

Folio Seventeen

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Virtues, As Companions ¹

*Humble hearts provide
Room for God inside ...*

*Patience employ :
Your harvest is joy!*

*Compassion will bring
Bruised spirits, new spring ...*

*While lust will beget
A train of regret,
Pure love will release
Deep blessings of peace...*

I Give to You, Jesus ¹

*Jesus, You have given the fullness of Yourself to me,
Now open my heart that I may give all to you :*

*Enable me now to give You my body,
That I may be chaste, and responsive to Your Spirit.*

*Enable me to surrender my spirit to You,
That I may think, and feel, and image life – as you would.*

*Enable me to abandon my heart to You,
That I may always choose to love You.*

*Enable me to give You every breath I breathe,
That all outcomes, especially the ultimate one for me, be Yours.*

*Let me always be able to say WITH You, Jesus,
“Into Your hands, Abba, I entrust my spirit”. ²*

Unite Me More to Abba ¹

*Jesus, please unite me more to Abba,
Your Father, and mine!
In this embrace, I tenderly ask both of You,
To fill me, to overflowing,
With Your Spirit!*

*Thus, humbly ALIVE in Your Love ...
Free me, enthuse me, empower me –
To breathe forth this Spirit
Gently into others,
Into all who wait
... In hurt, in hope,
Open-heartedly ...
For love to re-vitalize their lives.
Truly, the Glory of Abba,
Is a people fully alive! ²*

Year 2 Prayer Ministry.

1 Poem 322 Taringa Community Brisbane, Aug 2000.

2 Cf. St Irenaeus, 2nd Century.

O Jesus, Good Jesus, Welcome ¹

*O Jesus, good Jesus, welcome ...
A thousand times welcome into my heart.
Let me feel, right at home, within You.
I really love and thank You, Jesus.
Thanks for uniting me to You in this special way.*

*I'm overawed in Your Presence
... O Divine brother!
You make me feel uniquely connected to God !
I'm just not worthy
Of such wondrous intimacy !
So I can never thank you enough :
Your whole presence
Is total Eternal Gift !*

Jesus, Enfold Us Tenderly ¹

*Jesus, enfold us tenderly
Within the life-giving embrace of Abba.*

*Jesus, LOVE Abba, with OUR hearts!
Surrender to Him, OUR wills...*

*Enlighten us, in Your wisdom,
With the simple insights of Your Spirit.*

*And gather us together, out of our differences,
To humbly celebrate OUR KIND-NESS,
In You.*

Faith's Courage ¹

The God of Life

Urges us to a 'faith-that-does-justice'. ²

With that 'URGE' we call the Holy Spirit!

Jesus, who is our Life, ³

Invites us to embrace a courage and boldness

Which banishes FEAR,

The most powerful enemy of faith ...

"Why are you AFRAID, you of LITTLE faith?" ⁴

Faith releases ITS OWN gift of courage

– Particularly when we encounter injustice

... Urged on by the Spirit!

Gospel Poverty, Chastity and Obedience ¹

Living out Gospel POVERTY allows us

To unlock the potential

For the Spirit's gift of UNLIMITED OPENNESS to God and, to others.

This psychological gift of SIMPLICITY

Enables us to DETACH ourselves

From identifying

With what we possess, access and rely on.

In doing so, we become increasingly open

To GOD'S REALITY !

Living out Gospel CHASTITY allows us

To unlock the potential

For the Spirit's gift of UNLIMITED INTIMACY with God, and others.

This psychological gift of TRUST

Enables us to REND ourselves,

From clinging to one's own sense of self, or clinging to creatures

... So as to SURRENDER ourselves,

Our deepest inner-selves,

To God's LIMITLESS LOVING !

In doing so we become witnesses to the self-less love – of Christ.

*Living our Gospel OBEDIENCE allows us
To unlock the potential
For the Spirit's gift of UNLIMITED REVERENCING of God's good will.
This psychological gift of DEPENDENCE
Enables us to COMMIT ourselves
To accepting that 'all is gift':
That we BECOME ourselves
Through God, and through others.
In doing so, we treasure all that God is, in us,
And God's every desire for us!*

Our Estranged God ¹

*As in the Bible,
The stranger among us,
Often turns out to be the one
Who brings us to God.
Jesus Himself
Found God ... the Presence of His own Abba-Yahweh...
In the stranger, the Syro-Phoenician woman,
And in the estranged, shunned leper, forced outside the town.
Similarly, Francis of Assisi discovered
That, in kissing the leper, his lips met Christ's!*

*Both Jesus and Francis found
That, in God's world ...
By identifying with the lepers,
They were, themselves, increasingly marginalized
– Made to feel like shunned outsiders
... In effect, becoming lepers! ²*

*But Jesus' yesterdays
Are our todays ...
And, for us now,
Jesus is the stranger, 'the estranged one',
– The outsider we shy away from
... Shockingly, in OURSELVES,
As much as in others !*

God's Gift - of - the - Moment ¹

Our hands are OPEN ...

Upraised in prayer,

Ready to receive ...

Ready to give ...

All we can thus offer

In love to Abba,

Is what Abba chooses

To place in our hands,

At this very moment !

This most relevant of gifts,

Is all we can now offer

To our needy neighbour :

God's gift-of-the-moment.

¹ Poem 328 Day 1, 8day RETREAT, Douglas Park, Sydney, Oct 2000.
Sr. Yvonne Parker, SGS was my director.

The Deepest Familiarity with God ¹

The Annunciation

Declares 'Our world is with child'

– Because of the consent of a teenage girl !

The teenage Mary's deepest instincts

Allowed her to trust ...

That the luminously enthusiastic stranger before her

Truly en-personed

Yahweh's own mysterious, wondrous desires

– Even if they seemed, to all appearances,

Scandalous and bewildering !

Only the deepest familiarity with God's Presence,

In her childhood and teens,

Allowed Mary to trust

So unrestrainedly, openly, and simply !

¹ Poem 329 Day 2, 8day RETREAT, Douglas Park, Sydney, Oct 2000.

The Spirit Dream ¹

*The Spirit Dream in the depths of our heart,
Gives birth to our deep dreams.*

*These dreams are but water-colour-washes
Relative to Christ's vivid clear-eyed vision for each.
Our deep dreams are GIFTS from the Spirit Dream
– "Gifts to His beloved as they slumber." ²*

*The spirit of evil, however, can even tarnish this dream realm
– Tainting it by ambivalent suggestion and insinuation.*

But, be certain –

Christ's radiant Easter Presence

Has ALREADY vanquished these phantoms of the night :

Within, He stands –

*The radiant still point of our swirling hopes,
The anchor for our fickleness, the bedrock of our confidence.*

The Spirit Dream works Christ's wonders

In those of humble heart

...Whose hearts are opened wide in trust ...

Creatively fashioning –

Paschal-like reveries of hope,

Marvels of Godly delight and desire,

Evocative invitations to forgiveness,

Experiences of profound communion

– All offers of surpassing beauty

Spangled with symbols of love !

To capture and focus the evanescent energy

Of these deep dreams ...

To have them highlight our everyday living ...

To realize and to fulfil these dream aspirations ...

Is to sensitively open our daytime hearts

To the Spirit's ENABLING GRACE.

1 Poem 330 Day 2, 8day RETREAT, Douglas Park, Sydney, Oct 2000.

2 Ps 127:2 (Grail)

Graced Human Dignity ¹

*Adopted in Christ, the Beloved,
Little by little, “grace upon grace”, ²*

*We come to resemble
The One of whom we dream ...
The One in whom we live!*

*Indeed, our life of faith
Is a cumulative transfiguration
Into the One*

*We are destined to BECOME, ever more fully
– “He who is the reflection of God’s glory,
And the exact imprint of God’s very being”, ³
– He “who loved us and sacrificed Himself for our sake”. ⁴*

*Thus, by being “transformed to His image” ⁵
We also need, and are enabled,
To ‘love others, and to sacrifice ourselves for them’. ⁶*

1 Poem 331 Day 3, 8 day RETREAT, Douglas Park, Sydney, Oct 2000.

2 Jn 1:16

3 Heb.1:3

4 Gal 2:20

5 2Cor 3:18

6 cf Gal 2:20

Humble and Creative Relationships ¹

Jesus,

Humanity's humblest and, thus, most down-to-earth person,

– “LEARN from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart” – ²

Is also its most creative:

“For in Him were created, ALL things in heaven and on earth”. ³

In marking out a way for us to follow

– “Learn from me” – ⁴

Jesus wants us also to be humble and creative

In all our relationships.

And He also tells us HOW to be so ...

“If anyone wants to be a follower of mine

Let him RENOUNCE HIMSELF,

And TAKE UP HIS CROSS, EVERY DAY,

And follow me”. ⁵

1 Poem 332 Day 3, 8 day RETREAT, Douglas Park, Sydney, Oct 2000.

2 Mt 11:29, Cf. Nm 12:3

3 Col 1:16

4 Mt 11:29

5 Lk 9:23

Beacon of the Good News ¹

O *“Word of God from the Spirit,
To be used as a sword”,* ²
– *A sword of truth*
– *A double-edged weapon*
Of humility and courage –
Pierce my hidden pride
... The core of my self-deception ...
And let flow forth, unstemmed,
Your inner streams of light !

Let this light
First illuminate, and purify my life,
So that I become
One more beacon of the Good News
... Of Jesus Crucified and Ascended !

¹ Poem 333 Day 3, 8 day RETREAT, Douglas Park, Sydney, Oct 2000

² Eph 6:17

God's Arms, Outstretched In Welcome ¹

God waits ...

God waits ...

Waits, with outstretched arms,

Arms, outstretched in welcome !

But then,

Waits no longer !

And runs ...

Runs!

Runs, with outstretched heart,

To embrace us,

To kiss us.

I Surrender My Decision-Making ¹

*Lord of my heart !
To You, I surrender my decision-making
About the needs of my life.
In Your love, anticipate all my needs
– Firstly, by revealing to me,
The treasures I already possess,
And, for the rest, delight me with Your Spirit of Surprise !*

Surrender ¹

O Abba, love of my life,

I breathe You in ...

I drink in the sound of Your whisperings ...

I hunger for Your fragrance ...

– I surrender to You ...

Your Kiss ... is love's homecoming

Your murmured intimacies ... love's peace

Your enveloping Breath ...life in You

– O Abba !

Isaac ! ¹

Abba 'smiled on' Tom ²

In October days ...

Sun-shining with the joys of Jubilee, ³

Moistened with the tears

Of a prodigal's joyous return : ⁴

"To 'Tom', be added 'Isaac'

– To Christen this time, new begun"

... When Abba 'smiled on' Tom.

1 Poem 337 Day 5, 8 day RETREAT, Douglas Park, Sydney, Oct 2000.

NOTE: "Following the writing of Poem 337, today, I had this deep sense of Abba adding to the names of my life—'Ron' and 'Gregory', being my baptism names, 'Joseph', my Confirmation name, 'Tom', my Congregational or Habit Day name. I sensed 'Isaac' was the name given to mark that deeper sense of intimacy with Abba, Jesus, and Loyce, into which I had been drawn."—Author.

2 In Hebrew, 'Isaac' means 'God smiles'

3 This year, 2000 A.D., was the Church's Jubilee Year.

4 Written with Poem 334, Day 4, in mind.

A Lantern Lit Within ¹

*Each person in touch with God,
Is a lantern lit within :
What lights their spirit
Is incandescent Love.
This lustrous light, shining on others
Reveals itself in constant kindness.*

The Whole Person ¹

*There are none so deaf and blind
As the self-righteous.
How easily the ugly 10% of others' lives
Becomes the most of what they focus on :
So much human beauty lies hidden
From those who don't want to see ...
Who focus, only selectively,
On PART of the other.*