

# Festivities of the Crosses

## Legend of the Miracle of the Crosses

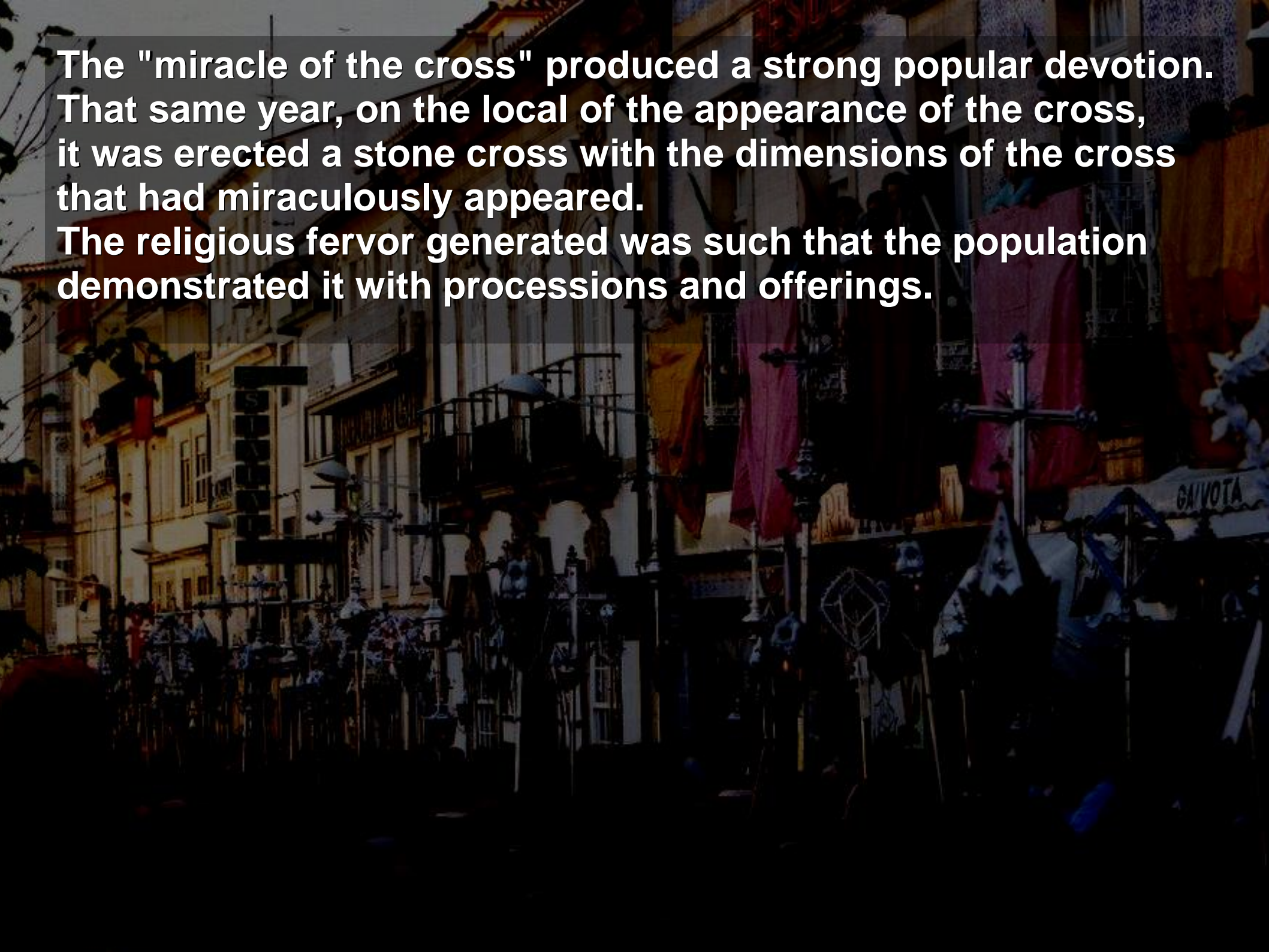
In 1504, under the reign of King Manuel I, on Friday, December 20, at 9 am, the cobbler João Pires was returning from the Mass the Chapel of the Savior (Ermida do Salvador) near the Fair Field of Barcelos, he found a black cross. So he decided not to keep just to himself, what he considered to be a sacred sign, and told the people, who quickly came to the



**The crosses appeared in the form of a black splotch that grew until they formed a perfect cross, where the black color was not only on the surface but penetrated deep into the earth. However, how much he dug it, the cross always came back.**



**The "miracle of the cross" produced a strong popular devotion. That same year, on the local of the appearance of the cross, it was erected a stone cross with the dimensions of the cross that had miraculously appeared. The religious fervor generated was such that the population demonstrated it with processions and offerings.**



**The religious devotion took to the construction of a chapel in the following year – 1505 - to which a rich merchant of Barcelos offered the image “Lord of the Cross”.**

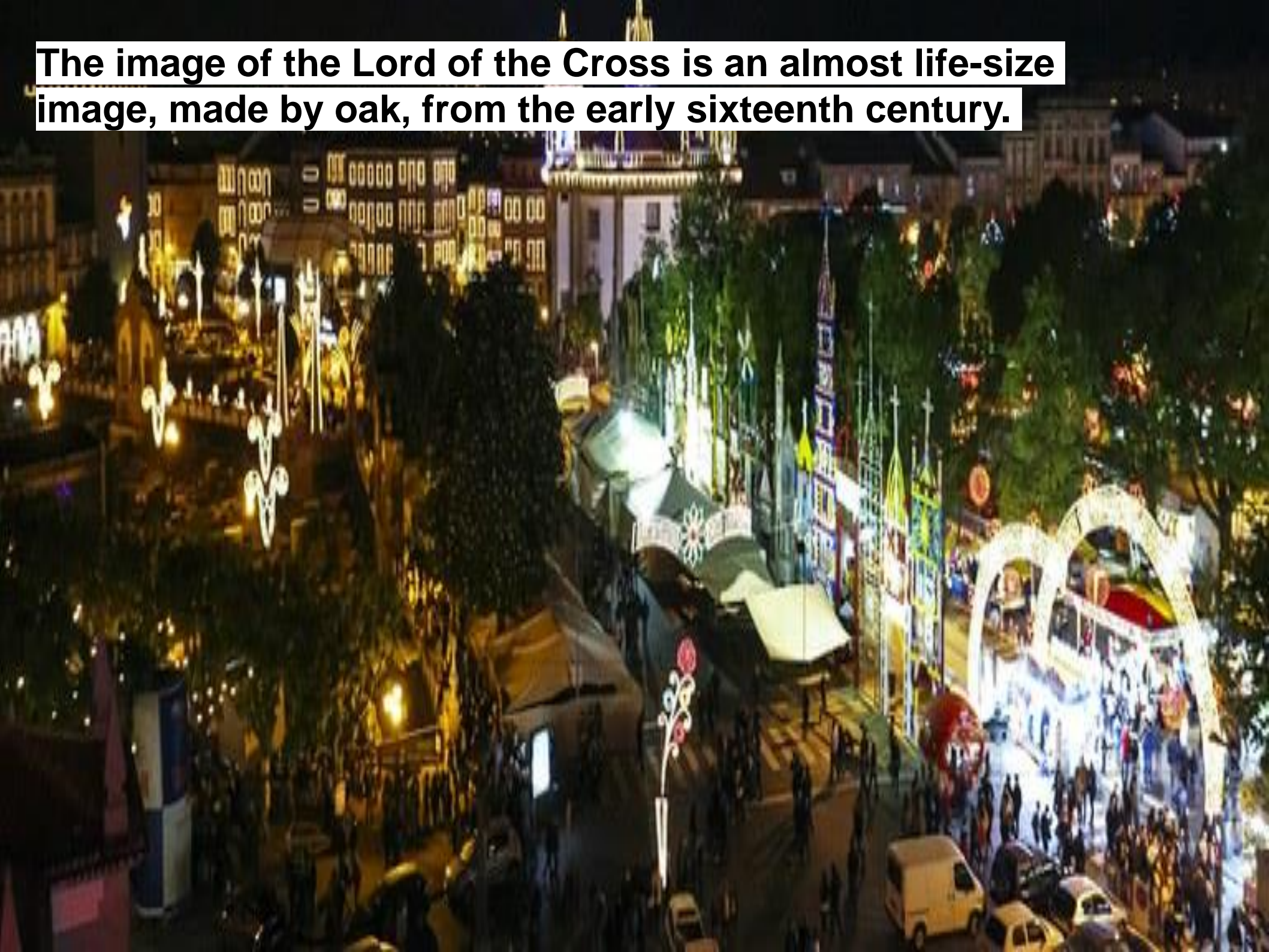


**Two centuries later, it was built a magnificent temple, which is now the Party epicenter of the Crosses Party/Festivities.**

**By the nineteenth century (19th), the Parties/Festivities had essentially a religious nature; there occurred hundreds of pilgrims not only from Barcelos, but throughout the country and neighboring Galicia.**



**The image of the Lord of the Cross is an almost life-size image, made by oak, from the early sixteenth century.**



# **Procession of the Crosses**

The procession of the crosses is unique in the country and consists of a few images.

Most of the procession is composed by representatives of the confraternities of the parishes that make up the municipality of Barcelos

