

Folio Fifteen

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The Spirit's Relating ¹

*Jesus shows us
How to relate to the Father,
Mary shows us
How to relate to Jesus,
The Spirit shows
How to relate to ourselves, and to others.
... "The Spirit joins Himself to our spirit", ²
"To each person, the manifestation of the Spirit
Is given for the common good", ³
– As we are "individually members one of another". ⁴*

*In this way the Spirit brings all four relationships
Together into unity –
"The unity which has the Spirit as its origin,
And peace as its binding force". ⁵*

For Our Eternal Good ¹

*Evangelical celibacy “chooses” us,
Rather than we choosing it.
Religious life is not a calling
To celebrate celibacy,
But a calling to celebrate the Gospel
In a celibate way ... like Jesus.
It seems a particular individual is thus called
Because, in God’s wisdom,
His or her psycho-sexual, spiritual reality
Is BEST served by such a call.*

*If the call is of God,
Then it is for the person’s long term, indeed ETERNAL, good.
And because the choice is eternal,
Most of the reasons will be clothed in mystery.
Some will be GLIMPSED at the psycho-sexual level,
Others will surface within one’s spirit.
Faith in the celibate Jesus,
Can be a wonderful source of deep strength
For the struggling religious.*

—

Signs of Faith ¹

*If we believe, like Mary, we don't need signs,
... But will be given them unasked for.
"We of little faith" cannot recognize ²
The signs given us, AS signs :
... Such as negative signs-like Zachary's loss of speech,
... Or positive signs-like Elizabeth's pregnancy.
We will rationalize them away
... As 'coincidences' or 'scientifically explainable'.
However,
If we "keep" the Word like Mary ³
Within our hearts,
We simply KNOW the signs are given to us
– To glorify the God of our believing,
And to draw us to declare,
"Be it done to me according to Your (signed) Word". ⁴*

¹ Year 1 Prayer Ministry Taringa Community Brisbane March 1999

² Mt 8:26

³ Lk 2:52

⁴ Lk 1:38

The Pre-Dawn of Our Hearts ¹

*Anyone who LOVES THE TRUTH about life,
Is like the person who loves the dawn
But DOES NOT YET SEE the sun.
His deep intuitive attraction
Is to the One
Who is the Light of Love
... Lighting up the pre-dawn of our hearts
Until the graced day
... Ever present but not yet ...
When “the God of tender mercies ...
Will bring the rising Sun to visit us”. ²*

Co-Authored ¹

*In re-telling our story
We need to be especially thankful ...
For others valuing us,
And for affirming our story.
In so doing,
Our life is re-authored anew
– Because it is now CO-AUTHORED !*

Like the Work of the Womb ¹

*God's Word spoken through nowadays prophets
Not only eternalizes the Word NOW
– By proclaiming a future unfolding LOVE –
But actually ENABLES it ...
Because God's Word ever-CREATES the future of His People.*

*Humankind, the responsive FOCUS OF CREATION
– Which, with all nature, tries to 'perfect itself' –
“Groans in travail” ²
And is acted upon by the Spirit
Who “plumbs the depths of God”. ³
Thus, the Spirit is the Re-Creator of our lives,
In the Ascended Christ.*

*In this transformative process,
Abba's Creative Spirit
Enters into the chaos and our confused strivings
– Bringing energy, direction and motivation,
Integration and beauty,
To our struggles
– Re-configuring then to the humanity of the Beloved.*

*Humankind's needed primal response,
Is OPENNESS
To this “hovering Spirit” ⁴
... Stirring our feelings,
Triggering our intuitions,
Firing our dreams.
The Spirit's work is like the work of the womb :
In reverencing growth,
There need be no rush,
No haste to form our lives, or to hurry development.*

At Abba's "appointed time",⁵
The Word appears with CREATIVE POWER :
Lightening the shadows,
Giving humanity's dreams expression in words,
Letting the truth of our inner stirrings emerge,
Colouring and highlighting our aspirations,
Discerning directions and priorities,
And interpreting the Father's metaphors of COMMUNION
... Therein revealing, some of the faces of the Fellowship of God.

The Spirit not only prepares for the Word,
But companions its embodiment within humanity,
And empowers it to fruition.
It is creative of the Church Community
... Christ's Body ...
Labouring within it, sensitizing it,
Animating it, enabling it.
It opens it to receive the Word,
To shape acceptance of the Word,
To integrate the Word's many expressions,
To nurture and love the Word into life,
To cause the Word to burnish our spirits with joy!

The Word is Abba's Word :
It is a SAVING word,⁶
Sent into the world, enfleshed in this world,
Always producing what it proclaims⁷
Until its mission is "fulfilled",⁸
And it returns to Abba.⁹

The Spirit of this Incarnate Word
Is the Spirit of the Ascended Jesus
... The Spirit animating the Church,
And dwelling within our hearts.

Year 1 Prayer Ministry.

1 Poem 286 Taringa Community Brisbane, May 1999.

2 Rom 8:22 3 1Cor 2:10 4 Gen 1:2 5 Gal 4:4 6 Acts 13:26 7 Is 55:11 8 ibid 9 ibid

Intuitive Prayer ¹

*Because the Beloved is faithful...
As our prayer buds into life, before blossoming,
– In “the sighing of the Spirit” within, ²
In the stirrings of intuitive prayer-
The untapped POWER of humanity
– Of the unconscious and sub-conscious –
Is released within our spirits
– Within the Mystery of the Spirit.*

*The Spirit liberates us, from our controlling egos,
As we are DRAWN lovingly,
Into the mystery of our inner self,
And thus into the wellspring of all our relationships
... Our graced relationship with Abba
– In Jesus Ascended.*

To Dream the Spirit Dream ¹

*Trust is stifled by timidity of imagination.
Failure in faith is most often a failure of imagination.
But, it's not our plain human imagination
... Which registers only ephemeral traces of God ...
No! It is our imagination elevated, permeated, by the Spirit
– Imagery, subsumed by the Spirit as its own!
It is the lack of openness to THIS imagination,
That stifles faith –
Limiting, restricting the eternal sweep
Of the Spirit's creative energies
To the confines of our timidity.
It is failing to know,
With the Spirit's incomparable Intuition,
That God is ever operative and present – Here! Now!*

*Contrarivise, it is our calling, as God's beloved children,
To be responsive to THIS imagination,
To be servants of it,
To allow it to galvanize and transcend our own!
To dream with God's own Dreaming...
And, because it is the Diving Imagination,
It ENABLES, what it imagines, to become real.*

*Ours it is, to dream this Spirit Dream –
To ride the wings
Of the wind
Of this Creative Spirit!
To sing Christ's Song
To Abba, our Abba,
On Ascension Day!*

Nurturing Christ ¹

*Mary puts us in touch with Jesus ...
In an especially tender and nurturing way.
From her, we learn the possibilities
Of caring affectionately for Christ-in-the-other.
Through touch we can, like Mary,
Nurture Christ's gentle growth in others.*

*Yet it is the Spirit, through Mary,
Who CAUSES this nurturing to happen :
Because it is "the power of the Most High overshadowing Mary", ²
Who brings Christ's humanity to blossom within her.
Thus, our own sharing,
As in Mary's open responsiveness to the Spirit,
Will allow Christ to blossom in others
... Through our caring touch.*

Embodying the Word in Our Lives ⁵

*The Word of God found a home
In the heart and womb of Mary.
We will not find it elsewhere
... For WE need Mary's heart to hear the Word,
So, with St. Paul, we can "believe with our hearts". ⁶
Similarly, we need Mary's womb, to nurture the Word
... For the Spirit who lives and moves there,
Embodies the Word in our lives,
Empowering us to proclaim the Word
– Alive in the womb of OUR hearts.*

Mary's Pentecost ¹

*In the upper room with the disciples, Mary waited.
A lifetime before,
She had already received her PERSONAL Pentecost ...
The Spirit's "overshadowing", as she conceived Christ.²*

*Now, she heartens the disciples
... Preparing hearts, yearning for the Spirit;
She leads them
... To welcome the Spirit's advent WITHIN,
Within the infant Church
– An advent, signed in tongues of fire,
Hovering over each, WITHOUT.*

*Together with Mary,
These outdoors men, focus WITHIN,
As the Spirit...*

Empowers

Envisions

Enthuses

Enables...

*As Jesus Ascended comes to birth within each
...Within all, together.*

Year 1 Prayer Ministry.

1 Poem 291. Taringa Community Brisbane, Aug 1999

2 Lk 1:35

Note. I wrote this poem in the aftermath of my nephew's sudden death...his 'Pentecost'.

Homecoming Gifts ¹

*Solitude is a special gift of homecoming:
While we never come home to God alone,
Together, in Spirit,
We each need to still our heart, our whole person
– So we can rejoice in the Breath of the Spirit
Coupled to the RHYTHM of our heartbeat.
Here, in the special embrace of the Spirit,
We gently, joyfully, become aware of many others
United, in Christ, WITHIN US,
“Members, one of another”.²*

*Together, we celebrate ‘my-our’ homecoming,
Loving together in joy ...
In the silence of the deepest mutual acceptance.
Our crowning gift of homecoming
Is peacefully being formed into God’s Family
... On the basis of Jesus’ own relationship to Abba
“May they be one in us
– As you are in me
And I am in you”.³*

Year 1 Prayer Ministry.

1 Poem 292 Taringa Community Brisbane, Aug 1999.

2 Eph 4:25

3 Jn 17:21

God's World ¹

*As our hearts are stilled through silence,
We find ourselves at the heart of a world
That is God's world – generally not our world.*

God's

*Is the world of the widow, the orphan, the stranger,
The world of those ill in body and mind, and of the prisoner.*

It is GOD DWELLING IN THEIR HEARTS

Who invites us

To be weak with them,

To be needy with them

... So as to truly identify with them.

It is a world, pregnant with God's compassion!

All God asks of us

Is to channel this compassion

– To be weak, with the weak,

To be open to Love's deluge!

God's ultimate gift

For all,

And, in particular, for contemplatives,

Is to become poor, weak, non-coping

... Perhaps even a prisoner,

In God's world.

Gifted by the Ungifted ¹

Let the Spirit

Always recall to mind,

That we are never –

The prime reconcilers,

Or the prime givers

... Of life.

Let the Spirit recall

That we are not even good servants,

Or trustworthy stewards of the Lord

... But a sinful, broken people.

Let the Spirit declare

That we often need more care

Than anyone we care for

– Needing to be

... Gifted by the wounded

... Gifted by the ungifted!

1 Poem 294 Star of the Sea Retreat Centre, Yamba, Nov 1999

Note: This was a life-nourishing Retreat of 3 weeks:

Week 1 Family of Origin

Week 2 Sexuality Journey

Week 3 Spirituality Journey

Facilitated by Sr. Ann Hannigan and, for me in week 2, by Fr. Nilon.

Without Desire ¹

*We discover our true identity ...in prayer,
– In the prayer of being OPEN
To the spontaneous movements of the Spirit of God
Within our spirits.
In this encounter,
Our Abba creates the very imagery
Which opens us up to Him
...To all aspects of the PERSON of His Beloved Son!*

*Then, as we abandon ourselves, more and more
In spontaneity in the Spirit,
The God of all freedom
Frees us further
– Surpassing even His Christ-focussed images –
Drawing us, directly into communion
With Love itself.*

*Through this communing with Love,
Our spirits open
With the Eternal Openness of God.
In that gifted moment for us,
God ceases to be Other :
God draw us into Oneness
... Without desire
... Simply one
... We become love
... The face of Love
... Of Jesus Ascended*

Feeling at Home with Strangers ¹

*Because a time of intimacy often arrives, unbidden,
As a gift of God's graciousness,
We can thus experience intimacy
... At the points of struggle in a relationship
Or, even at times of complacency.*

*This paradoxical situation arises
Because OUR thoughts as to a suitable intimacy time
Quite often runs counter
To God's estimation
– Both of a suitably mutual time, and of its importance
To enhancing the growth of love between us.*

*In a further ironic twist,
We fail to notice, much less to value intimacy
Especially intimacy with God,
– In the little things ... in the routine ...
In the mundane ... in the ordinary.*

*We become over-accustomed, in our T.V., film world,
To expect intimacy –
In life's highlights ... in life's emotional peaks ...
In times of drama ... or when WE feel emotionally moved,
Or even, more superficially, when WE'VE scheduled it!*

*Clearly, we need to let our consciousness be re-configured
By the Spirit of Mystery
And by the Spirit of Growth and Evolution
– So, becoming attentive to God's timing,
And, sensitive to God's promptings,
Our life of intimacy begins to change.*

*Probably, we notice it first
In the UNEXPECTED
... Perhaps, while waiting idly
In the line-up of a checkout counter.
Here...using our empathetic imagination,
And, in response to the Spirit's gentle prompting,
We may anonymously celebrate God's Presence
In specific other customers.
Thus we are able to experience the Spirit's surprising us,
By simply enjoying
'Feeling at home with strangers'
– Enjoying the paradox of warmth with people unknown.*

*Experiencing such ordinary, regular intimacy with others,
Can become, with God's grace, a template for routine intimacy
With Abba, Jesus and Loyce.
It can also help us
To 'be at home' with our true self
– Putting aside masks, posturing, and false confidence
... All of which intensify with sin.
To do so, is to come home to our vulnerabilities,
And to our deepened need to trust the other
... Especially The Intimate Other,
Who accepts us and loves us
As we are.*

O Three Personed Heart ¹

*All Glory be to You,
O Three-Personed Heart
Of the universe of our hearts.*

*To You, dearest Abba,
Mystery of Loving beyond all naming!*

*Through You, Jesus, best of brothers
... Our divinely faithful Friend!*

*In You Loyce, chameleon Presence within our world,
Wondrously wedding us together ... IN Jesus Ascended!*

*Dearest Spirit,
In animating this Circle of Love
Be, for us, the power of our prayer
– Moving loving hearts to self-surrender,
Within the Paschal Jesus
... The praying heart of humanity.*

*Dearest Spirit,
Fire our spirits
To open to what Abba desires of us
– For You, Yourself, enable Abba’s Dream within us,
Aligning our desires, with His.*

*Dearest Spirit
Create the gift of attentive awe within us:
Let our spirit sing with fondest love, of our adorable Abba!
BCreate heartfelt thanks – a beloved Son’s thanks – within us!
Embrace us, in Jesus Ascended, with Abba’s encompassing blessings.*

Warmly Welcoming the Word ¹

*When the whisper of the Word
Emerges in our consciousness
... So obviously AT HOME in our world ...
Give it the warmest of all welcomes!
Welcome it with special immediacy :
Let your spirit flow
With graciousness and thankfulness.
For the Word seeks again to be enfleshed
Personally in your humanity.
He yearns to share His wisdom
... Selecting out some form of words,
From your outer circumstances,
To give Divine Emphasis to His message, within.*

*Honour this adorable Word of Abba
... Personally yearning to share, heart to heart ...
As would Jesus – sitting alongside of us,
Gazing at Galilee's water ...
As it cools our feet on a hot summer's day.
=Pause=
Pause with Him ...
And let peace wash into your soul ...
Feel free to chat to Your God ...*

*But dare not treat this Divine Speaker within,
As another idea, as one more holy thought
– As just another reality alongside others!
No!
He is Eternal Reality specially meant for us :
Abba's dearest Desire for us,
Jesus' brotherly Revelation to us,
The Spirit's empowering Enlightenment in us
... God, eager within us!*

¹ Poem 298 Star of the Sea Retreat Centre, Yamba, Nov 1999. Week 3
See NOTE. Poem 294.

Fasting : Spiritualizing the Body ¹

*Longing for the Lord's return
Is focussed and deepened by fasting.*

*When I eat and drink sparsely,
I don't talk as much, and I listen more.*

*The temptation to give way
To the free reign of the flesh
Is the commonest deception of humanity's tempter.*

*As followers of the simple Jesus,
We are urged "to seek the things that are above". ²*

*This spiritual quest is bio-chemically dampened
By the surfeit of food and drink,
Or by sexual indulgence.*

*Contrarimise, our spiritual questing is ENHANCED though fasting
... Especially when wedded to prayer and almsgiving.*

*Moreover, ANY PYHSICAL SURFEIT OF SATISFACTION
Blunts, even anaesthetizes, the hungers and quests of our higher powers
... Especially, expressly SPIRITUAL desires and yearnings.*

*Furthermore, this surfeit of satisfaction
Accelerates other fleshly urges and drives,
Such as lust, laziness, and lack of eye and tongue control.*

*Paradoxically, the less spiritual we are,
The more we over-compensate with food and drink
... Short-circuiting, still further, our spiritual quests.
This spiralling effect often deepens into compulsive behaviour.
We end up directing more of our energies to PART of ourselves.*

*Holiness is wholeness ...
The integration of body, mind, and spirit
– In the Spirit of Him “who makes all things new”, and thus whole. ³*

*Our human body needs to become
The transparent sacrament of Jesus’ Spirit.*

*This embodying-the-Spirit
Needs always to be accompanied
By spiritualizing-the-body
... Both enhanced by fasting.*

*The ‘lightness of being’ achieved by fasting
Allows scope for the Spirit
To irradiate one’s being,
More effectively,
As a WHOLE.*

