

Folio Twelve

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The Key Other ¹

*Spirit of Love,
Fire my heart with a love –
That does away with fear,
That does not set limits,
That is ever thankful that Jesus is near,
That rejoices with this Child, in Abba's Presence!*

*Within this love, it becomes ever more clear
That I become my true self THROUGH OTHERS :
Open me to the enlivening, teaching, and challenge
Others give.
Form us all, to be one, in Jesus
– The key Other
For each, and for all!
Keep me simple, free, and trustful of the Other,
Sensitive to Christ's tender, faithful BROTHERING.*

¹ Rome Tertianship, Nov 1991. See Note on Poem 149

So Good a Son ²

*Abba, fire my heart
With the love of Your Son,
Dwelling in the heart
Of my brothers and sisters!*

*Yet, to love as Jesus loved,
Is to be CRUCIFIED :
And to delight in You, Abba,
We need to give all,
As He gave ALL .*

*In giving all as Jesus did,
We are able to exhilarate
In the fullness of the humanity
We share with Jesus,
And to come ALIVE in His Divinity!*

*So, fire my heart, Abba
– To identify with Jesus,
Who is so good ...
So good a Son!*

Past ... Present ... Future ³

To be receptive,

As God draws close,

Is to abandon,

One's PAST to Love ...

As it is transformed, into our PRESENT.

To be responsive

To Love's infilling

Is to welcome Father, Son and Spirit

As our FUTURE,

– As They radiate, each PRESENT moment

With the promise of peace.

Draw Me ⁴

*Father, Son, and Spirit,
From the depths of my spirit
– Where You are ALIVE
With love for Each Other –
Draw me to Your Godself ...
Love me into life!*

*Yet I know,
That at the ENTRY
To the depths of my spirit
– To Your Presence here –
Is Jesus,
Crucified in love!*

*Draw me into Jesus, on His Cross,
O Spirit of Courage
... Into others, co-suffering with Him,
Into His sacrificial love for us all.*

Called to Wholeness ⁵

*Abba, I rest secure and at peace
In Your Eternal, unchanging love for me
... Even in the midst of my self-focussed sin
... Especially in my fickleness and inconstancy.*

*There in the heart of human woundedness,
Your Son, Jesus, calls me, us,
To wholeness :
To true humanity in Him,
To be child with Him,
To be brothered by Him,
To be brother to Him
... Fathered within Your arms.*

Waiting, Crucified by Love ⁶

*Jesus, I have no limits to expand to
– But I find You there ...
Companionable, compassionate
– Having gone that way ALREADY as man!*

*When I shrink into sin and self-fullness,
I find You WAITING
In the heart of my sin ...
Which You entered by choice
Crucified by love
To Your kin!*

A Child's Sensitivity ⁷

*Spirit of Wholeness,
Gift me with a child's sensitivity
To Your Presence.*

*Firstly, let me be sensitive
– With the human openness of Jesus to Abba –
To the Mystery of Your Presence
Enveloping myself
... In the touch of a breeze,
... In the tone of anguish in a voice,
... In Your own whispers within.
Grace me with a Eucharistic heart
To welcome and to respond always
To Love's advent.*

*Secondly, let me be sensitive
To Your every movement within others.
Grant me discernment
Not only to dis-cover You there,
But to be attentive to You in others,
To relate to You there,
And, especially to pray and worship You there!
If we pray to God's Presence, in others' souls,
Following death ...
Why do we find it hard to relate to God
Present within the living?*

*Thirdly, let me be sensitive ...
To 'wherever two or three are gathered in Jesus' name' ⁸
And most perceptively,
O Spirit of Wholeness,
To Your Presence ALIVE in the Church,
In the very Body of Christ
... In its Fellowship of Compassion,
... In its Fellowship of Prayer,
And, most intensely,
... In its Fellowship of Eucharist.*

⁷ Rome Tertianship, Nov 1991

⁸ Mt 18: 20

Measured in Human Heartbeats ⁹

*Shelter me, Abba,
Shelter me within the heart of Jesus
... Whose Eternal love for You
Is now measured in human heartbeats
– Like mine!*

*Draw me deeply
Into Your enveloping silence
... Like a little child
Enfolded in its mother's embrace,
... Like Your Beloved Child
Entrusting Himself to You, Abba,
For every aspect of care
– For life itself!*

*O Parent of all parents!
Divine Nurturer!
Take us to Yourself.
Press Your ear to our hearts :
Listen!
Listen how they RESONATE
With the heartbeat of Your Beloved!*

Gentle Us, Quietly ¹⁰

*Brother Jesus,
You come to us as a fragile child,
Someone to be cradled close ;
May You always find us
... Waiting ... expectant ... attentive.
Lead us WITHIN ...
Into Abba's light,
Suffusing the depths of Your Spirit.
Teach us His quiet, peace-filled ways.*

*We are not worthy
To accompany You there ;
So gentle us quietly into His arms.
Enshrine, deep in our spirits, His words –
'Be still ...
And know that I am God'. ¹¹*

*Thus, we can serve You
With a heart brimming with devotion
– A heart, whose focus is singular,
Whose beat is one with the rhythm
Of Your Spirit's Song ...*

¹⁰ Rome Tertianship, Nov 1991

¹¹ Ps 46: 10 NRSV

Like a Father in Love ¹²

*Abba, I fall on my knees, in awe,
That You should reverence me!
Your love really knows no limits!*

*You draw me
Into the Eternity of Your love
For Your Beloved!*

*This is the awesome reality ...
The silent beauty of our lives:
To be loved in the Beloved!
Your limitless Gift
Is both PRESENT and TO COME :
Open us! Open us to its reality!*

*Abba, let us stay quiet before You
... Attentive, 'keeping vigil', yearning for You. ¹³
While there are times for DOING,
Most of life is for GROWING
... Growing in Your peace.
You are always 'revealing new things' to us
– Creating, transforming us, anew,
'Just now, this very moment'. ¹⁴
You renew us, even while we sleep, ¹⁵
Reaching out, to draw us to Yourself
... Like a father in love,
A tender, loving Father.*

¹² Rome Tertianship, Nov 1991

¹³ Is 26: 9

¹⁴ Is 48: 7

¹⁵ Cf. Ps 127: 2 JB

Unscathed ¹⁶

*Abba, while I sleep
You fill me with song
– With Your special gift of zeal –
To sing Your praise!
I am so in awe, Abba,
Of Your tenderness to me:
Your ways are not our ways!
Your love is BEYOND what words can say!
The wonder of being loved by You
... Enveloped by Your Presence ...
Surpasses every dream that can be dreamed.*

*That I have arrived until now,
Unscathed,
Is all Your doing
... Visited in pain, only by my own WILFULNESS.
Your angels carry me within their very arms, ¹⁷
Just IN CASE, I slip.
Thank You, Abba,
For the inner fountain of Your Life,
Flowing forth from Your Church,
And for the Promise,
Already experienced,
Of being with You Eternally.*

¹⁶ Rome Tertianship, Nov 1991

¹⁷ Cf. Psalm 91: 12 (Inclusive Bible)

Your Creative Touch ¹⁸

O Divine Potter,
Begin again – re-shape and re-new me;
Mould me, as You think fit
– Conforming me to the image of Your Beloved,
Because I SO EASILY twist out of shape!

Bring Your ‘knowing’ potter’s hands to bear
Upon the hardening clay of my being :
Moisten it with Your tender love;
Knead it, where necessary ... to soften it;
Then gentle me, made pliable by suffering, into shape.

Re-configure me to Your dream for me;
Shape me, with Your Beloved Jesus in mind!
Let me reflect a sense of His beauty and grace :
Give to my features a share in the fine qualities of others,
But retain that distinctiveness for which You made me.

O Abba ... I am in Your hands
Continue to caress me
With Your creative touch.

Imitating You ¹⁹

*Jesus, to IMITATE You,
Is my own certainty :
Otherwise, I head for things
Superficially attractive,
Romantic, but unreal
– Short-cuts, contrived and illusory.*

*Draw me to imitate You with a love
That is pure, simple, without affectation, without an agenda.
Save me – from proclaiming MYSELF
... In lieu of the Good News!*

*Rather, let me proclaim You as ‘The Way’ ²⁰
– The Template of our humanity!
The Enabling Love of our lives!*

*Allow me to commit myself
As a servant to others – IN You.
Let Your Humility
Radiate through my weakness and repentance
... Because we are only instruments
Of Your empowering Presence
– With a power, NEVER ours, to own ...
Much less thinking, we are self-empowered!*

*Yes Jesus, simply to IMITATE You,
Is my only certainty!*

¹⁹ Rome Tertianship, Nov 1991

²⁰ Jn 14: 6

Even to Begin to Love ²¹

*Jesus, empty me of all pretensions :
– That I may be Yours
Solely, truly, wholly!*
*Unfortunately, it is mostly when my neediness is stark,
That I FEEL the need for You
– To fill my life, to make me whole.*

*Lord, give me new eyes
– To see how my very nature aches for You :
A being INCOMPLETE...
My famished heart thirsts for Your Love
... Even to BEGIN to love!*

*O Jesus 'bring me to my knees' continually,
As to the real depth of my need!
Show me
– In my temptations to unfaithfulness in love –
How fragile, fickle and unmindful
I always am;
But, ever more deeply,
How profoundly FAITHFUL You are!
O Jesus, You alone are my life!*

Empty Me, Jesus ²²

*Empty me, Jesus,
Empty me of self-sufficiency,
For only – ONLY in my emptiness
Will Your saving power
Reveal its full scope
... Its divine place and time,
And Your heart's purpose for me.*

*Thus, Jesus, keep my spirit
Poor, empty and needy of You
– Always waiting ... childlike, openheartedly,
In imitation of You.*

*Stay with me, Crucified Jesus,
In the very heart
Of my failing, needy humanity.
Empower me
From within the epicentre of my weakness!
Jesus, brother in weakness,
Be brother to me.*

Brothers and Sisters of Jesus ²³

*Abba,
Show me the childlike, humble way of Jesus ...
Whose life was hidden, simple and powerless,
Who chose childlike, trusting people to follow Him,
And who very clearly prefers us to find Him
... In the very least of people, in the poor,
... In the sidelined, and in the powerless
– All of whom He claims, lovingly,
As His brothers and sisters.*

*O Spirit of Abba and Jesus,
Move me to IDENTIFY
With all those brothers and sisters of Jesus
... In order to evoke in us, together,
A deeper sense of our KINSHIP
As children of a loving Father!*

*And move my whole being
To PRAY with Jesus –
I bless You, Father
For hiding these things
From the learned and the clever,
And revealing them to little children.
... So that they may be one
LIKE US, ²⁴*

²³ Rome Tertianship, Nov 1991

²⁴ Mt 11: 25; Jn 17: 11

Face to Face ²⁵

*Jesus, You did not hold onto
The experience of being God,
But, emptied Yourself into the life ²⁶
Of being just a man;
And, further emptied Yourself
– Of this light grasp on life –
By being emptied INTO DEATH
... Through our REJECTION of You!
Why?
You did this for love of us sinners,
Deeply hoping ...
That we'd FULLY LIVE OUT our humanity
– Orientating all we are,
To Your Abba-Father.*

*But, in Your ever-eager-love
You went further:
You drew us into Your own Family,
So that, IN You,
Face to face with Abba,
We may eternally glorify
The HUMANITY WE SHARE
Within Your Divine Fellowship of Love.*

²⁵ Rome Tertianship, Nov 1991

²⁶ Cf. Phil 2: 6-7

Aloneness-in-Suffering ²⁷

*Jesus, my feeling of ALONENESS-IN-SUFFERING
Is a constant dilemma for me.
You too, at times, were suffering alone,
But turned intuitively to Your Abba-Father.
But when I am thus alone,
I forget frequently that You are by my side,
And forget that Abba is there for both of us!*

*My heartfelt prayer,
Is that I not be put to the test of loneliness,
Because it is, then,
That I can head for the bright lights, and quick solutions!*

*But, in You, brother Jesus,
With Abba at OUR side,
Even though the suffering persists,
The burden becomes 'lighter',
The yoke 'easier'. ²⁸*

*In SHARING the aloneness of my struggle,
You always point me to Abba
– The Heart of all intimacy
Who got You through Calvary!
O Jesus affirm and empower me
With Your abiding Presence
... Drawing me, us – into Your deep intimacy
With Abba –
Father, may they be one in us
– As You are in me
And I am in You.' ²⁹*

²⁷ Rome Tertianship, Nov 1991

²⁸ Cf. Mt 11: 30

²⁹ Jn 17: 21

Steady Our Head and Heart ³⁰

*Jesus, our brother in suffering,
In this disjointed world,
When our very persons
– Created in Your Image,
Yet smudged or scarred within this world of limitations –
Just DON'T CONNECT,
The outcome is PAIN.
This pain deepens and intensifies in our lives
As our sins...co-alesce...mutualize... and co-impact
– With communal pain enmeshing
All our personal pains –
Causing us to...lose focus...lose direction...and lose hope.
Ultimately, all pain is inhuman,
And thus, ungodly:
You, Yourself, Jesus, found pain repugnant
... Causing You even to sweat blood!*

*Jesus, when our lives become so enmeshed in pain
Reveal Your loving Father's Face to us,
Reassure us that He is our Father too
... Holding us, in You, ever close to His Heart.
Yet, even enveloped by His Love,
We still equivocate,
Casting our eyes aside,
Wanting to be distracted!
Like the Apostles volunteering
To drink the cup of commitment,
We also seek to avoid the time of reckoning
And turn aside, each to his own fool's paradise,
Or to blame-shifting,
... Whereby pain, is either anaesthetized or avoided.*

*We can only drink suffering's cup, Jesus,
LIKE A CHILD
... With You there, Abba's Child,
To bring it to our quavering lips;
There too, to STEADY OUR HEAD AND HEART
Lest , we push it away
Again ... like a child
But a child, unaccompanied in their pain.*

*Jesus, You KNEW, in Gethsemane,
'ABBA, YOU'RE HERE!'
We too sense
'You're IN OUR PAIN'
... Both as our brother, and as our Eucharist.
Hand in Your hand,
We too can become Eucharist for OTHERS
– Brothering, sistering each other
Into Your Sacrifice.
Then uplifted together,
Freed and revitalized,
Together we'll sit at Your Banquet
In joy ... at peace
... Enfolded by Abba's Love.*

So Adorable! 31

*Abba, I ask You for the singular grace of humility,
That I may be emptied of self-seeking,
And dwell habitually, in the deepest sense
Of utter personal need, weakness, and dependence
– Of adoring, loving dependence, on You,
Because You are so adorable!
So lovable! So good!*

