bed and dragged me out of my bedroom. I am patient, however, and I know Jesus, Our Lady, my Guardian Angel, Saints Joseph and Francis are always with me."

Padre Pio called the Devil "cosaccio (whatsit) (plural cosacci). At times he had a real name 'Barbablu.'" He said: "Satan reigns over the world. The Devil wants me for himself at all costs. The devil is trying to snatch me from the arms of Jesus." He also relates: "What comes from Satan begins with calmness and ends in storm, indifference and apathy. Do not let the infernal beast frighten you. God will fight it with you and for you. If the Devil makes noise it's a very good sign. What is terrifying is his peace."

The devils assaulted Padre Pio almost on a daily basis. He said of these assaults: "The human soul is the battlefield