

Folio Fifty-One

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Choosing an Identity ¹

We humans evolve into a rainbow spectrum of identities,

By choosing

... Choosing, seemingly, from seven foundational choices or “colours” ...

To give birth to OUR unique IDENTITY.

Our lives are accumulatively

Shaped, styled and destined by these core choices.

This ultimate ‘coloration’ of our personality

–A distinctive TONE formed from a meld of chosen “colours” –

Evolves, as we select OUR meld from seven core identity options :

What is MINE,

What gives me PLEASURE,

What I ACHIEVE,

Who influences me, and whom I influence,

Who befriends me, and whom I befriend,

Who sacrifices for me, and whom I sacrifice for,

Who would die for me, and whom I would die for.

In such a life-forming hierarchy,

“Few there are who enter” into the last choice ²

–Because it NECESSITATES trust at the most profound level.

Moreover, the trajectory FROM a fixed focus on ‘what belongs to me’,

THROUGH reciprocating each other’s influence,

To the mutual surrender of one’s life for the other,

Is a journey INTO the heart :

A journey out of SELF into the OTHER

... To the extent that we begin to dwell, within the very spirit of the other.

*Increasingly, as one's heart 'twins' with the other
–Beyond the vast middle option, of reciprocated relating –
And enters into the deepening experience of mutuality,*

Inevitably ... our humanity FALTERS.

At this growth point, we feel the NEED of an affirmative presence,

A presence to shepherd our choices

Into a true mutuality – one that is UNFAILINGLY

Selfless, focussed on the other, and life-giving

... A COMMUNION of hearts.

This presence, which transcends the TOTALITY of our best efforts,

Is the Divine Presence itself ...

For, as we are drawn into communion,

It is the gift of our GRACED IDENTITY with the Divine

–Relationally, with the Fellowship of Abba, Jesus and the Spirit –

Which enables us to enter WHOLLY, into this communion.

The Trinity IS Communion :

And because all communion is sourced

In the Uniting relationship between a Loving Father and Beloved Son

... So all true mutuality is essentially

Trinitarian !

*While human mutuality, left to itself,
Is inconsistent, manipulative, and unfaithful
... And ultimately falters ...*

Divine Communing

*Is at the heart of all true human mutuality
... Which is thus a GIFT of Love Divine.*

*In this light, the last of our core identity choices,
Is ONLY possible
Because of the centrality of Calvary
Within human evolution
... When He who loved us and died for us,
Died not only for friends of God
But for those who reject friendships with God !
Such is God's identity choice !*

1 Poem 1000, 'Same Age' Retreat (61-70), Mulgoa, June 2010.

2 Cf Mt 7:14

A Presence Who Enables ¹

*Abba, Your Love of us
Is a PRESENCE among us,
A LOVE – WHO – ENABLES :
Animating
Within Your Church
... Relationships
Anchored in Your Divine Fellowship
... Relationships, creative of compassion,
Participating in the Paschal Sacrifice of Your Beloved ;
... Relationships, creative of joy,
Radiating Your freeing Easter Love ;
... Relationships, creative of peace,
Ever-deepening, as You draw us
Within the Fellowship
Of Your Ascended Son
– Through His humanity, uplifted to the Divine !*

¹ Poem 1001, 'Same Age' Retreat (61-70), Mulgoa, June 2010.

Communing As Equals ¹

Jesus walked among us – as ANOTHER man, as an EQUAL .

What a wondrous dignity THIS IS for our humanity !

Yet, Jesus' Father, and OURS, immeasurably deepens this EQUALITY,

By raising us up, to be GODLIKE

In His Beloved Son

–Drawing us all, AS EQUALS, into the heart of the Trinity !

It is our being drawn into such a Fellowship,

... In our communing, as Divinely EQUAL IN CHRIST ...

That gives birth, for us,

Of a divinely depthed equality of compassion and of care

–For ALL our brothers and sisters.

Our graced energies reach out

To include ALL, to ingather ALL,

In Christ !

Thus together, we commune

With the Father of Love

Within the very heart of our NEW humanity, in Christ !

This radiates forth, not only to ALL of humankind,

But also to our whole earthen reality .

How unfathomable is our dignity ... in thus being UPLIFTED

As adopted brothers and sisters to Jesus Ascended !

1 Poem 1002, 'Same Age' Retreat (61-70), Mulgoa, June 2010.

Steeped in God ¹

*To be steeped in God,
Is to be steeped in the paschal Mystery
And thus drawn,
Through the Calvary of the self,
Into the heart of the Divine Family
... In the Paschal Person of Christ .
Thus drawn, we are ever conscious that, of us all,
There is only ONE Paschal Person – Christ
Only one entry into Mystery – Christ
Only one journey – His
Only one destiny – His
... Yet many stories – ours.*

*His/ our journey ever-begins in the ‘earth’,
In the ‘humus’ of our humanity,
In the humility of being human.*

*Thus, in believing “God made us : we BELONG to Him”, ²
We experience humility, fundamentally, as DEPENDENCY on God.
This humility is Divinely deepened by Christ’s descent “to those below”, ³
A descent into the desolation of His, and our, spirits,
Into His DE-HUMANIZING experience of being abandoned by all
... OPENING us, to sharing in HIS RADICAL DEPENDENCE on God !*

*To journey, thus, is to be steeped
In the quintessentially human FAITH of Christ
–Trusting, with His fidelity,
That our Abba God ever-centers our journey
– As an Unseen, Unheard, Unfelt
... Yet EVER-IMMEDIATE Presence !*

*Then, in the Easter morning of our journey,
Our hoping
–Steeped in the HOPE of this most lovable and loving Son
And in His CERTAIN belief that “Abba saves !” –
Is realized, in our spirits’ depths,
Through Abba’s RE-animating Presence there !*

*Our Easter response is ever to REJOICE
As, Abba’s dawning Light, luminous with Love,
Floods our being
– From within –
Enveloping us with a Father’s embrace
... Re-constituting our humanity !
In disempowering death and sin, within Christ, and thus within us,
Abba wondrously re-animates –
Our vision of human dignity and possibility,
And, especially, our experience of our new humanity, in Christ !*

*This ENABLING, Light of Easter,
Seamlessly weds, within us :
What is heavenly, to what is earthly !
What is of Mystery, to what is limited !
What is Eternal, to what is of time !
It fuses Divine Love with the tremulous affection of human hearts,
– Churching open hearts into unity.*

*Thus togetherd in Christ,
We are en-Personed as earth's New Human Being
Swept up into Christ's exhilaration for humanity's possibilities !
Moreover, in His ecstatic yearning for Abba,
We are uplifted, in the Ascension of humanity,
Into the arms of Love !*

*In His Ascension, we are drawn into a KISS
So tender, so intimate, so beautiful, so complete.*

*... That Abba's very Divinity
Deluges our whole human reality,
Such that, as 'the Beloved of Abba',
We are suffused with His Spirit –
Wholly en-Spirited in God !*

Yet God is not content with ANY limits-for-us :

God IS Revelation !

God IS Openness !

God IS Gift Eternal !

Thus, God's Love is both DEPTHLESS and ETERNALLY OVERFLOWING !

Even Their Spirit of Union
Is shared with us,
... Within Their Communion of Love ...
Such that we
– Embodied and empowered, as the Beloved,
Enraptured in Love –
RADLATE this same Spirit to others !

1 Poem 1003, 'Same Age' Retreat (61-70), Mulgoa, June 2010.

2 Ps 100:3

3 In the phrase "ad inferos": literally 'to those below', and translated 'into hell', in the Apostles Creed.

Breath of Paschal Love ¹

Prayer is the Breath of Paschal Love

... Breathing through our lives.

It is the Breath of Paschal Communing

... Rousing spirits, enlivening lives !

These in-Spirations,

These movements, sighs, pleas, and murmurings of the Spirit,

Enliven lives

– Not my singular life, but OURS,

Ours, because only together ...

Are we, IN Christ !

Are WE, Christ !

... En-Spirited, AS Jesus Ascended,

With Abba's Spirit of Enlivening !

This Ascensional Enrapture

Is our Sacrament of Prayer,

Centered ...

On a Son's SURRENDER on the Cross,

And on a Father's heartfelt Easter ACCEPTANCE,

And culminating ...

In Abba's Embrace of Love in the Ascension

... An encounter, divinizing ALL created relationships !

This Prayer,
This rapturous 'homecoming dialogue' of Christ, with Abba,
Encompasses –
Both Christ's IN-BREATHING of the Spirit of Communing
... As Abba en-Spirits the humanity of His Beloved ;
And Christ's OUT-BREATHING of this same Spirit of Communing
As, TOGETHER, Abba and Jesus Ascended,
Release the Spirit's Enlivening within our humanity.

To pray, thus,
Is to be DRAWN within this Enrapture :
– As sons and daughters of Love
– To be RECEPTIVE to the Spirit's Enlivening,
– And to ENLIVEN other spirits with our own Enlivening
... Breathing Love's Spirit IN ...
... Breathing Love's Spirit OUT ...
– The Gift, the same !
Its RHYTHM is the Paschal Rhythm
Of living, dying, and living !
The heart of this praying, is ABIDING ...
In Jesus Ascended, with Abba, through the Spirit
... Letting Their Paschal Love, BREATHE through all our lives !

All Suffering Can Be Transformative ¹

*There is no suffering
That Jesus cannot transform
Into a pilgrimage
Leading through His own DIVINIZED suffering on the Cross
... To our Embrace in the Ascended One.
Initially, our suffering spirits
Are gently pressed to the heart of Abba
– As was Jesus' at the moment of His death,
So that ...
WITH the Risen and Ascended Jesus
– Raised and uplifted by a Father's Love –
We are drawn into the very HEART
Of Divine Comfort
... Into the transcending experience of Divine Fellowship !*

¹ Poem 1005, Year 12 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, August 2010.

NOTE: See allied poem Poem1181.

Alive with the Music of God ¹

*Good lives are lived IN RHYTHM with God,
With the Music of God's heart .
It summons us into Life,
Uplifts us with melodies of Love,
And calls us home to the Heaven
... Of hearts for ever in harmony !*

*This symphony of Divine Fellowship
Resounds throughout Creation ...
Setting it vibrating, in time with the Divine,
So that the rhythm of our hearts
... the cadences of OUR minds
... the soaring of OUR spirits
Can resonate in response
... Becoming living echoes of the Divine,
Harmonics of Love.*

*The Music of the Heart of God
Is at the very core of all life
– Prompting every movement of the human heart,
Enlivening our imaginations,
Energizing, elevating our spirits.
In this way, the Spirit of Harmony
Synchronizes –
Our outer, with our inner persons,
Our past and future, with our present,
Our very lives ... with others.*

The Divine Violinist
Not only draws forth ...
Unique tunes from each human heart,
And resonant CHORDS from hearts in harmony,
But also draws melodies
From sub-atomic “strings” ,
From the vibrancies of the visible world,
And from the symphonic anthems of galaxies spangled with stars .

All these tunes, melodies and anthems
Coalesce into the warm timbre
Of a joyous and sunlit HUMAN VOICE
– The soaring voice of the Ascended Jesus :
“O Abba, Abba !
We’ve come home to Your Song
... To Your Heart !
Our spirits thrill to SING YOU PRAISE !”

Be As Compassionate As Your Father ¹

*Loving Abba,
Limitless Ocean of loving-kindness ²
Open our hearts to the wonders
Of Your depthless compassion. ^{also 2}
Through Your en-thusiastic Spirit
– The Spirit of Empathetic Love –
RESHAPE our hearts
Into copies of Your Beloved's compassionate heart ...
So that, heartbeat by heartbeat,
Your HESED – gift to Your Beloved – ³
May flow freely from OUR hearts
And find a home, without fear or favour,
In ANY hurting heart.*

*O Mystery of Love,
Enable this 'Abba-compassion' of ours
Ever to WITHHOLD JUDGING its recipient
– Because, this 'holy withholding' is ITSELF COMPASSION !
Since it is only You , Abba, who fully knows the other's heart
–And that heart's hidden history and hopes –
Our emulation of Your 'Divine withholding',
Gentles us to DECLINE TO CONDEMN.*

*Even for what seems to be –
An obviously sinful life-stance,
Or an attitude of outright selfishness,
At a deep level, enable us, Abba, to do what Your Beloved does :*

*–To let compassion FLOW
–To envelop the person as they are !*

*At a deeper level, move us, like Jesus,
To forgive these enemies of Love.
At the deepest level, empower us
To LOVE such persons, even unto the Cross
–With open affection
–With no reservations
–With no HOPE of return .*

*In THUS loving,
Cause us, Abba –
To respond to the person's hate, with GOODNESS,
To respond to the person's curses and abuse,
With BLESSINGS that come from the heart,
And to respond to personal mistreatment,
With PRAYER which is one with the Sacrifice of Your Son
... To love as we are loved
... To be as compassionate as You are, Abba.
... Yes – to be compassionate to ENEMIES !*

1 Poem 1007, Marian Valley monthly retreat, Gold Coast hinterland, September 2010.

2 Both phrases 'loving-kindness' and 'depthless compassion' are translations, of the Hebrew 'HESED' – God's Covenanted love for His People.

3 See Note on 2.

Christ and Our Internetted Lives ¹

*In today's world, as the intensifying experience
Of our mobile-connected, and internetted lives
Becomes more distracting and invasive ...
It threatens to crowd out Christ's patient, quietly-abiding Presence amongst us.
Also, it portends, increasingly,
To SEEP into our Eucharistic consciousness –
Blurring its focus,
Diluting its CENTERING and TRANSFORMATIVE CAPICITIES
... Even to de-valuing core experiences of our Paschal living .
Such all-encompassing technologies can even white-ant our IDENTITY
... As followers of Christ, our Servant Leader,
... And as graced imitators of Christ, the Prayerful One .*

Contrarivise ...

*When we are drawn into a deepening relationship with Christ
– In a process mirroring the slow maturing RHYTHMS
Of earthen, biological life –
Then, the Ascended Jesus
... Phase by phase, grace flowing out of grace ...
Reveals our true, deepest, IDENTITY
As HIS !
As such, gift by gift,
We come to share in the Divine Son's HUMAN identity,
And indeed, His DESTINY !*

*In so doing, we truly become our REAL self,
By sharing in the Paschal Jesus' BIRTHRIGHT
As the RE-BORN, Ascended Child of Abba
... CO-BREATHER of the Paschal Spirit of Love !*

*For us, to be IN Christ, THUS
– To be a person who has “dug deeply”,²
And laid one's foundations on the ROCK of Christ –
Is to put aside the internetted world's distractive, invasive offers,
And to accept, gratefully, Christ's Paschal Gift of HIS Identity !
It is to BECOME, with Him, progressively,
... The servant guide to lonely or lost people,
... The hand-in-hand companion of the marginalized,
... The feet-washer of the humble,
... And critically, the crucified one – for each and every sinner !*

*It is also to become one with the Beloved Son
As he yearns to share His life's CENTERING RELATIONSHIP with Abba.
It is to become one with Him who is
... The Praying Heart of His People,
... The Contemplative One, in the midst of a chaotic world,
... The Intimate of Mystery, wholly open to the Spirit of Communing !*

*What a glorious inheritance is ours –
As sister, as brothers to Jesus, as children of Abba !*

1 Poem 1008, Year 12 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, September 2010.

2 Lk 6:48

Receiving the Spirit from the Needy ¹

*The Spirit is always
The Spirit of giving AND receiving
Never of one-in-isolation.
Thus, if a person 'monopolizes' giving,
– Being unwilling to receive –
Believing only as a 'giver' is he empowered,
... Then, his is a power that can OPPRESS :
"His" recipients, can be exploited,
And even, ultimately, disempowered.*

*True giving gives birth to true receiving,
And opens the hearts,
Both of the receiver, to truly receive,
And of the giver, to truly give.*

*Thus a COMMUNION of giving and receiving arises
... And, if hearts continue to respond,
In the Spirit of Openness,
This 'circle of love' can widen
To encompass all of the world's hearts, IN Christ !*

Thus the neediness of one heart
 Opens up the neediness in the other :
 The “poor-in-spirit” recipient
 – Gracious in humility, heartfelt in gratitude –
 Becomes a womb for transforming hearts .
 The Spirit who Changes Hearts in both receiver and giver ...
 Imitative, firstly, of that Spirit of Jesus willing to ACCEPT
 The support of Simon of Cyrene,
 Therein also, gently challenges the giver –
 To sense his OWN poverty of spirit,
 To own his NEED of grace,
 To depth his spirit’s THIRST,
 So that, through his initial giving,
 His spirit is TRANSFORMED
 ... As “heart speaks to heart”. ²

 As one spirit OPENS to the other,
 As “deep calls to the deep”, ³
 The Transformative Spirit is received, within his heart
 – FROM THOSE to whom he gave !
 Thus, the Circle of Love widens to include himself,
 And the Dance of Life dancers
 Exult ... to welcome a giver,
 Now renewed, by receiving !

1 Poem 1009, Year 12 of Prayer Ministry, Wooloowin Community, September 2010.

2 Bl. John Henry Newman. 3 Ps 42:7 (N.R.S.V.)

Circle of Belonging ¹

Within God Eternal

There are no memories, no imaginings.

The Mystery of Love

Does not reflect or desire,

Does not discern or plan.

The Mystery of Love

Is Now.

Eternal Love

Does not grow :

For Them,

Bud, blossom and fruit

Are one .

There is no evolution

Within the Divine Relationship

... No RE-sponse

Of One to the Other.

The Fellowship of Eternity

Is Love ...

Wholly in Love

With Love .

*Each is WHOLLY Present
To the Other
In the Other.
They experience
One Eternal Presence
As a Circle of Belonging :
Threefold, Their Giving,
Eternally One,
Their Joy ;
Threefold, Their Receiving,
Eternally One,
Their Thanks ;
In Fellowship, One,
One, in Fellowship .*

Eternity Weds Time, in Christ ¹

For us

*Eternity touches time, IN Jesus our earthen brother,
Who, as our Glorified Brother, sends His Spirit, to open our spirits,
Coaxing forth the outpourings of our hearts
... To draw us into Abba's Eternal Embrace.*

*This Spirit of the Paschal Jesus, breathes through our dreams,
Centering our hopes within the Paschal Mystery
... Such that, Abba reaches out IN TIME,
To GATHER our hearts, IN Jesus suffering and dying,
Until, Paschally TRANSFORMING TIME, IN Jesus Glorified,
He draws us inwards, to His Son's Eternal Heart,
Into His Eucharistic Moment .*

*This Paschal Moment is simultaneously, a SACRED SPACE
– Christ's GLORIFIED BODY
... Christ's very PERSON, Risen and Ascended !
... Our PORTAL into Eternity !
... The Source of the Spirit
For our New Humanity !
And our own Eternal Home !*

1 Poem 1011, Year 12 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, September 2010.

Blessed ! Blessed ! Blessed Are You ¹

Blessed ! Blessed ! Blessed are You !

Our Glorious God of Love !

Through this Eucharist of Sacrificial Love,

Through Your Beloved's outpouring of love,

FILL TO OVERFLOWING,

All hurting hearts around the world

IN NEED of You :

Deeply comfort them ;

Draw them tenderly into Your Circle of Love .

Set their hearts ever more free ...

Free to REVITALIZE their own relationships,

Free to FIRE the communities who nurture them :

– So that, enabled by Your Loving Spirit,

ALL HEARTS MAY CHANGE,

And ... Paschally regenerated

Through this Mystery of Sacrifice enfolding us ...

COME ALIVE

Within Your Circle of Love and Belonging ;

– So that, with renewed enthusiasm,

Your Beloved's joy is their gift to each one,

His peace, their gift together .

¹ Poem 1012, Year 12 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, September 2010.

NOTE: This poem is one of my prayers for daily mass.

In Need of You ¹

Abba, Jesus, Love-Spirit,

We, I, come, IN NEED of You :

... Abba, FATHER me

To become ever more Your Child

And – in drawing others through me

To Christ, and IN Him –

Be ever more OUR Father !

... Jesus, dearest Brother,

Fondly BROTHER us

–Both personally,

And, most profoundly AS One Family together,

To be attentive, devoted,

And tenderly loving Children of Abba .

... Love-Spirit ! All-Unifying Presence !

You are the transcending 'INNER', to our OUTER world :

Deeply en-Spirit our 'heart-reach' to each other,

So that Your Wondrous Spiritualizing Presence may transform

Our OUTER, with Your INNER communing .

¹ Poem 1013, Year 12 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, September 2010.

Graced ¹

*To be Fathered ... To be IN Jesus Ascended
... To be En-Spirited
–To live WITHIN the spirits of all whom they Trinity INDWELLS
Is to be vitalized by GRACE !
It is also to be vitalized by the countless graces EACH receives :
I, we, experiencing ALL the graces, the MANY RECEIVE
... These graces being OUR experience of continual mutuality .*

*The graces each ‘other’ receives, I receive –
Personally. Really.
Still, I receive them, vicariously ... as ‘THEIRS’
– The entry point, being the personal ‘openness’ of this ‘other’ spirit, to mine .
In effect, I experience such graces, not actively, but empathetically .
Grace is, firstly, for the giftee ...
Both, to accept, and to respond to, the gift of the grace .
I we, CO-EXPERIENCE
Both the reception of this luminous gift,
And the person’s responsiveness to it
... For, WHEREVER there is good, God ACTS
And we, as Love’s Adoptees, CO-ACT .*

*Be such a grace –
The grace of repentance,
Or the grace of inspiration,
The grace of co-suffering with Jesus,
Or the grace of Paschal rejoicing,
... Our co-experiencing of this same grace*
Is not, by way of specifically felt repentance, co-suffering, or rejoicing ...
But by way, of THANKGIVING .
Our co-experience is one of gratitude for the grace
– A mutual AMEN for God’s Love .
Our co-experiencing is thus, essentially, EUCHARISTIC
– A Paschal Mutuality .

Yet it is a mutuality that is co-experienced
In a profoundly personal and real way :
While all are graced together
When ONE is graced ...
Other hearts are also wondrously illuminated by God’s loving visitation
Enabling us to resonate together, as a choir of heartfelt gratitude .

*Thus, to BE IN Jesus Ascended,
Is to be a living RESONANCE
Of God's Word sounding in the heart of any other,
And, together – to respond to that Word, reverberating within the Trinity .
Thus, registering a grace in another, does not ask US to be
Impartial, or bystanders,
But rather, participants in the Paschal bounty
Pouring forth from the Heart of God :
What touches one, touches all,
What inspires one, inspires all !
When one is saved, all rejoice
When one experiences union, all exult !
Love's Bounty is not to be shared, PART BY PART,
But WHOLLY enjoyed by each, and by all .*

*Each heart, in Christ, thrills to God's embrace of another's heart .
When ONE'S dancing, within the Dance of Love,
Is highlighted ...
All hearts exhilarate :
Grace ... opening the heart of the one, opens the hearts of all !*

‘More and More’ to ‘Less and Less’ ¹

*Life, GONE AWRY,
See us locked in the pursuit
‘Of MORE and MORE’
Of life’s many attractions,
But especially, of our ever-enticing QUESTS
For recognition, for possessions, for pleasure, for power .
This relentless questing is our complex way
Of having others fill our SELF’S unsatisfiable needs !*

*Even the MEANS of attaining such quests
Themselves, become adrenalized, COMPULSIVE pursuits ...
With the following, dominant among many others :
– The frenetic, tunnelled-vision pursuit of money
– Relentless workaholism, or other self-absorbed involvements
– Serial risk-taking, calculated primarily to impress
– A driving urge to socialize or network .*

*Both the quests, and these pursuits, among others,
Inevitably lead to the ALL-CONSUMING sacrifice
... Of one’s time, and resources,
... Of one’s relationships, and deeper priorities .
All furthermore, are reducible to a key desperate stratagem
– A SIGNAL to one’s world, that ‘I’ve made it’,
Satisfying our craving TO DISPLAY what is mine !*

This craving ranges

–From displays of the OBVIOUSLY PERSONAL

... Of one's dress or symbols, of one's physical appeal or prowess,

Of one's sexual allure, of one's sheer personal presence ;

–To a competitive display of one's CORE ABILITIES

... Of knowledge, intelligence, will-power, or creativity ;

–To an equally competitive display of one's ALLIANCES :

... Parading the 'trophy' wife, husband, or partner,

... Highlighting one's power or political contacts,

... Or one's membership of prized clubs or groups .

Then there are DISPLAYS of a more public dimension ...

–From the calculated display of one's WEALTH,

Especially of its EXTENT, through degrees of luxury ;

–To the display of the degree of one's mastery of the social world,

Or of one's personal magnetism, 'insider' access, or mastery of the media,

–Or, to the ultimate in public display : the display of EXERTING POWER .

Always critical to such a person, is the ability to control

Both the decision-making processes, and their communication .

Critical also is the contrived, 'massaging' of its 'popular' acceptance .

Such compulsive displays, evident within any 'quest' ,

Can easily become ADDICTIVE

–Feeding off the highly adrenaline-charged processes which drive them !

Thus beyond the ceaseless questing for 'more and more' in life,

The 'addict' undergoes a BIO-CHEMICALIZED re-inforcement of the process,

Whereby one's life becomes a craving for more and more, and more

–Nothing satisfies !

Contrarivise ... a freer, more purposeful, and communal-focussed life

Is a life, based precisely on – BEING SATISFIED :

‘Sufficient is enough’.

Even here, a spectrum of possibilities exists :

From a life tailored to middling aspirations or motivations ...

To a self-chosen, simple lifestyle, CONTENT with essentials,

To a truly self-sacrificial, ascetic lifestyle .

Freer still, and also more deeply purposeful, and community-conscious,

Is a life lived by the scriptural ‘little ones’, the Gospel ‘poor in spirit’.

These, Paschal Life calls continually, to become ‘less and less’

... To become those blest ones who know their NEED OF GOD !

These live the life Jesus lived in His public ministry :

Open-hearted, joyous, simple and truly needy

–Dependent completely, both on His Abba-God,

And on the loving-kindness of the community who accompanied Him .

Jesus – being born poor, publicly identifying with the poor,

Choosing His disciples from the poor,

Crucified poor, bereft even of clothing,

Surrendering even His own Mother, to our care,

And feeling wholly abandoned, especially by His Abba God –

Was IMPOVERISHED ABSOLUTELY,

When His very life was forcibly torn from Him

... While, paradoxically, being lovingly HANDED OVER, FOR US !

Indeed, Jesus PERMITTED His death
–Because, in His poverty, He was transcendently FREE,
His spirit transparently open to Abba's ;
–Because His death was purposeful, reflecting His Abba's will ...
That He loved without limit, to the very point of death,
– Because His life was anchored in the deepest intimacy with Abba, LIFE itself
SUFFUSED by the Spirit of LIFE.

So utter was Jesus' surrender – becoming wholly self-less,
That His death gave Him entry, as man,
Into the Eternal US of the Trinity .
And solely through Christ, do WE, as Love's adoptees,
Also enter now,
Into that Eternal Us – that Paschal Fellowship of God,
With our humanity wholly embraced, and en-Spirited !

Becoming 'less and less', we enter 'EVER MORE' into Christ's Eternity with God,
'EVER MORE' into Paschal joy and peace,
'EVER MORE' into Abba's Love for us, in Jesus Ascended !
Thus, to be poor in spirit, evangelically needy,
Is to allow our earthly SELF to become 'less and less',
Yet only so ...
That we may 'EVER MORE' be ONE with Abba, in the Spirit
... 'EVER MORE' experiencing being 'ALL in ALL'
Within Their Fellowship of God !

Our Paschal Brother's Identity ¹

*As worldliness seeps, disarmingly, into our conversations,
Creeping disingenuously into our internetted lives,
... Continuously threatening to undermine our Paschal living ...
It seems an insidious 'eclipse of God' is occurring :
–Not so much an outright rejection of Christianity,
But an equivocal, but barely disguised desire
To discount and subvert our deepest identity .
With the worldly, we murmur, "Why should we bother?"
To the demands of 'being Christ',
And fail to respond when the world-weary taunt,
"Why intrude on US with your Christian hang-ups ?"
Such duplicitous worldliness
Will always seek to white-wash the "narrow way" ²
Of God-seeking hearts .*

*Yet, as we Christians are continually drawn, together,
Into a Paschal Covenant of Love,
Jesus Ascended always reveals OUR true identity ...
His !
– Our Paschal Brother's OWN IDENTITY !
We're called to be alive with His CONSCIOUSNESS
... Lovably human, lovably divine ...
Alive with HIS self-same Paschal destiny,
Lovably alive in the Spirit, in the arms of a welcoming Father !*

*Oh ! What fools we would be
To trade THIS — for cosmopolitan fickleness and worldly-wise envy
... When, like Mary, we can choose “the better part”.³*

*Personally, as a CO-SHARER of the Beloved’s identity,
I’ll only truly BE myself—
Through living the authentic expression of my birth-right :
As the lovable offspring of Love !
As Child of Abba !
As brother to Christ !
—Suffused with the Spirit of Life
... As are ALL my co-sharers !*

*To be such a person
—One who has “dug deeply”
And “laid his foundation on the ROCK” ... of Christ—⁴
Is to gently, firmly, put aside
The world’s easier choices
And “set our hearts only”⁵
On our Ascended’s Brother’s
Ultimate gift to us :
His identity !*

*Such a choice WILL be unpopular,
And WILL cause us social consternation .
However, in living AS THE BELOVED,
We are Churched with other lovers
– Lovingly communing with ‘other Christs’,
And being companioned by other pilgrim hearts, enlivened by hope !*

*So, as we CO-IDENTIFY
With Christ, the Chosen of Abba’s heart, ⁶
Our destiny is to be –
Feet-washers to the humble,
Friends, hand-in-hand with outcasts,
But also crucified ‘live-offerings’
Of our communities of worship
... Crucified, FOR that very world
That distains us,
And ultimately, as Jesus pledges, “hates” us . ⁷*

*To be one with Jesus Ascended, thus,
Is to be one with “the civilization of love”, ⁸
... To join Love on the Cross
At the cross roads of Life,
... To enter His Mystery of Paschal Fellowship
Within the Heart of all hearts .*

1 Poem 1016, Year 12 of Prayer Ministry, Wooloowin Community, October 2010.

2 Mt 7:13 3 Lk 11:42 4 Both Lk 6:48 5 Lk 12:31 6 Cf Jn 1:34

7 Jn 15:19 8 Pope John Paul ² (?)

Humility : A Welcome to God ¹

*“Let hearts rejoice who search for the Lord
... Seek always the face of the Lord .”* Ps 105:3,4

“All who humble themselves will be exalted .” Lk 18:14

*As we, with deep reverence, allow these sacred scriptures
To resonate alive, within our spirits,
A luminous paradox arises ...*

*Namely, that ‘self-humbling’ equates to always ‘searching for the Lord,’
... Such that the continuous HUMBLING of one’s self
–Not the proactive use of one’s positive gifts –
Is what the God whose-face-we-seek, desires for us .*

*Therefore, ‘seeking’ God by accentuating the role
Of say, our intellect, proactively in this quest,
Ultimately cloaks the truth of this revealed paradox .
Similarly, highlighting the roles of our emotions or imagination
To stimulate, or attempt to realize, our longing for Love
Also obscures this Divine Wisdom .*

*Even highlighting the empowering of one’s will
To intensify our questing, by going DEEPER within one’s spirit
– Through meditative or contemplative ‘searching’,
Through prayer-forms of silence and stillness, of watching and waiting –
While, profoundly earnest ...
Still miss the mark .*

*This is because our Loving God is ALREADY present with us
And, in our self-initiated efforts to FIND our life's Source,*

We fail to sense the all-enveloping Reality :

That God ceaselessly SEEKS US,

That Love forever yearns for OUR hearts !

Yet, this Loving 'Heart of our hearts'

Does not spurn our effort-based strivings

But kindly ENABLES each ... with grace

– Transforming our every initiative, to a stance of openness,

And uses every self-effort, to DRAW us ever closer

Within Love's Embrace .

Still, Love prefers that our 'searching'

Be not at the level of our initiative,

– Even if this be at the SUMMIT of our core POWERS –

But to allow the Divine to suffuse ALL

... As the Reality, deep within, where self-denial, self-humbling happen

... When we become AN OPENNESS TO GOD !

Here, we know, we CANNOT LIFT OURSELVES UP to God,

But that our humility itself

Becomes, paradoxically, a POSITIVE reality :

A WELCOME TO GOD !

An INVITATION TO LOVE !

And that our choice of self-emptying

Draws Love to us, NOT because of our effort

But because Love chooses ... to BE ATTRACTED !

*In this enrapturing encounter
... Our humility is deepened
In the enabling light of the luminous truth ...
As we learn WE are the lovable FOCUS of Eternal Love !
Only through this way of humility, can we be said to 'SEEK' God
– Seeking only to be A WELCOME TO GOD
... Courtesy of Love's very own grace of humble self-denial !
... BEING sculpted into the image of the Crucified One !*

*In all other ways of 'SEEKING' God, we failing creatures
End up being subverted to our egos
– At times in the most subtle of ways –
As we somehow persuade ourselves, that WE CAN ACCESS GOD
... Thus acting, effectively, as God's EQUAL !
It is THEN, prompted by grace,
We need to recall :
– That “nobody can come to ME
Except Abba draws him”,²
– That we thus “belong” to Love Crucified, Risen and Ascended
... Belong to the One
Who is the eternal lovable focus of Abba's Love !*

Moreover, even when, as humble ones, we are 'exalted'

– ADOPTED as the Father's Beloved One,

Raised up to Equality in Fellowship,

In the HERE and NOW of our lives –

We ONLY see Love's Enbeautying Face,

ONLY experience Love's super-abounding Goodness

When given the GRACE to do so .

It is the Father who always DRAWS us

Within the graced interplay of Mystery suffusing our lives,

–Within Sacraments of Transcendence,

–Within experiences of Presence .

So the best we can hope for, experientially

– Before the gift of death removes Eternity's covers –

Is to IMITATE who WE TRULY ARE,

To IMITATE who we have BECOME within the Cloud of Faith :

JESUS – "the nearest to Abba's heart"! ³

Thus, in IMITATING His wondrous humanity

... By loving ALL,

Never withholding love, even from the enemies of love,

Loving, like the Compassionate Son, until it hurts ...

We are enabled to love, until with Him, we die of love !

*Thus, by imitating God, behaving like God,
Especially God in His HUMILITY REVEALED*

– In Jesus –

We become a WELCOME TO GOD,

AN INVITATION TO LOVE,

So that 'exalted', in Jesus Ascended,

God welcomes God

To breathe forth God

... As the Divine Spirit who breathes through our lives !

1 Poem 1017, Year 12 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, late October 2010.

2 Jn 6:24

3 Jn 1:18

God's Suffering ¹

*For the Ascended Christ, as for the Eternal Son,
Abba's Gift of His very self,
In the Mutuality of the Spirit,
Begets Him – not as a baby child, but as the Glory of our renewed humanity .
As the surpassingly expressive Living Likeness to Abba,
Christ now radiates the Glory of earth's new humanity, from WITHIN God's heart !
Indeed, OUR Christ, there, is boundlessly joyful, peaceful and ever-thankful
– The Eucharist of human gratitude, Personified !*

*As our earthen Son of Love, overflowing with thanks,
Abba's Beloved re-offers His Self, as Gift to Abba
In the Mutuality of the Paschal Spirit .
In so doing, Jesus Ascended is infinitely POOR, in this Giving of Self,
As He is Eternally, and infinitely RICH
In ACCEPTING, as Son of Earth, Abba's Gift of HIMSELF .
Thus, in His infinite POVERTY,
Christ the Son Eternal ...*

*While 'SUFFERING' the limitless LOSS, of His very self, to Abba,
Personifies the boundlessness of our human need, in our depthless yearning for Abba .*

*Moreover, in 'matching' Abba, in HIS self-giving,
–In 'matching' Abba's OWN limitless LOSS, and NEED, –
Christ, our compassionate earthly brother, CO-SUFFERS, with Abba,
... In a COMMUNION OF 'SUFFERING'!*

*Within the Spirit, who IS Mutuality,
The self of Both
Is a self, infinitely OPEN :
– Surpassingly open in MUTUALITY,
Open to RECEIVE, surpassingly,
Open to GIVE, surpassingly,
And, in giving ... OPEN to ‘SUFFERING’ LIMITLESS LOSS AND NEED .*

*For both Beloved Father and Beloved Son,
Within this Spirit of Mutuality and Openness,
Each, is wholly CONSCIOUS of the Other ‘suffering’ loss and need,
And Each is simultaneously and limitlessly COM-PASSIONATE for the Other .
Indeed, the very Gift of Each’s self-offering to the Other
Does, itself, divinely ‘HEAL’ the ‘suffering’ Other !
–Divinely VIVIFY the Other !
–Divinely FULFIL the Other !*

*Thus, Father, Son and Spirit Divinely COMMUNE with Each Other
... Such that, WITHIN the Person of the Spirit,
–BETWEEN the Loving Father and the Loving Son –
Mutual consciousness
Mutual vivifying
Mutual fulfilment
Mutual communion
HAPPEN !*

*Therefore, what is MUTUAL, is thus also TRIUNE Fellowship
... A Fellowship radiated forth in the Person of the Spirit !*

AND, AS WITH THE ASCENDED CHRIST, SO IT IS WITH US :

Thus, in Christ, in His Pasch, within the Fellowship Divine

– And thus also, in Eucharist –

All that SO happens eternally ... happens in space-time

–Happens thus, within our new humanity, IN Christ !

Thus the Son of Love Ascended

Draws US into His mutual EXPERIENCE with Abba :

– Draws US through Calvary, into Their communion of COM-PASSION,

–Draws US through Easter into Their communion of ENLIVENING,

– Draws US in His Ascension, into Their communion

Of mutual fulfilment and oneness in the Spirit,

And draws US, in the Church-that-is-His-Embodiment,

Into Their communing in the Spirit-within-humanity

... Especially and intensely so, in the Eucharist !

Steeped in Forgiveness ¹

*As sinners drawn within Love's Circle,
Our Life, in Christ, is birthed, in forgiveness,
Nourished and renewed through forgiveness
– Truly blossoming when, forgiveness RECEIVED,
Becomes forgiveness GIVEN,
... Finally fruiting and ripening,
When enemies are enfolded
Within the arms of forgiveness .*

*Thus as OUR suns SET, steeped in forgiveness,
Other suns DAWN, primed for forgiveness :
... READIED – within an ecclesial stream of forgiven hearts –
For forgiveness, the first child of faith,
To become OUR INHERITANCE :
... Its channel, our open-hearted brother, Jesus !
... The breath of its inspiration – the Spirit of the Crucified !
... Its glory, Abba, the womb of all compassion !*

*Indeed, forgiveness is in our very blood :
The self-same glorified blood of Jesus Ascended,
Gathering us, vivifying us AS ONE
– En-PERSONING us, as the FORGIVING ONE !*

1 Poem 1019, Year 12 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, November 9th 2010.

NOTE: Composed, two days before entry into Saint Andrew's Hospital, for my major back operation on 11/11/2010. Discharged almost five weeks later on 14/12/2010. Poems 1020, 1021, 1022, composed in hospital. – Author.

