

Folio Thirty-Six

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The Mystery of Worship ¹

*In the WORSHIP
Of the Eucharistic Sacrifice,
We simply cannot know,
In deep truth –
WHOM we offer,
To WHOM we offer,
How we offer ...*

*Ultimately,
Only God
Can offer God
To God ...*

*To know, in faith,
That all is done IN THE SPIRIT,
Only
... Deepens the Mystery !
... Heightens our awe !
... And exalts God's loving-kindness !*

Drawn into Silence ¹

*Silence is something that comes to us,
Not so much for us to experience,
But for it to abide within our hearts,
Not so much to be sought for,
But for us to welcome, and be thankful for.*

*It comes to us best ...
As a GIFT, a medium for God's Presence.*

*Rather than we ... 'depthing' silence,
We are DRAWN into it,
To the Presence within.*

*This inner silence, becomes stillness of heart
... Our spirits led by the Spirit, into Divine stillness.*

*Such silence allows communion to happen ...
Beyond the deepest levels of our consciousness,
Within our UN-conscious depths,
Where Abba, Jesus, and Loyce ²
Choose to make Their Home. ³*

*The deep irony, the paradox,
Is that this is not a place of solitude,
But of Fellowship ...
Where there's deep joy with many others
In the presence of our Brother,
Where wordlessness gives way to the Word's
"O Abba !"
Where the Spirit moves Abba to respond
"My Beloved !"*

1 Poem 701, A Whole-of-Lent Retreat, (Note Poem 699), Clayfield Community, March 2006, Week 1

2 Loyce is my familiar name for the Spirit, who is LOVE, JOY and PEACE ... pronounced Loy-cee

3 Jn 14:23

Fellowship Divine ¹

(Words from the Cross, II)

“This day, you will be WITH ME in paradise.” (Lk 23:43)

In that Fellowship above all fellowships,

Above all relationships,

God surrenders to God

To receive God

In God ...

Within this Triune-Fellowship,

Within us,

Abba’s gift of Himself

Transcends all He is.

Indeed, Abba’s very self-surrender

Is His Transcendence ...

Transferring the focus, ETERNALLY,

To the Other – His Beloved,

OUR brother !

Within this Fellowship of Love,

Within us,

Abba even transcends His Intimacy ...

Never relating to His Beloved AS possession,

But relating to His Beloved as GIFT ...

Knowing their MUTUAL GIVING, is itself

Their Spirit-Breath !

When we are within the Presence of God

In Christ,

There is ONLY God :

God giving,

God receiving,

And God who IS MUTUALITY

... Where ALL is Fellowship.

Acting Against Fellowship ¹

*Holiness is Fellowship,
Evil is acting against Fellowship
Evil is also the lack of Fellowship :
There is no neutrality with Fellowship
... That is, with God
– “He who is not with Me, is against Me” ²*

*Acting against Fellowship
Is NOT seeking solitude
But, exalting individualism.
Such misdirected individualism
Spawns superiority and entitlement,
And, therein, INEQUALITY
– The very antithesis of Fellowship !*

¹ Poem 703, A Whole-of-Lent Retreat (Note Poem 699), Clayfield Community, March 2006, Week 2.

² Lk 11:23

Eucharistic Mother ¹

(Words from the Cross, III)

“Woman, this is your son, Son; this is your mother.” (Jn 19:26, 27)

Mary stood in the cross’s shadow

Refusing to give back IN KIND :

Not repaying the evil ... puncturing the heart

Of her ever-gentle Son.

Instead, she was transformed

– Heart re-shaped by the Spirit of her “Fiat !” –

Into the image of her own compassionate Child ...

Suspended, BY LOVE, between earth and heaven !

By her resolve of gentleness, imitating His,

She breathed forth His life-force of forgiveness, with Him,

Into that vulnerable remnant, over-shadowed by the cross,

Firstly, taking to her heart, tender-eyed John

–As “the first born of many brothers and sisters,” OF THE FIRST BORN. ²

And, as such, shortly to be affirmed by the Risen Jesus Himself.

By this STANDING UNDER the Cross of our reality,

Mary became the first of her Son’s disciples

To UNDER-STAND how His LOVE-FOR-ADVERSARIES

Decisively negated evil’s hold on their hearts !

*It was a climactic moment of courage for Mary :
She silently accepted her new role
As the Mother of forgiveness ...
Embracing all who “know not what they do.”³
She became Jesus’ first disciple of forgiveness,
John, her OWN first disciple
And so, on and on, heart lighting up heart.*

*This cascade of forgiveness, fired each with courage, WITH MARY,
... To forgive vengeful adversaries
... To soften hearts, paralysed by sin.*

*Overshadowed by the Cross, Mary silently chose
To offer her Son’s Sacrifice with Him
– Becoming, with Him, Eucharist for all, both good and bad
Offering her Son’s body and blood to Abba*

*... Body of her own body !
... Blood of her own blood !
... Heart shaped by hers !*

Yet NOW, WONDROUSLY –

*... Body offered for our bodies !
... Blood shed for our blood !
... Heart surrendered for our hearts !*

*These hearts, too, have now been lit up, through forgiveness,
So we too, can BE EUCHARIST FOR ALL, with Mary.
We, too, can offer the self-same Sacrifice of Jesus,
Which she co-offered to Abba, in the Spirit
... So as to break, wide open,
... Hearts hardened by hatred
... Open for the in-pouring
Of their Victim's love !*

*Yes ! How privileged, how graced, we are – to forgive
To be Eucharist for others,
Imitating the Mother of Eucharistic Love
... Heart lighting up heart in forgiveness !*

1 Poem 704, A Whole-of-Lent Retreat (Note Poem 699), Clayfield Community, March 2006, Week 3.

2 Rom 8:29 3 Lk 23:34 (See Poem 699)

Whisper But My Name ¹

(Words from the Cross, IV)

“My God ! My God ! Why have You deserted me ?” (Mt 15:34)

I, Abba’s Son ...

Feeling vilified and vulnerable,

Flesh, ripped red raw ... riveted to the cross,

Stretched between the earth ... of my followers, my kin and our race,

And the heaven of You ... My God within my heart,

Yearn for You, dearest Abba,

To speak to me

To lay claim to Your Loving Son

And to all WHOM I LOVE

... Your voice ALIVE, with a Father’s longing !

O Abba ... Abba ... where are You ?

O Abba, I’m lost without You !

O Abba, just whisper ... whisper ...

Whisper but my name ...

Empty am I, ... hollowed out ... a wraith of a man !

My cries echo ... echo within the husk of my soul.

O How I yearn for You ...

I long for Your gentle touch,

The caress of Your Presence :

Just to know ‘You’re here !’

Your hand on my brow

... Stilling my writhing ...

Will let my spirit SOAR !

O Faithful Father, Father of our failed flesh ...

In looking tenderly upon us,

Let Your heart's eye, pity OUR plight

—We're Yours to embrace, ever-loving Father !

In drawing me, through this SACRIFICE,

To the home of Your heart,

All OF US can follow ...

As Gift of Your joy !

I long ... WE yearn ... for Your infilling.

WE thirst ! We hunger for You !

For we are nothing without You

... Only the driest of dry desert hearts;

I offer to sacrifice FOR US ALL

... I give my very life

To the boundless demands of OUR THIRST for You ...

Entrusting the deepest reaches of our spirits

To Your oceanic Inpouring !

Dearest of Fathers,

Deluge Your people, held close within my heart

—With life ! With love ! With longing fulfilled !

Flood my whole person, the UNIVERSE of my being,

With the love of Divine Fellowship —

Delighting to touch, to kiss, to enrapture US ALL !

*Dearest Abba, breathe into us
The life of Your Spirit,
So that, in the warmth of Your Fathering,
Your Beloved can become ALL – for ALL !
Raised up by this Cross ... to Your Heaven
With a galaxy of KIN !*

Dry Creek Beds ¹

(Words from the Cross, V)

"I thirst." (Jn 19:28)

God thirsts for us.

God thirsts, because God loves.

We thirst, because we are of God, IN Christ.

Deluged by Love, passing through us,

The dry creek bed of our spirit

Always retains the memory of this Deluge

– Of being saturated with Love !

Yes ! Our beings long for Love

Because we BE-LONG to Love.

We ache with a yearning, whose focus

Is not to retain the Gift,

But to GIVE all back ... to Love

... The HOME of our being.

God thirsts for us :
We thirst for God.
Abba and us quench each other's thirst
With the self-same Gift
–Christ, the Son of God !
On quenching our thirst,
Abba thirsts, having given ALL
... His Christ, to us.
On quenching Abba's thirst,
We thirst, having given ALL
... Ourselves-IN-Christ, to Abba.

Thus quenching the 'other', causes thirst in the giver
–That is, an eagerness to be QUENCHED.
Yet, we are not looking to STAY quenched :
Rather, we're still eager to quench the OTHER
... In the Circle of Love !
... In the Fellowship of Lover-Beloved-and Love.

Sharing God's Transcendence ¹

Father, Son, and Spirit
Because You are Each boundlessly generous,
You Each TRANSCEND the Gift of the Other
Whom You RECEIVE in deepest intimacy,
By GIVING wholly – of Your Person to the Other – in deepest intimacy.
Thus, You empty Yourself
Wholly in GIVING
... Completing the CIRCLE of intimacy.

Wondrously, EACH ONE'S GIFT OF SELF becomes a GIFT TO THE OTHER

–A Eucharist

... So the transcending of giving in the One,
Becomes receiving to be transcended, for the Other.

Thus, for US human beings,
To be one with You, O God,
Is to share Your Intimacy
And, THEREIN, to share Your Transcendence !
Thus, in Jesus Ascended, our brother,
We RECEIVE ALL, so as to GIVE ALL !
We are Eternally surprised
That GIVING ALL ...
Empties us to RECEIVE ALL !
O, so little WE do, to be infinitely SO GRACED !

The Well's Depths ¹

Jesus, and the woman at the well :

Her eyes were thirsty, for the deep pools of kindness in His eyes.

Refreshed and heartened by His gaze, she asked ...

“Do you have your mother’s eyes, or your father’s ?”

“My Mum’s are green, like Galilee in spring, full of hope ;

Joseph’s are light and of the earth ... constantly reassuring ;

But my true Dad’s ... I cannot say ...”

“Why ? Did you not know him ?” she asked, curiously.

“O Yes ! I know Him wonderfully well ...

We spend hours together daily ! We love being together :

What He sees, I see ... How He responds, I respond !”

“To me, He seems more like a twin than a Dad ...

But what COLOUR are HIS eyes ?”

“Colour ? The colour of LOVE, I guess ...

His eyes are just full of colour and life !

And yes, faithful eyes – full of peace.”

*Quite perplexed now, the woman hesitated at the side of the well ...
Then, she looked up ... and enchanted by the rainbow, tentatively ventured ...*

*“There’s a halo, set in the clouds by El Shaddai
... Maybe you’re His prophet ... because you speak in riddles ...
But one thing’s for sure : you’re ALIVE with your father’s spirit !
Anyway, I bet his eyes are deep blue – like yours !”*

*“All I know” He murmured, “is that your HEART’S blue ...
Blue cold in this summer’s heat ... blue from being left out ... sidelined ...”*

*“Sir, yours is a gaze of truth ... and you see right into my heart ...
But it’s just not possible to start again ...
And feel the warmth of having a friend ...”*

*“Woman, if you and I, Samaritan and Jew,
Can drink from the same well’s depths,
All things are possible !
Those who eat or drink together, are family or friend :
So here, have some water with me.”*

Finished ¹

(Words from the Cross, VI)

“It is accomplished.” (Jn 19:30)

No, no ...it's not MY mission, MY earthly life, MY suffering

That's finished.

It was, not MY dream,

But the 'Father's work' that's completed! ²

My mission was NOT MY OWN,

But my heart's response to Abba.

Similarly, this life I've lived, this suffering ...

Is something I've offered up, directed to, Abba.

It is Abba Himself who sent me.

By completing HIS tasks, fulfilling HIS desires,

I have glorified our Abba-God!

Jesus then “bowed His head” ³

... In the Presence of His ADORABLE Abba ...

“And gave up His spirit,” ⁴

BREATHING FORTH THE SPIRIT

Of a New Humanity ⁵

– Now that His “hour had come.” ⁶

Truly a Trinitarian out pouring of Love

For us!

1 Poem 709, A Whole-of-Lent Retreat, Clayfield Community, April 2006, Week 6.

2 Cf Jn 17:4 3 Jn 19:30 4 ibid 5 Eph 2:15 (N.R.S.V.) 6 Jn 17:1

Christ's Identity Becomes Ours ¹

Abba's Gift to us

Is Word Enfleshed – RECEIVED by us

... Christ's identity, shared with us

... His mission, ours.

Our Gift to Abba

Is Word Enfleshed – RETURNED by us

... Christ's identity, now to share

... Our mission-to-others.

The Church's God-Sense ¹

*Our faith IS sensing God
In everyone ... everywhere ... and everywhen.
Yet this faith is but a sharing
In the Church Community's God-Sense
... Which senses INTUITIVELY
The Presence of Love !
The various truths of our faith
Give direction and clarity to this God-Sense,
Our heart's sharings ... its homecoming urge !*

“I’ll Catch You !” ¹

(Words from the Cross, VII)

“Into Your hands, I entrusted my spirit.” (Lk 23:46)

To TRUST

Is to be lost in a crowd in a foreign country

Without maps, wallet, or a known destination,

Trying to scan ... and scan ... the crowd,

And then, to have your gaze

Alight on the welcome face

Of a FRIEND !

To TRUST

Is, having sinned “seventy seven times,” ²

To have a familiar presence

Touch you on the shoulder

And say with warmth,

“It’s good to see you !

I forgive you !”

To TRUST

Is to be a child, stranded at night

On a second floor patio, engulfed by flames,

... WHO on hearing his father's call,

"Jesse, I'm here !

Jump into the smoke !

I'll catch you !

You can't see me,

But I can see you !"

—LAUNCHES HIMSELF into the smoke

... With his arms outstretched ...

Into the PROMISED EMBRACE of his Dad !

THUS DID JESUS TRUST ABBA

... In passing through death :

'O Abba, "my life IS in Your hands"!' ³

1 Poem 712, A Whole-of-Lent Retreat, Clayfield Community, April 2006. Week 7 (end of retreat).

2 Mt 18:22 3 Ps 31:5

Being Eucharist ¹

O Paschal Jesus,

In Eucharist

–We are enfleshed with Your Body ...

Such that the Body of our Church fellowship

Is the human visibility of Your Divine Fellowship !

–We are enlivened with Your Blood,

Kept circulating by these hearts,

Alive with Your love !

O Abba, Love of all our lives !

Release Your Holy Spirit of Fellowship

To move us to GATHER

Only the good in others,

And to be Eucharist for them

In Your Beloved !

Confident in You ¹

Faith

Is gazing upon You,

And being CONFIDENT in You,

O Crucified Beloved

—RISEN

Within everyone and everything

... Evident in those, in whom

Grace has become translucent.

¹ Poem 714, Year 8 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, Holy Week, 2006.

NOTE: This is the first of a series of poems, exploring what faith is ... over a period of several years.

Lancing Our Hearts ¹

(Easter to Pentecost Retreat – 7 Weeks)

THEME: *“So He went IN, to STAY with them.” (Lk 24:29)*

*Jesus Ascended is always with us
And REMAINS WITHIN our communities ...
Our eyes of flesh don't recognize Him
But our eyes of faith do !
They do so when our lives are Eucharistic :
When we tend to the brokenness in others,
And allow others to tend to our brokenness.*

*The Ascended Jesus is the God of woundedness ...
Grateful for His identification, as “the one pierced” ²
– The one still with the lanced heart, icon of His once “crushed” spirit ! ³
So, as shocking as our wounds, of body and psyche can be,
– In those we tend, and in us when tended to –
They are, paradoxically, truly glorious,
Because Jesus Ascended identifies with them,
And makes them HIS OWN :
“By His wounds, we are healed.” ⁴*

*From these DEPTHS of our brokenness and woundedness,
Risen Life radiates healing and fellowship !
It is in the MIDST of our being broken open
–In our Eucharistic ‘HOUR’– ⁵
That our gaze of faith recognizes pure Love !*

*Yet, OUR efforts are unable to bring this Love into focus :
Love only reveals His Face to a crucified few –
Lingering only for the time it takes
... To crown our heads with everyday thorns,
... To pierce our inner complacency with stark compassion
... And to lance, even our hearts,
So a deeper love of ours can flow.*

*Still, Love's Face fades,
As our suffering-in-faith subsides
... With the Crucified and Ascended One patiently yearning
For another Eucharistic 'HOUR'
... For faith to open our eyes !*

Home-making ¹

THEME: “Know, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Mt 28:20)

(Christians speaking ...)

I-AM-WHO-AM has risen, in Jesus,
– *Within Jesus Ascended, the Cosmic Christ*
– *Within us, as graced individuals*
– *Within us, as a graced community*
 ... *TO BE with us*
 TO ABIDE with us
 TO MAKE A HOME in us !

It is a home made ready by Love –
“My Father, and I, will love you ...” ²
But the home-making is NOT of our doing –
“And WE WILL COME to you ...” ³
So that our only responsibility is to LIVE LIKE JESUS –
To “Keep His word.” ⁴

Then, ours will be a hope
Anchored in Eternity,
Whose warranty is the Spirit of God
... *The SEAL of Their Fellowship. ⁵*

*Father, Son and Spirit will live Their Life of Love within US,
Pitching Their tent with US,
Dwelling with US,
In human tabernacles,
Embodied in Christ's Ascended Body
... The Ark of Glory,
... God's Presence with us "always, to the end of the age." ⁶*

1 Poem 716, Week 2, Easter to Pentecost Retreat, Clayfield Community, May 2006.

2 Jn 14:23 3 IBID 4 IBID 5 2Cor 1:22 6 Mt 28:20

Mystery of Bountifulness ¹

*O Selfless God ! Mystery of Bountifulness !
Ceaselessly pouring Yourself – Your Life, Your Love
... Your overflowing Love ...
Into our limited, little lives
– Lives of low horizons, ungracious receiving, conditioned giving !*

*O Infinitely generous God !
Carry us within the powerful flow of Your Grace !
Engulf us in the torrents of Your Love !
– So that our horizons, become limitless like Yours
– Our focus, one with Your Son's Eternal Gazing on Your Loveliness
– Our hearts, IN His, open to embrace all.*

You, Yourself, Always Draw Us ¹

*Abba You show, in tender-hearted Jesus,
That You are not only the source
Of our every IMPULSE TO LOVE,
But that, more deeply
In our EVERY movement of Love for the other,
You, Yourself always DRAW us
To the heart of the other
... Knowingly, or not.*

Seeing You ¹

THEME: *‘Lord, let us see the Father and we’ll be content ;
Jesus said to Phillip ... ‘Whoever sees me, sees the Father’’ (Jn 14:8,9)*

*As we see You, Jesus, in our hurting sister or brother,
Abba draws forth, from us, a healing touch
And, through it, diffuses that peace
– For healed and healer –
That is His Gift,
Leaving us,
“Content.”* ²

¹ Poem 719, Week 3, Easter to Pentecost Retreat, Clayfield Community, May 2006.

² Jn 14:8

