

# Folio Twenty-Seven

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## Another Magdalene <sup>1</sup>

*In the very early morn,  
On the feast day of Mary Magdalene, <sup>2</sup>  
Abba awoke me, to invite me  
“To pray AWAKE, the faith of all those in the world  
Whose faith, sadly, is inactive or faltering.”  
Confident in this moment of His bountiful loving power,  
I bowed my head and my heart ... to His desire.  
Seemingly as a response,  
Abba further invited me  
“To be a role-model of FORGIVENESS  
... Re-born faith’s first fruit,  
And the touch stone of its authenticity.”*

*I trembled  
At the prospect of Abba’s glorious love  
Lighting up so many hearts ...  
And gently asked to have my “yes”,  
Joined to the “Yes” of His Word,  
Resonating in the Ascended Christ  
– Forever stirring dormant spirits  
To a re-vitalized faith !*

*As I lay there, I came to see WHY, many years earlier, <sup>3</sup>  
Abba had invited me to be  
“An apostle of forgiveness”.  
THEN, I had thought of this, as an outreaching personal effort ;  
NOW, I know that Abba always realizes His forgiveness, both DIRECTLY  
... But often THROUGH US,  
Even using someone as transparently unworthy as myself.  
Moved by the Spirit,  
I felt a deep, deep need for this forgiveness ...*

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1 Poem 520. Year 5, Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane. July 2003.

2 At 3A.M. , July 22, 2003.      3 During the National Tertianship, 1980.

## A Resonance of Christ <sup>1</sup>

*How glorious ! How wondrous !  
Are Abba's tender invitations to us !  
... To us,  
His frequently distracted and regardless Children.  
As Abba's Word  
RESONATES in our world,  
The Spirit urges us to listen WITH OUR HEARTS  
... Even through our heartbeats  
Are often arrhythmic to Jesus' .*

*As our spirits are empowered by the Spirit into a "yes",  
The Word VIBRATES the cords of our very being  
... Transforming, healing, enabling it  
To resonate IN HARMONY with His  
... Lovers' hearts resonating as one,  
So that we become a Resonance of Christ  
... Abba's Voice ALIVE in our world !*

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1 Poem 521. Year 5, Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane. July 2003.

## Affirmed As Equal <sup>1</sup>

*As God in Christ's human reality, is divine,  
So God in Christ's divine reality, is human.  
God in Christ is equally at home  
With His humanity, as with His divinity.  
God in Christ eternally takes His divinity into account  
In His contemplation of His humanity, in Himself.  
The Incarnation reveals historically,  
Who God is Eternally !  
Jesus Ascended is the Covenant, the Fellowship, the Church ...  
In which God and humanity meet and commune.*

*Jesus, as true God, is man's faithful partner ;  
Jesus, as true man, is God's faithful partner.  
Christ constitutes, in His own Person  
God's dignity within us,  
And our dignity within God.  
We are not only highly affirmed by God,  
But, in Christ, affirmed as an Equal !  
For this to be so, the Affirmation needs happen WITHIN God :  
God affirms God as human, in Christ !  
God loves God as human, in Christ !  
Thus our humanity is Eternalized through God's uplifting love  
–Through Abba's drawing us to Himself in Jesus Ascended.*

*Yet God does more than lovingly affirm us :*

*In the Spirit –*

*He GIVES HIMSELF as the Pledge of His affirmation ;*

*He GIVES HIMSELF as the Reality being affirmed.*

*The Holy Spirit IS this Affirmation, this Pledge, this Reality*

*... Breathed forth between Abba and Jesus Ascended*

*–Centering the Relationship between Abba and Christ Jesus,*

*–Centering God's own Fellowship !*

## Eucharistic Surrender <sup>1</sup>

*O Spirit of goodness, Spirit of holiness,  
Sanctify my heart  
For today's Eucharistic Sacrifice.  
Draw me into the very heart of human goodness,  
Within Jesus' own heart,  
Into a humanity so transcendently selfless  
That it RE-CENTERS the Relationship  
Between His Abba-God and Himself.*

*Herein, Jesus sacrifices His' UNIQUENESS' in the Relationship FOR US !*

- “So that, in Him, WE might become the goodness of God !” <sup>2</sup>*
- “So that”, in Jesus' own words “the love with which Abba loves me,*

*MAY BE IN THEM,  
So that I MAY BE IN THEM.” <sup>3</sup>*

*What are the repercussion of this,  
For Jesus' historical sacrifice on Calvary ?  
Jesus there, does not sense God's love !  
–Feeling, both deprived of Abba's friendship,  
And, most crushingly, 'Fatherless'.*

*He finally dies, FROM THIS SENSED LACK OF FATHERLY LOVE !*

*–So that WE may regain this lost love of ours ...*



*Thus, O Spirit of Eucharist,  
Settle all our desires, deeply, deeply  
Within Jesus' Paschal surrender, for us,  
Of His depthless relationship with Abba.  
Enable us to offer His sacrifice, with His loving abandonment :  
Submissive in spirit, with Him,  
Empty of self and sin, like Him,  
Holy and pure of heart,  
Lamb-like for others,  
Inclusive of all,  
Full of love, full of thanks  
– All for Your Glory, Abba !  
Holy ! Holy ! Holy !*

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1 Poem 523. Year 5, Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane. August 2003.

2 2Cor 5:21    3 Jn 17:26

## Prayer : Intimacy with God <sup>1</sup>

*Prayer has to do ...*  
*Neither with God-as-Abba, in Himself,*  
*Not with us, in ourselves,*  
*But with 'God-who-meets-man',*  
*And with 'man-who-meets-God'*  
*That is, with Christ !*  
*Through Christ, we are invited*  
*Into that RELATIONSHIP*  
*Where in God-meets-God !*

*This prayer has to do*  
*With the Breathing forth of two REALITIES*  
*– "Beloved" and "Abba"*  
*... That are, as one, in the Spirit !*

*Within this divine intimacy of prayer,*  
*Within this Communing of the Divine Persons,*  
*The Spirit is the Communing !*  
*The Spirit is the Relationship !*  
*The Spirit is the Enrapture ! <sup>2</sup>*  
*The Spirit is the Kiss ! <sup>3</sup>*

*Thus, there is nothing to justify OUR setting any limits*  
*To the intimacy of God towards us :*  
*It is God who gives !*  
*It is God who is the Gift !*

*It is God, only, who gives ALL !*

*It is only God who gives God !*

*Also, there is nothing to justify OUR setting ANY limits*

*... To our intimacy in response to God :*

*It is God, in Christ, who receives !*

*It is God, only, who receives ALL !*

*It is only God who receives God !*

*Our intimacy is not in MOVING TOWARDS God,*

*Is not getting CLOSER to God .*

*Our intimacy is in RECEIVING God :*

*IN the Person of Christ*

*–In Jesus Ascended,*

*Who receives Abba into His arms,*

*WITH the Grace, the Receptivity God gives*

*–This Grace, this Receptivity, being the Spirit !*

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1 Poem 524, Year 5 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, Aug. 2003.

2 See poem 499.

3 See Poem 417.

## Don't Stop Loving <sup>1</sup>

*Jesus knows and does God's will  
In the midst of others' sin  
Even ... in His "becoming sin for us": <sup>2</sup>  
That is, Jesus does God's will  
Even as God's 'enemy' !  
Voluntarily separated from God WITHIN HIS PERSON,  
He dies because of it !  
Abba's Beloved, in being thus separated from God,  
Still does God's bidding  
... 'Not to stop loving'...  
Even while caught between  
Being the Son of God  
And a son-of-sin !  
Thus, the God-filled Son of God  
Fulfils God's will as a 'godless' man !*

*Because of this radical internal personal conflict,  
Jesus exists, on the Cross,  
At the extreme point of personal distancing  
From His lovable, and most loving Abba.  
Thus IN Christ, God's 'otherness' to Himself  
Is INFINITE ... in regard to His sin-deluged self !  
And infinitely painful !  
But He who utters the Word of Eternal Surrender  
– "Abba, into Your hands, I entrust my spirit" – <sup>3</sup>*

*Is also ... because of His divine-human simultaneity ...*

*Infinitely Other in an infinitely DELIGHTFUL way.*

*Indeed, Christ's "Abba ..."*

*–Within the Divine rhythm of time –*

*Causes the infinite distancing, His infinite 'otherness'*

*To become infinite closeness, infinite intimacy !*

*God is who He is, and what He does, in HIS WORD !*

*Thus God suffers, and endures His own negation, IN CHRIST.*

*When Christ dies, His separation from God involves God :*

*God DIES, for us,*

*In an utterly complete dying !*

*In an utterly complete outpouring of human life !*

*Yet, this emptying invites*

*An Eternal Infilling of Life*

*– The INTRAPERSONAL LIFE*

*Of the Ascended Jesus' humanity*

*Within the Divine Circle of Love !*

*This death-of-God-for-us fulfils Abba's command,*

*"Don't stop loving'.*

*Jesus CONTINUES TO LOVE through death,*

*And does so now, SACRAMENTALLY.*

*Because His Love Eternally triumphs ...*

*Communing, for us, happens now, and to come !*

*Contrarivise, His death, having EXHAUSTED God's condemnation,*

*Does the same for us, now and to come –*

*"I do not condemn you ; go and sin no more." <sup>4</sup>*

*Yet, within the Mystery of Freedom,*

*This Eternal assurance does not keep free-willed man  
From wilfully, holding onto his own condemnation !*

*Yet, transcending ALL,  
Is Jesus' Paschal Triumph, and Celebration of Life  
—So that in all who are gifted with this Divine Life,  
—In all His Saints —  
Abba is exalted  
In His Beloved  
In the Spirit !*

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1 Poem 525. Year 5 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, Aug. 2003.

2 Cf 2Cor 5: 21.

3 Lk 23:46.

4 Jn 8:11.

## Our Co-humanity with Christ <sup>1</sup>

*Our humanity with Christ Ascended*

*Both shares in His earthly, physical being,*

*And also in His heavenly, glorified Person.*

*Thus our co-humanity is, IN Him, CO-EXTENSIVE*

*Both with the world – and with heaven !*

*Our co-humanity with Christ shares in*

*Christ's divine-human simultaneity,*

*And calls us to be as much AT HOME –*

*With receiving the Eternal pulse of Abba's love,*

*As with muscles, meals and the marketplace !*

*Our co-humanity with Christ is A KINSHIP*

*A brothering, a sistering, a communing !*

*Thus our prayer ... pre-eminently in Eucharist ...*

*Needs to arise out of this COMMUNING,*

*Out of our kinship as brothers and sisters*

*Of the one Christ – brother to all.*

*Our co-humanity with Christ has, as its only focus for prayer,*

*Jesus' own, and our own, Father.*

*Through this family focus, we resonate*

*With each and all of our kin :*

*Wondrously we are ALL channels*

*Of Jesus' Life to each other ...*

*His glorified blood coursing*

*Through all our arteries !*

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1 Poem 526, Year 5 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, Aug. 2003.

## The Relationship <sup>1</sup>

*In the beginning  
Was The Relationship –  
The Three Personed Communing  
Received from, and gifted to,  
Each Other, in love.*

*The Relationship gives birth to faithfulness –  
To The Communing's COVENANT with us,  
Embodied in Christ – as the Church  
... A faithfulness-that-does-justice !*

*This justice is at the heart –  
Of who Christ IS  
Of who Christians ARE  
Of love itself.*

*The Church is the earthly hologram of The Relationship.  
Thus the Church needs, like Christ,  
To sacrifice itself for the life of the world  
– To proclaim Love  
– To do Love  
– To be Love  
... Sacrificial Love.*

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1 Poem 527, Year 5 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, Aug. 2003.



## Our Spirit, Good and Bad <sup>1</sup>

*As we become God's channel ...  
Not only all That-is-of-God  
Passes through us to others  
... Blessing, enhancing, divinizing  
Our channelling spirit ...  
But all that-is-of-us ,  
Of our spirit, good and bad.*

*The good passes from us  
With transparent purity,  
Blessing the other,  
Promoting life ;  
The bad has the capacity  
To cloud, to disorientate,  
To disorder ... even to corrupt  
—The other's spirit,  
Planting there, the seeds of death.*

*O Spirit of our spirits !  
O Light of our consciousness!  
Illuminate our spirits,  
Purify our hearts.  
Let only the good  
Pass from us to others,  
So that, like Jesus  
We may "do all things well". <sup>2</sup>*

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1 Poem 528, Year 5 Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, Aug. 2003.

2. Mk 7:37.

**“But one Word ...”** <sup>1</sup>

*Nobody  
Can truly hear the Word  
“Jesus”,  
And, afterwards,  
Breathe anything but  
“Abba” ...  
With their life !*

*We give glory to You,  
Lovable, dearest Abba  
– Transparent Goodness enclouded in Mystery –  
For surrendering  
Your whole loving reality  
To Jesus ...  
Who in You, O Spirit of Surrender,  
Breathes forth  
But one Word ...  
“Abba !”*

## Drawn into Divine Intimacy <sup>1</sup>

*While we are blest  
In the humanity we co-possess with Jesus,  
It is only through His Resurrection  
That Jesus draws us  
Into the divinization of our humanity,  
And into an experience of intimacy,  
Immeasurably beyond  
What is humanly possible !  
This experience of Divine Intimacy  
Is a sheer gift  
To our humanity.*

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<sup>1</sup> Poem 530, Year 5 Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, Sep. 2003.

**“God Has No Grandchildren !”** <sup>1</sup>

*God has no grandchildren !*

*We also have no cousins, nephews, aunts or in-laws*

*IN THE LORD !*

*We are ONLY ever brother, or sister,*

*IN THE LORD !*

*People don't become members of God's Family*

*... By birth, blood-ties, or kinship with other Christians :*

*An earthly mum IN THE LORD becomes a SISTER to her child !*

*A grandchild IN THE LORD is only ever a BROTHER OR SISTER*

*To his or her grandparents !*

*A nephew IN THE LORD is only every a BROTHER to his aunty or uncle !*

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<sup>1</sup> Poem 531, Year 5 Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, Sep. 2003.

## Identifying with Abba <sup>1</sup>

*Jesus speaks of Abba in His life*  
*... As the One who loves Him lavishly*  
*And whom He loves so fondly :*  
*“Abba loves me ...” and “I love Abba ...” <sup>2. 3.</sup>*  
*Jesus loves Abba as the One in His own life*  
*Whom He truly desires to imitate*  
*–I “do only what I see Abba doing” <sup>4</sup>*  
*... To the surpassing extent of IDENTIFYING with Him*  
*– “I and Abba are ONE” – <sup>5</sup>*  
*So each co-indwells the other*  
*– “I am in Abba, and Abba is in me.” <sup>6</sup>*

*Jesus’ faithful reflection on this most intimate of relationships*  
*Colours His whole vision of His life –*  
*His sense of self, His destiny, His memory and imagination,*  
*His very speech and its evocative imagery*  
*... Incandescing all his feelings*  
*... Suffusing all His body language*  
*Setting His consciousness alight,*  
*And prompting His every choice !*

*It informs His whole MISSION to humanity :*

– “Abba, may they be one is us,

*As You are in me,*

*And I am in You !”* <sup>7</sup>

– “I want those You have given me

*To be WITH ME WHERE I AM”* <sup>8</sup>

– “As Abba sent me

*So I am sending you :*

*Receive the Holy Spirit.”* <sup>9</sup>

*Ultimately, Jesus’ destiny is an eternal return to Abba, with us !*

*Having “created one single New Man in Himself”,* <sup>10</sup>

*Jesus exclaims*

– “Now Abba, it is TIME for You glorify me

*With that glory I had with You,*

*Before every the world was”* <sup>11</sup>

*... As He draws this “new humanity” into the heart of God !* <sup>12</sup>

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1 Poem 532, Year 5 Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, Sep. 2003.

2. Jn 10:17

3. Jn 14:31

4. Jn 5:19

5. Jn 10:30

6. Jn 14:11

7. Jn 17:21

8. Jn 17:24a

9. Jn 20:21, 22

10. J.B., Eph 2:15

11. Jn 17:5

12. Eph 2:15 N.R.S.V.

## Turning the Hearts of All to Love <sup>1</sup>

*To be, like Jesus,  
... Identified with Abba ...  
Is to bear the sufferings of the 'poor' and 'lowly'  
– Jesus' very own 'little ones' ;  
It is to open one's heart to sinners  
And to turn the hearts of all to love !*

*Such a life  
–Like Jesus' –  
ATTRACTS Abba's enabling Presence,  
Which fortifies us  
To walk Jesus' path of sacrifice.*

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<sup>1</sup> Poem 533, Year 5 Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, Sep. 2003.

NOTE: See allied poem – Poem 532.

## A Eucharistic Offering <sup>1</sup>

*Jesus :*

*Abba, I bring to You*

*... This sacrifice of myself,*

*Your Beloved,*

*And therein :*

*–Each person in Your world*

*... WITHIN my being ...*

*– Every grouping*

*Especially the poor, the oppressed and the powerless*

*(Especially the aborted, the children of the divorced,*

*All abused children, and all orphaned children)*

*–Every communion of hearts*

*–And all TOGETHER*

*... All of us, in my PERSON ...*

*Radiating life and love to each other.*

*Abba, please accept*

*My self-sacrifice,*

*And enrapture us*

*... Each and all ...*

*With the totality of Your Love.*

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1 Poem 534, Year 5 Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, Sep. 2003.

NOTE: My Sunday Missal prayer.



## To Be Anointed <sup>1</sup>

*The essence of being ANNOINTED  
Is to be one with Jesus, standing in the Jordan  
Anointed with the Spirit of Abba –  
Consecrated for mission,  
And sanctified for the poor and lowly.  
To be the focus of Abba's Anointing  
Is to be fully enveloped by the Spirit of Surrender  
And wholly embraced AS Abba's Beloved !*

*To be thus anointed or en-Spirited,  
Is to pledge to Abba, with Jesus :  
'You are the One who fills up my senses ;  
I breathe in the fragrance of Your Spirit ;  
I delight in Your intoxicating Nearness,  
... In Your cascading joy, so intense and intimate.*

*I am deluged by Your love,  
Encompassed by Your goodness !  
With eagerness I move to those to whom You send me :  
That they may be one with US  
... One in Your Love !  
Together in Our Joy !*

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1 Poem 535, Year 5 Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, Sep. 2003.

## Love, As You Are Loved <sup>1</sup>

“ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

*I fathered you, in love,  
I redeemed you, in my Beloved Son,  
I transformed you, in the Spirit of Grace,  
... Drawing you wholly into the Family of Love  
... Giving you countless loving brothers and sisters.*

*Your identity, 'to love as you are loved',  
Is yours to claim and choose  
As your destiny.  
Yes ! The full revelation of living as My Beloved,  
Is becoming one within Our Circle of Love  
– Alive in the Spirit in the Divine Dance of Love !  
...Abba.*

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<sup>1</sup> Poem 536, Douglas Park Retreat, early Oct. 2003, Day 1.

Sr. Yvonne Parker was the author's spiritual director.

## The Two Shall Become One Body <sup>1</sup>

*O Paschal Jesus !*

*Your Easter Body is mine :*

*Visible – in the Body of Your beloved Church !*

*In Your Eucharistic Body, broken in sacrifice !*

*In the Body of the Word, received and given !*

*Your Glorified Blood flows as mine ...*

*Flows out of others into mine,*

*Flows into others, as mine.*

*O Wondrous Mystery !*

*When You breathe, I breathe,*

*Your Breath, my life-breath !*

*When Your heart moves, mine moves*

*Your compassion, mine !*

*When Your surrender in death, I give all,*

*Your giving empties me of self !*

*You I receive, You I give ...*

*You the Giver, You the Receiver !*

*When You pray on the Cross, I pray,*

*Your “Abba !” and mine, but one !*

*When You love, I love*

*Your Love, mine*

*Your Father, mine !*

*When You sing, my deep being come alive !*

*Aflame with yearning*

*Eternal.*

## Love's Child <sup>1</sup>

*My family name is Ron,  
My Community name is Tom,  
My heart's name's  
"Love's Child"  
... Whispered in love,  
In fondest love.*

*It's the name I'm called  
To coax me out of fear,  
To settle my anxiety,  
To still my anger ;  
It's Abba's family call  
... To enter His peace.*

*It's the name I'm called,  
From the heart of Forgiveness  
... Softly called, so softly,  
Lest, to the darkness  
I heedlessly retreat  
... Into anonymity.*

*It's the name I'm called  
When, to the Light I run !  
Throwing myself, heart-first,  
Into His arms  
... Heart to Heart  
... Enraptured ! <sup>2</sup>*

*It's the name I'm called in glory,  
A name spoken – yet not heard by others,  
Heard within my heart only  
Lending uniqueness  
To my cry of “Abba !”  
... Yet one with all, in Jesus Ascended.*

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1 Poem 538, Douglas Park Retreat, early Oct. 2003, Day 2.

2 See Note, Poem 499.

## Womb of Love <sup>1</sup>

*Jesus' womb-life began :*  
... *With El Shaddai's over-shadowing of His Mother, Mary,*  
*– His wondrous FATHERING IN TIME –*  
*Within her womb of love ;*  
... *With the Spirit of Life planting the seed of the Eternal*  
*Within the seed of earth,*  
*Within her heart of faith ;*  
... *With Mary's OPENING – of her spirit, her will and her womb,*  
*To receive the Beloved of the Most Holy*  
*As the Beloved of humankind !*

*Jesus' life within the womb*  
*Was utterly dependent on Mary, His Mother :*  
*In every possible way*  
*His life was SOURCED in hers ;*  
*His sense of trust grew and flourished*  
*Within her deep reverencing of His budding human life ;*  
*And His emergent sense of gentleness*  
*Was sourced in her pervasive regard for His well-being*  
... *Revealed in the deep tenderness of her touch.*

*Jesus's sense of relating to others*  
*Began, and blossomed, within the MUTUALITY*  
*... Flowing from Mary's responsiveness to all His needs*  
*And of His attentiveness to her heart of care.*  
*His sense of being lovable and loved,*  
*Arose from His oceanic sense*  
*Of being wonderfully enveloped,*  
*As she bathed Him in her loving-kindness.*  
*Most tellingly, Jesus's sense of a loving, nurturing God*  
*Flowed forth lavishly from her own experience*  
*Of being Abba's CHOSEN BRIDE.*

*Moreover, Jesus' sense of hope – of yearning for goodness –*  
*Was grounded in the constancy and faithfulness of Mary's love.*

*It grew in harmony with her belief*  
*That the Promises of the Lord were being fulfilled, <sup>2</sup>*  
*And that "nothing is impossible to God"! <sup>3</sup>*  
*His sense of JUSTICE arose in the womb*  
*Even BEFORE He sensed the merest hint of injustice :*  
*His tentative learning to respond to life's inequities,*  
*Was rooted in the way she treated Him*  
*... Treating Him AS HER HUMAN EQUAL*  
*... Regardful of all His needs, especially His discomforts*  
*... And moving beyond that, by suffusing all her care with kindness.*

*Jesus' sense of moderation in all things*  
– Save for LOVE and FREEDOM –  
*Grew out of Mary's beautifully attuned sense*  
*Of unconditional love for Him and His freedom*  
*... Guided by a deep thoughtfulness and wisdom.*  
*Very significantly, Jesus' emotional life*  
*Was sourced directly in hers :*  
*From the fountain of Her WISDOM*  
– Guiding and focusing all her own feelings –  
*All of His emergent feelings and responses*  
*Were intuitively COPIED ... 'like mother, like son'.*  
*Also, within the womb,*  
*Jesus shared in the SEQUENCES of her emotions,*  
*And instinctively learnt to imitate these PATTERNS.*

*Jesus' sense of equanimity illustrates this*  
*... Because He did not have to CONTEND emotionally with His Mother*  
*... Nor be compliant, or withdraw into Himself :*  
*None of these became necessary,*  
*To have His needs met.*  
*He was neither demanding, nor unassertive, because of Mary's calmness.*  
*As she just gave of herself, in a simple way,*  
*So did Jesus.*



*From her, He learnt how to treasure  
Both silence and rejoicing-in-life,  
And how to wed them into a harmony.*

*Indeed, the RHYTHM with which Mary attended His needs*

*Was beautifully BALANCED :*

*He felt neither intruded upon by noisiness,*

*Nor jostled roughly within her womb ;*

*But regularly, was both buoyed – as Mary enjoyed life,*

*And becalmed or stilled – with the peace*

*That issues from her prayerful, gracious heart.*

*Thus, Jesus intuitively learnt, what it SENSED like ...*

*To respond to a crises,*

*To grow with pain,*

*To welcome joy and exhilaration*

*–By sensing Mary's bodily responses to these feelings.*

*Indeed by experiencing the emotional sequences she chose to follow,*

*Jesus was able to co-experience the twinned deeper realities*

*Of the SIMPLICITY and PEACEFULNESS*

*Of His Mother*

*... As they settled within His own spirit.*

*Even Jesus' later adult life of service to others,  
Had its seed in His instinctive sense  
Of Mary's constant, selfless attentiveness to Himself in her womb.*

*His sense of freedom, as well, began here*

*—As a hologram of hers :*

*As Abba opened her ever-expanding heart to receive His Son,*

*Jesus sensed how delightfully FREE she was*

*... Especially in the lightness of her touch and of her voice.*

*Being so sensitive to not pressure Him physically or verbally,*

*Mary's wondrous gentleness and feather-soft responsiveness*

*To Jesus' subtle change of feelings,*

*OPENED HIM to the world of sensitivity.*

*Mary's ever persuasive encouragement LET Jesus feel FREE.*

*His sense of facing the world thus mirrored hers :*

*Her ever-affirmed union with Yabweh*

*The Father of their Child,*

*BECAME HIS ...*

*By the osmosis of her loving commitment.*

*Indeed, Jesus' SENSE OF UNION with her*

*Instilled the deepest desire and implicit longing*

*For the same union with Yabweh.*

*The flow of His feelings for this adorable and sustaining Presence*

*Replicated those of His Mother ...*

*Cascading forth adoringly from her heart and lips,*

*In the oft-repeated "Abba ..."*

*It was His Mother's loved-filled prayfulness  
That was the seed-bed  
For His later instinctively INTUITIVE preaching :  
"Unless you become like little children  
You shall not gain entry to the kingdom of heaven." <sup>4</sup>  
Jesus' experience  
Of this kingdom of love, within the womb,  
And within the embrace of His family,  
Already flooded His heart  
With the fondest reverence for an unseen Abba !*

*A budding sense of His own personal presence  
Was also mediated by Mary within the womb.  
Mary's – and His – visit to Elizabeth  
Elicited "shouts" and "leaps of joy" <sup>5</sup>  
From Elizabeth and John !*

*Jesus, surely, had some incipient sense of causing change.  
John, who was 'baptized' by Jesus' presence in the womb,  
Himself was perceptibly changed, 'leaping for joy'!  
What then, stirred in Jesus  
Both then, and as His Mother, minutes later  
– Moved by the Spirit, to an exhilarated outpouring of love –  
Proclaimed the Magnificat ?  
Was He not affected by her love-song to her adorable Abba ?*

*Indeed, Jesus' very sense of Mystery*

*... Of the wonder of His Self*

*... Of the wonder of Abba's Love*

*Was sourced in the womb.*

*Mary's and thus Jesus', whole being RESONATED with joy*

*... As Abba "put Jesus together in His mother's womb"...* <sup>6</sup>

*—Because her sense of wonder,*

*And her profound reverence of tone and touch,*

*Was clearly communicated to Him !*

*Jesus' sense of Yahweh's fatherly presence*

*Also flowed from Mary :*

*Because, like Yahweh, Mary knew her Son*

*"Through and through",*

*And "watched all His bones take shape".* <sup>7</sup>

*As Father, Yahweh companioned Mary as Mother :*

*They were wedded to each other*

*By their joy in their Son !*

*Like Yahweh, Mary rejoiced in the Mystery of her pregnancy*

*And, it was through her,*

*As Jesus was "knitted together in the womb",* <sup>8</sup>

*That Abba's Beloved came to sense*

*The wonder of Yahweh in Himself !*

*He felt this in the deep specialness*

*With which Yahweh nursed and fondled Him*

*—WITH the arms and hands of Mary ;*

*And with the wondrous love*

*With which Abba kissed Him,*

*—WITH the lips of Mary !*

*Thus, as Jesus grew*  
*“In wisdom, age and grace before God and men”,<sup>9</sup>*  
*He became increasingly THANKFUL for Mary :*  
*Truly, in the womb-time of His life*  
*She had been, for Him,*  
*The maternal Face of Yahweh !*

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1 Poem 539, Douglas Park Retreat, early Oct. 2003, Day 3.

2 Cf Lk 1:45

3 Lk 1:37

4 Mt 18:3

5 Lk 1:42, 44

6 Cf Ps 139:13

7 Ps 139:15

8 Ps 139b

9 Lk 2:52 N.A.B.

