

Folio Thirty-Three

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A Spiritual Call to Arms ¹

*Prophets typically transform their personal experience,
Religious or otherwise,
Into a communal, spiritual call to arms.
Their call to confront society's evils
Is often played out through their own life's dramas.
Simple civil reform is not their aim :
Theirs is always a rallying cry
To, often radical, covenant faithfulness !
In targeting the underminers, or perpetrators,
Of covenant infidelity
They often become targets themselves
... Suffering servants of the truth.*

As a Child ¹

At times,

The PASSION of some contends with VISION of others :

To focus this passion ... to deliver this vision,

Both need the humility of a CHILD.

The HARMONY some strive for, is matched by others' quest for ACHIEVEMENT ;

To resolve both ... as one,

Needs the trust of a CHILD.

Through CONTEMPLATION, some seek to find

... The MANY IN THE ONE ;

Through RELATIONSHIPS others seek to find

... The ONE IN THE MANY ;

Both need the simple wisdom

Born of the love of a CHILD.

Thus, for all of these, a common destiny beckons :

To love God in others

As Christ, His CHILD

Reveal Yourself ¹

O Wondrous Mystery ! Dearest God !

Reveal Yourself in this Eucharist

That our hearts may SENSE :

– You, our Eternal,

Transcending every moment of our giving,

And of our receiving.

– You our All Holy,

Triune Fellowship communing with us

... Within the Eucharist's everyday words and gestures.

– You, O Limitless Love,

O Luminous Loveliness !

Hidden within simple SIGNS of intimacy

... The Divine WITHIN the human !

1 Poem 642, Year 7 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, Easter 2005.

NOTE: For the author, a daily mass prayer.

Prayer Ministry ¹

Abba, grant that I pray as Your Beloved Son

... With Jesus' praying heart !

In being a praying heart for others

– Especially for those who can't pray,

And for those who won't pray –

May THIS prayer, be at the heart of my prayer ministry :

“Let ALL hearts change”

... For every situation, and for every group.

In Awe of God ¹

*O Spirit of Awe,
In every movement of our hearts
To God,
Your grace of awe INFLATES the movement.
For, to be in awe of
... You Abba ... You Jesus ... You O Spirit,
... You Yahweh,
... You Eternal Mystery,
... You, O Limitless Love
– Is to be DRAWN into Your Wisdom,
Your Self-Knowing !*

*O Spirit of Awe,
Bolster my resolve
To bow my head, or to Cross myself,
Every time a Divine Name is read or mentioned :
Enwrap me in the hidden glory
Of This Name !*

O Spirit of Sacrifice ... Move Us ¹

*O Spirit of Sacrifice,
MOVE US in company with Mary,
To let Jesus' suffering happen in us.*

*O let Jesus' whole Regeneration,
The Enrapture of Jesus' Ascension,
Happen in us !*

*O Spirit of this Enrapture,
O Love of Abba and Jesus,
Pour Yourself through us,*

Into others

—Luminously enlivening their spirits !

*O Paschal Spirit
Let Jesus' humility, Jesus' espousal of silence,
Jesus' prudence and wisdom,
Happen in us !*

1 Poem 645, Year 7 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, May 2005.

NOTE: For the author, a daily mass prayer.

Earth's Divine Son ¹

*O Spirit of Pentecost,
Enkindle our longing,
Warm our compassion,
And set our hearts afire !*

So that ...

*All that is human in us
Becomes luminous with Christ's Divinity,*

Because ...

*Earth's Divine Son's compassionate humanity,
Can't but attract
Abba's eager embrace,
And thrilling heart !*

For Those Bled of Life ¹

*Abba, grant me that consciousness, during Mass,
not only of Jesus offering Himself FOR US,
but of being, myself,
in Jesus Crucified,
– entrusting all
to You ...*

*Pouring out my life, especially for those
without a voice,
without even an inner prayer,
without hope in their hearts,
– FOR THOSE BLED OF LIFE, LIKE JESUS,
so that divinely moved,
You may take them to your heart,
AS YOUR BELOVED CHILD
... from His Cross !*

More & More ... Less & Less ¹

*The world, our own flesh, and Satan,
All urge us –
To acquire more & more & more
–More and more pleasure, possession, and power
... In an ever enmeshing matrix
Of sin, waste, and disconnection.*

*Jesus Crucified invites us
To become less & less & less
– Less of SELF in every way,
Becoming empty 'God-spaces',
Freed, of "the lure of riches, of all passions,
And the worries of this world" ²
– OPEN channels
Of God's life and love and light !*

1 Poem 648, Year 7 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, May 2005.

2 Mk 4:19

The World of Sidelined People ¹

Living in the world of the sidelined ...

It seems ...

I am of no critical importance to anyone.

Yet, I find importance

In smaller and lesser things, in understated things,

In neglected, even shunned things ... and people.

These are the chosen entry points, it seems, Abba,

Of Your often hidden, unobvious Presence !

Thus, the margins of life,

And the world of sidelined people,

Seem to be Your loved places for prayer

... For Your communing with us.

O God, All Intimate, All Holy ¹

*O God, All Intimate and All Holy,
Your Spirit's call
... To ever venerate every revelatory glimpse
Of Your Mystery,
... To be in awe, of EVERY expression of Love
In this paradoxical world of ours,
... To continually reverence Your incomparably faithful
Communing with us
—Draws us, ever deeper,
Into the Cloud of Your all-encompassing Presence.*

*It fills my threadbare spirit
With a 'God-burst' of heartfelt praise
... Leaving me awash with love.*

*So suffused am I with Your Love
... Your Triune Ecstasy ...
I know not its beginning, middle, or end!
Your Love seems to lack direction :
... Now rejoicing in the Enrapture of Inwardness !
... Now sweeping us into a Mission of Outwardness !
Utterly inclusive,
It both breathes in Love,
And breathes forth Love.
O how wondrous is our All Intimate, All Holy God !*

Suffering for All As One Person ¹

*Your Spirit's CALL, Abba,
Came, to me, at a Eucharistic Consecration :
– To BE the Crucified Jesus
For all of us as-one-Person
... Ready, like Mother Teresa,
“To take my place on His Cross”, for all-as-one. ²*

*My initial faint-hearted response –
It seems like a drop in the ocean'
Had given me pause,
Until I was told, within,
“All persons are the ONE PERSON, in Christ”.
So clearly my mission, like that of so many others, similarly graced,
Was to suffer for ALL-AS-ONE-PERSON
... And not for this five, or that hundred, or those ten thousand individuals !*

*What beautiful simplicity
There is, in the Cross :
To suffer, IN Christ, FOR Christ,
– For ALL who are His members
... AS ONE PERSON !*

1 Poem 651, On my way to my New South Wales Annual Retreat, June 2005.

2 Mother Teresa.

Growth towards Complete Dependence ¹

*Grace me, Abba,
With Your Divine vision of dependence :
To live out, IN CHRIST, His revelation
That our growth
Into the total freedom of being Your Child,
Is a growth
Towards complete DEPENDENCE
... And NOT the world's vaunted INDEPENDENCE !*

Abba, Perfume My Spirit ¹

*O Gentle, dearest Abba,
Through Your Embrace of my spirit,
Bring a complete healing end
To all my sinful past :
Changing all hearts involved,
Overwhelming me with a sensed IMMEDIACY
Of Your Presence,
And – as an especial grace, Abba –
Re-focussing the eyes of my heart, so that ...
I see You, O my God, in everyone, and in everything !*

*Through this gift,
Bring to full blossom, Your deeper Gift
... Of intimacy, communion, and Enrapture.
May this, Your Eternal Kiss of Love,
Perfume my spirit ...
Diffusing my whole being,
Sanctifying all my relating,
So that, together, we become the sensed Presence of Your Beloved
– To each other.*

1 Poem 653, The day before my June 2005 Retreat.

– At Mt St Benedict, Pennant Hills.

–Spiritual Director, Sr Yvonne Parker.

–Theme, “The Spirituality of St John of the Cross”.

Divine Possibility ¹

*Within the Mystery of humanity's heart,
Is the hidden, depthless spring
Of Divine Possibility,
Flowing forth
From the Paschal Jesus ...*

*For a cosmos
Aching to be infused
... With His enabling Life
... And togethering Love,
Their clearest, most wondrous source
– Is the Eucharist
... Divine Mystery in plain sight!
... Mirroring our forever under-estimated love for each other
–Inclusive Paschal hearts realizing what is Divinely Possible !*

Shocked by Grace ¹

*We quite often come to experience God at depth
–Abba’s Love lighting our spirits from within –*

*Intimately, yet paradoxically
... Within a context of darkness or ‘night’,
Within our self-same spirits !*

*Sometimes, the Scriptures assure us,
This is Abba’s over-shadowing hand
Lovingly seeking to screen us from harm
... A Blessing, certainly !*

*But if darkness or ‘night’ PERSIST,
They often VEIL our spirits
... In anxiety-producing ways, and to varying intensities,
In ways that MYSTIFY us :*

*Some of us,
In imitation of Christ, while deciding to let go
Of what we were, or of what we were attached to
– In the spirit of Calvary’s self-sacrifice –
Still focus on this as a loss,
And on the sadness it engenders
–WANTING to LINGER in the past
In such a way
As to OBSCURE our present,
And to CLOUD our future !*

*Others of us, experience the darkness or 'night',
As the non-acceptance of others,
And, in thinking others might consider us-as-Christians
To be "lukewarm", "lazy", or "uncommitted",
We succumb to human respect.
In a common reaction, we can pour forth
Increasing self-effort into various causes,
... Such that God's Dream for us becomes lost
In a self-made maze of activity,
Leaving us, 'still in the dark'!*

*However, others of us,
SHOCKED BY GRACE
... On having the ground of our securities swept from beneath us ...
Choose NOT to continue to be absorbed by plans and projects
... That seemed to GUARANTEE a new future ...
But, tremulously, begin
To walk by sheer faith
– Sightlessly, uncomprehendingly, trustingly !*

*Yet again, others,
Waiting longingly upon God
In times of rapid change,
And taking care, not to second-guess
God's Dream for us,
Resolve to patiently, sensitively REVERENCE
The hidden ways of this God of Mystery,
... Working with us, between us, connecting us.
We sense that God works with us,
Just as LIGHT does
... When, in playing on the seemingly unresponsive, unseeing earth,
It is still able to activate seeds at depth,
And to DRAW FORTH LIFE from them !*

*Indeed, in what seems to be
The gloomy, irrelevant, vulnerable corners of our lives,
The Spirit of the Beloved, of the Ascended One, APPEARS !
In this way, the Beloved Himself ACCOMPANIES us,
And, if through the grace of waiting in darkness,
His outstretched hand TOUCHES ours, in the gloom,
We need to allow Him TO TAKE OUR HAND IN HIS.
And though we have little sense of where we're going,
We let Him lead us into the warming Light of Abba's Love,
And into the welcoming smiles, the embraces,
Of those GATHERED WITHIN His very Self,
Vulnerable spirits ... every one !*

Together in the Heart of the Beloved ¹

(ABBA:)

*Entrust your inner being,
Your IDENTITY itself,
To My Beloved's Limitless Love.
Explore His Inner Fire ...
Experience your heart within His !
Let His Fire's Ageless Light ...
Illuminate your truth,
Highlight your beauty !*

*As you sense His Passion for Life,
Dance for joy, with abandon, in His Company !
Exhilarate in the love of those He loves –
In that Communion of Love
Fuelling the Fire
Ablaze in the heart of the Beloved !*

*Let the Crucified-and-now-Ascended's Life-blood
Revitalize, re-personalize you ...
So, with awe aflame in your heart,
With intimacy, lighting up your eyes,
You gaze, with His eyes, upon My Face ...
Knowing that I have eyes ONLY for My Beloved !
Only in Him, My Paschal Son, Earth's Beloved,
Do I create, through Our Spirit, that 'God-space'
Where we abide in Peace Eternal !*

We rejoice to make a home for you HERE ...
Together with you
In the PERSON of My Beloved.
Find in Him, your own heart's unique beauty ...
Let Me whisper to you
... Through the Spirit ...
My own Child's Name,
And listen to its echo
... As your own !

Three Together : Together One ¹

One God

One love.

One gift –

Three givings,

Three receivings.

Three, together,

Together One –

One God.

Centered on Love ¹

For Abba, Jesus Ascended and the Spirit

– As Each within the Other lives –

Giving ... readies Each, for receiving,

Emptying ... for infilling,

Ebbing ... for flowing forth.

In this tidal world Eternal,

Divine Love pours forth, all of itself, WITHIN, and WITHOUT

... Transforming a universe of persons, a universe of things

Into wedding gifts for the Beloved,

Creating room for us, especially WITHIN,

That we, Love's joy may sing

–So, our loving others

Issues forth from that communing-in-love

Which Abba, Jesus Ascended, and the Spirit

LIVE WITHIN US !

Yet, within TIME'S womb of love,

Pain accompanies all birth :

This pain, of birthing love,

Is each lover straining and longing,

To be ONE WITH the Beloved.

Until this occurs

Our Beloved's wound is still agape

... His heart exposed

–As ours is NOW,

'Til love is born.

The Beloved's SURRENDER

... At His Conception,

... In Jordan's waters,

... On Tabor's top

... On Calvary's altar,

– Sacramentalized as bread's Flesh, and wine's Blood –

And culminating in His Ascension's Gift to Abba

–Is the divine TEMPLATE

For our surrendering to Love.

This surrendering is not simply a one-way flow

... But an ebb and flow within us :

The ebbing of self,

The inflowing of the Other ;

Receding independence,

Incoming tide of the Beloved's dependence

... On Abba's Love.

We Become Fire ¹

*Love gathers many together
Around a home's centering hearth
Or about a bush campfire, flaring in the darkness.
Some come out for the warmth of others' hearts ;
Some join Love's circle to nurture both spirit and body ;
Others, because it is assurance against the night
– A fiery sentinel keeping darker instincts at bay ;
Still others, beguiled from a distance ...
Come to its beauty, its mysterious promise ;
Others arrive, just to belong !*

*Standing or sitting, around God's Fire,
Our common instinct is to GAZE ...
To gaze into its fiery rainbow depths
... Its centre, Untouchable.
Yet, it is our own lives, we behold :
As new wood is laid upon its fiery heart,
We know it is Love's Spirit
Who sets our hearts afire :
At first, scorching us of superficialities,
Then immersing – baptizing – us in a fiery embrace
'Til we BURST ALIGHT,
Ablaze with the Light of the Lord !*

*Being new to Fire,
And enticed by Love's radiant beauty,
We allow ourselves to be caressed
By its alluring flames,
And so surrender
To that intenser Love
Within its white hot core
... Where Love's Easter Self
Both fuels our delight,
And draws us, fascinated
— Aglow with wonder —
To the Paschal One's very heart :
To a furnace of union
Where one becomes
The other one ...*

*Then, with zeal to share,
Re-fired, with ardent yearning flaring,
We withdraw our inner gaze
... To gain perspective of the whole.
So, with eyes aflame
—Mirroring what we see —
We sense we have become one
With this entire shimmering fire-scape of spirits
—The spirits INCORPORATED in the Easter Christ's Self.*

*Here, the spirit-outriders of Love's fire
Become at times, goblets of flame, inviting all of us
To quaff our thirst for companionship- with- Love,
To burnish our spirits
Within Love's glowing communion.*

*Here other blue-tinged gases
–Spirits with energy unexpended –
Swirl and eddy,
Longing to be consumed ...
Until, DRAWN by Love's hidden design,
They plunge
–Now, as torrents of fire –
Cascading into fiery valleys,
SEEKING THE CENTRE !
Surrendering, abandoning themselves
To Love's depths ...
They are welcomed
Into a fiery cavernous heart-space
... Hollowed out by Love's all-consuming nuptials !*

*In this HOMECOMING,
– One with the ever-emptying, ever-filling Centre,
In an ALL-GIVING holocaust –
WE BECOME FIRE
... Divine Desire to give All,
Luminous with the Glory of Love
Holy ! Holy ! Holy !*

