

## Amalia Domingo Soler



During the time in which the sun had not as yet set on the vast Spanish empire – that covered the Americas and extended throughout the Pacific – the city where Amalia was born, Seville, was the seaport accessible to all the territories beyond the seas. Wealth from every corner of the planet flowed into its warehouses, and from there was distributed to finance the countless wars that were schemed up by the kings.

It was precisely after the crumbling of that empire, mortally wounded by the Napoleonic wars and by the loss of most of its American colonies, that Amalia was born. The day was November 10, 1835. On the throne of Spain sat a young girl, Isabel II, with her mother Maria Cristina, as the regent. This reign was becoming an extremely perturbing period, noticeable by ministries of short duration, the religious crisis, epidemics and civil war – the Carlist wars – whose side effects were still to be felt in the following century.

The direct results of so many difficulties affected the economy. Poverty characterized the life of the majority of the population.

It was in such a problematic environment that Amalia Doming Soler spent her childhood; a childhood that could not be considered a happy one. Even before she was born, she would be facing a great loss. Her father departed on a great trip and was never to return. At the age of eight she became blind, but three months later her sight improved because of the treatment she received from a pharmacist. Notwithstanding, she never fully recovered and continued encountering problems with her sight throughout her entire life, with the constant threat of complete blindness.

The following years of her life were spent relatively peaceful in the company of her mother.

“In my eyes, which had become very imperfect, I do not understand what my mother saw, as she consecrated herself entirely to me, and had no other desire, except that of seeking to make me happy and to procure my education. When I became two years of age, she commenced the difficult task of teaching me to read. As a reward for her dedication, at the age of five I could already read perfectly well, and everyday, for two hours, I was required to read out loud. Our spirits were in such incredible unison, that through a simple glance at one another we could guess the other’s thoughts.” (Amalia Domingo Soler – “My Life”)

Amalia wrote her first poems at the age of ten, and at eighteen she published her first verses.

Amalia never married, and at 25 years of age, upon her mother’s death, the most difficult phase of her life commenced. The sparse resources that her mother possessed had been fully spent on Amalia’s medical treatment and with the assistance to her relatives. In this manner, in addition to the solitude, days of severe poverty commenced for Amalia. The alternatives proposed by some of her relatives were impossible for her to

accept: either to go to live in a convent, or to accept an arranged marriage to a much older gentleman, in a good financial situation.

She then decided to go to Madrid in the hopes that she would find more opportunities there to guarantee her survival with her poems and with a modest job. Nonetheless, her struggles were tremendous. She starved and had to beg for assistance at houses of charity. It was very difficult to find an honorable form of work for a poor, abandoned woman. During this time, because of the loneliness and hunger, she even considered the possibility of ending her life. On one night, in which she had become overwhelmed with bitterness, including thoughts of doubting the existence of God, she was wondering about her mother's destiny, and the latter, appeared to her in spirit, causing a tremendous impression upon her.

Quite shaken with the amazing vision of her mother, she remembered religion and sought comfort in the temples of faith. It was in the bosom of a Lutheran church that she found the necessary support. The words of the shepherds and the conviction displayed by the followers renewed her inner disposition, filling her heart with renewed faith and comfort in her trust in Jesus.

Her continuous efforts to write poetry, in addition to some work at sewing that she did, along with her life's difficult struggles, significantly worsened and impaired her eyesight. It was only thanks to a homeopathic treatment she received from a doctor that she was able to escape complete blindness. It was also this same doctor, who informs her about the so-called "crazy", followers of a new doctrine, called Spiritism. He loaned her a copy of a Spiritist Periodical "The Criteria." The most curious aspect about this fact is that the doctor was a materialist, but he mentioned Spiritism to her in order to offer her some comfort for her afflictions.

It is through reading an article of this periodical that she becomes convinced of the truths presented by Spiritism, thereby seeking out additional information. She commenced the study of Spiritism through whatever channel that reached her hands, and she commenced to write some articles for the Spiritist Reviews, so that she could have access to them. Her first spiritist work, a poem that she had sent to "The Criteria," was not published; but the editor, Visconde de Torres Solanot, wrote her a letter and sent it along with a book that he had written ("Preliminary of Spiritism").

It is in the periodical "The Revelation" at the city of Alicante that for the first time a poem written by Amalia Domingo Soler was published. Her first doctrinaire article, "The Spiritist Faith" is published by "The Criteria," number 9, of 1872. Her articles began to arouse the attention of the readers and shortly thereafter she joined the Spanish Spiritist Movement, participating in their meetings.

It was in March, of 1875 – the celebration of Kardec's discarnation – that in the room of the Spanish Spiritist Society, in the presence of its members, Amalia reads her poem, "To the memory of Allan Kardec." From that moment on, she joins the lines of the disseminators of the Spiritist Doctrine.

She was a great writer; her work touched both heart and reason, and her extraordinary spirit conquered once and for all the sympathies of the Spanish spiritists. Fernandez Colavida, sent her, as a present, the collection of books of Allan Kardec. The spiritists of Alicante invited her to remain with them, under their protection so that she could dedicate herself entirely to the dissemination of Spiritism.

Amalia, believing it to be wrong to be surviving at the expenses of Spiritism, continues to work during the day and to write at the night. She remains in Madrid, until her departure to Barcelona, in August 10, 1876. Invited by the “Center Glad Tidings,” she moved to Barcelona in the hope of finding better working conditions in the Catalan capital, which was known to be an entrepreneurial city, of great economic activity.

Three months later, her eyesight difficulties aggravated; thus, almost blind, she found shelter in the family of Luis Lach, the president of the “Center Glad Tidings.” They took care of her, giving her the conditions to exclusively dedicate to Spiritism. In one of the meetings of the center, she met an extraordinary medium, Miguel Vive, through whom she received a communication from her mother. Also, among the spiritists of Barcelona, she met the somnambulist medium, Eudaldo, who began to collaborate with her, and through whom she received a great number of messages, including the ones that were later united in the book, “Memoirs of Father German.” Father German, Amalia’s spiritual guide, introduced himself to her, for the first time, in May 9, 1879. The publication of his Memoirs was made public in parts, from April 29, 1880 on.

May 22, 1879 is the date that marks the first issue of the periodical “The Light of the Future,” directed by Amalia Domingo Soler. In its first issue the article “The idea of God,” strongly criticized by the local authorities, was published. This instigated the suspension of the newspaper for 42 consecutive weeks. (Later it resumed publication again by a decree of King Alfonso XII).

The Memoirs of Amalia Domingo Soler were written in 1891, under the supervision and guidance of Father German. By then, she had previously written 1286 articles that were published by newspapers in Spain and also abroad. “The Criteria,” and “The Revelation” in Madrid; “The Gazette,” in Catalan; “The Light of the Future,” and “The Review of Psychological Studies,” in Barcelona; “The Revelation,” in Alicante; “Spiritism,” in Seville; “The Spiritist Illustration,” in Mexico; “The Law of Love,” in Merida, Yucatan; “The Spiritist Review,” in Montevideo-Uruguay; “The Perseverance,” in Buenos Ayres, Argentina; “Annali dello Spiritismo,” in Italy; “The Good Sense,” of Lerida, and many others from which there are no more registered.

In April 29, 1909, in Barcelona, Amalia returns to the spiritual plane. But this does not mean that she would be moved away from her work benefiting Spiritism. In July 10, 1912, through the medium Maria – who has been a collaborator of Amalia, in life, replacing Eudaldo – her memoirs were completed. The Brazilian medium, Divaldo Pereira Franco, during his trips to Spain, has been the receptor of her messages of guidance and encouragement to the Spanish spiritists.

It is difficult to have a full accounting of the precise number of Amalia’s works, but its benefits are spread throughout the world. The Spanish Spiritist Movement at the termination of the 19th century, as a result of the work of Amalia and other great pioneers, hosted the First International Spiritist Congress, in 1888. They have influenced the rising movements in the Spanish speaking countries of Latin America, and – as a historical precedent – it is the base for the current rebirth of the Hispanic Spiritism.

## **BOOKS WRITTEN BY AMALIA DOMINGO SOLER**

**MEMOIRS OF A WOMAN** – Autobiography, dedicated to publicize the series of personal struggles through which she had to undergo during her lifetime, as well as the

pathway she had traveled in her search of the truth in this life. It also contains beautiful poems that express her poetic artistry.

**FACTS THAT PROVE** – a book that demonstrates that each individual’s destiny has its roots in previous lives. It also describes to us that each incident that occurs in the histories of towns and countries, are connected to the Universal Laws of “cause and effect.”

**I FORGIVE YOU!** – A large book that contains the process of a spirit who, from the spiritual world, narrates the sequences of a series of his past lives, connected by one single framework. This book has as its objective to make the reader understand the transcendence of our actions, thoughts and emotions. The spirit concludes the book with the following:

“... an inglorious awakening, because it could see under the luminous light of the infinite that, in spite of having accomplished so many good deeds, as of having astonished the world with its miraculous cures, of having written and been inspired by the Holy Spirit, of having been admired throughout the world for his unique talent, for his exceptional virtues, for giving a new route to the nave of the Church, for being the reformer of the religious congregations; in spite of his immense knowledge, and of supposedly being a privileged soul, upon arriving into the spiritual world, how tremendously surprise he was upon realizing that he still had to study to achieve the most difficult science: “The science of forgiveness.”

**HER MOST BEAUTIFUL WRITINGS** – A posthumous work that gathers a variety of her articles written for the newspapers and magazines, where one can truly enjoy her sensitivity towards human suffering, and her firmness as a journalist in support of women. Short stories of a most diverse nature.

**SPIRITIST STORIES** – Stories and narrations extracted from the realms of life’s realities, that explain why the author in addition to being known as “the famous singer of Spiritism,” was also known as “the writer of the poor.” In them, she comments about the hard difficulties of life, utilizing poetic language, alive and conjugated with hope in the future and in the spiritual life, which constitutes her deepest message.

**MEMOIRS OF FATHER GERMAIN** – Excerpts from the last existence of the spirit who had been protecting Amalia, from the spiritual world. A spirit who through his examples helps us to proceed in our acceptance of a destiny of service toward humanity, that is in such dire need of our kindness.

**FIELDS OF VIOLET** – A particularly poetic work, published in two volumes in which Amalia focuses on narrating about everything that had motivated her literary soul. This book is especially profuse of her literary style, highlighting that which characterized her spirit in her former lives.

**THE GREAT VIRTUE** – A short book composed of eight short stories dedicated to children, which are very touching to adults, as well.

Translated by: Jussara Korngold & Marie Levinson