

Folio Fifty-Four

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Deep Rest ¹

*Deep rest,
– A renewing, enriching rest
That re-animates our life's energies,
Re-creating us –
Is available to all :
'Come to me, all you who work at life
And are really burdened,
And I will give you rest
... Learn from me
And you will discover a communal peace,
Deep within your inner selves ."* ²

*If we respond to Jesus' invitation, above,
It is Jesus' vitalizing Spirit of Peace
Who CREATES this peace within us .
Jesus's singular request is for us to 'learn from me'
– To IMITATE Him :
... In the WAY He makes choices,
... In the WAY He responds to people .
In so doing, the weight of the stress we feel,
Will simply LIGHTEN ...
Because our burden, will, through following His lead,
Become a burden SHARED .*

Why? Because we leave behind the task
Of becoming – human – ALONE
And, in Christ's company, through IDENTIFYING with Him,
We delight
In becoming – human – TOGETHER !
... WITH GOD !

1 Poem 1060, Monthly Retreat, Marian Valley, Canungra, April 2012.

2 Cf. Mt 12:28-30

Sharing Your Birthright ¹

O Son of Love ! Paschal Brother !

You share with us –

Your BIRTHRIGHT

– As the Beloved of the Ascension !

The Delight of Abba's eye !

The Yearning of Abba's heart !

Your Abba, OUR Abba,

Encompasses ALL hearts that love

... In His eager, fatherly Embrace of You,

O Ascended Brother !

Wondrously, the Spirit of Abba's Goodness

... The very Embrace of Family Tenderness ...

Takes possession, Jesus, of Your, and our, spirits !

Our new glorified consciousness, within You,

Is itself, overwhelmed

By the flood of Your Divine Love, within us,

As You thrill to Abba's transforming Embrace !

We ourselves

"Tremble to the core of our being," ²

As we EXPERIENCE

Abba's and Your Family Spirit, within

– Alive with Life for all

1 Poem 1061, Monthly Retreat, Marian Valley, Canungra, April 2012.

2 Sg 5:4

Simple Hearts ... Transparent Hearts ¹

*The hearts of most young children
Are open, guileless, uncomplicated,
And simple .*

*These simple hearts of young children
Are hearts that love, wholly and solely,
For the good of themselves-with-others .*

*But, on a deeper level,
To sustain a selfless loving focus,
OLDER simple hearts need to become SUFFERING hearts*

*–Not choosing suffering, directly,
But making choices, within context, wherein suffering often arises .*

*In IMITATION of the simple heart of Jesus,
They are led by the Spirit, little by little,*

To CHOOSE –

*To co-suffer with, and for, others ... the pain of Gethsemene .
At times, they are drawn, through the brutalizing ascent of Calvary,
Into a purer, self-sacrificing love .*

*This itself, not rarely, is burnished to the intense clarity, and transparency
Of BLIND SURRENDER ...*

In the agonizing throes of the furnace of Golgotha .

Ultimately, suffering hearts become TRANSPARENT to the Divine, through intense suffering,

...As MOSES, the intimate of Yahweh, is EXCLUDED from the Land of Promise ;

... As FRANCIS, blest for being poor in spirit, receives the Paschal Stigmata ;

... As MARY, the ever faithful one, becomes the co-crucified Mother ;

And, transcending all these, and enabling all these,

Jesus,

In a miasma of pain for-all-others,

DIED OF LOVE

... Of love's deepest pain

– Of feeling abandoned by His own Abba-God !

How so? So deeply did He love 'BEING US,

He took OUR abandonment wholly to Himself.

Jesus' total identifying with the crushing hell of our being abandoned

Simply broke His heart

... And emptied Him of life .

It ruptured His heart

More than any soldier's lance

... Ripping His very body and spirit apart

In a DEATH ...

To all that IS ANTI-LIFE

... Of love's deepest pain

– To humanity's misery, sin and suffering ,

Culminating for each person ...

In the fear, the sting, the power, the terror of death itself !

All now changes for Jesus :
Wholly unburdened by the darkness, the finality, of death ...
Totally free of the chaos, the divisiveness, the opaqueness of evil ...
Jesus' depthless love for us
Is now utterly transparent !
It reveals, in radiant, dawn-fresh clarity
– In a surge of LIFE that floods the cosmos –
His Abba-God's depthless love
For His most compassionate, most lovable Son !

Thus, for us
– Once outcasts, abandoned ones,
NOW, KIN TO CHIRST RISEN –
The gift of a simple heart
Also comes as with Jesus, by way of CHOOSING,
Gethsemene ... Calvary ... Golgotha
– For LOVE of others .

Only then, can that gift RESERVED FOR THE SON
– A transparent heart –
Be readied to transmit to many NEW brothers and sisters ...
The Light of Abba's Ascensional Dawning within His own heart
– The Enabling, Life-giving Presence of the Spirit !

The Breeze ¹

In the stillness of a heart

Open in prayer,

Our wandering spirits,

Unknowingly,

Can come to rest

Within the cupped hands of God

Who ... if we stay at ease, and in peace,

Within His Fathering Presence ...

Can very well raise us to His lips

To breathe His Kiss upon us .

Just as unknowingly, as this Spirit-Kiss touches our spirit,

Abba's ever-creative Spirit

OFTEN further alerts us to Abba's Presence within

... Just as He constantly prompted the historical Jesus ...

By using 'cues' from the natural world, and from ordinary human interaction .

Perhaps the Spirit alerts us to the 'Breeze', across the room,

That caresses our face,

And shivers the leaves of a potted palm

... In a passing 'dazzle' of reflected Light .

1 Poem 1063, Monthly Retreat, Marina Valley, Canungra, April 2012.

The Weaver ¹

*For any one of us,
Gently cutting the toenails of a pensioner
Could supply a cameo detail
Of a suburban portrait of Jesus
... WOVEN by our lives .*

*Indeed, together, the Spirit and various ones of us,
Already assemble a living tapestry
Of "Humanity's Compassionate One":
Its strands – the weaving of hearts together, day by day
Its backing – the fabric of the community's support
Its colours – our feelings for each other
Its weaver artist, and subject – Jesus, who "wrote in the dust". ²*

*This communal icon
Becomes, for some,
The only god they can revere .*

1 Poem 1064, Monthly Retreat, Marian Valley, Canungra, April 2012.

2 Jn 8:8

The Sacred Threshold of the Commonplace ¹

*Our every caring act and desire
Unveils the Glory of the Divine
Within the sanctuary
Of our sweat-stained, and most ordinary of lives .*

*This graced reality
Allows us to present*

God's ONLY FACE

– OURS –

*Within the sacred threshold
Of the common-place .*

So as we ...

*Hold open a car door, pick up a dropped biro,
Be pleasant at a bus stop, organize a farewell,
Peacefully complete a download, pardon a queue-jumper,
Listen to a depressed stranger, clean up the rubbish again,
And do the washing for a daughter with low self-worth
... Each, a pixel of Gospel Light ...*

TOGETHER, they resolve into the image, of the Feet Washer at work .

*If, with His mind, we empathize with items of T.V. news,
A transformative change fill the lounge room
– Causing a cynical comment to be left unuttered .
If WE side with yet another boatload of refugees,
Peace will follow their footsteps,
For they WILL feel the press of some more welcoming hearts .
If we bring ourselves to pray for a rapist,
Abba will send His Son to visit him,
To bear, with him, the brunt of a brutal twitter comment
... To be imprisoned with him .*

*Indeed, the intimacy, fidelity and sustaining presence of the Trinity
Unfolds, in all its everyday splendour :
... On our every suburban street ... in a long-distance telephone call,
... In a hushed intensive care ward ... on a tourist lookout,
... On a jog through an industrial estate ... at a teenage party,
And perhaps ... more often in a red-light district, than on the stock exchange .*

*The Trinity's Fellowship of family warmth
Is available HERE ... and NOW ...
Abounding, not only in lives consecrated to Love,
But, in a way ESPECIALLY blest by God,
Among those of us
Who are poor, sidelined, ignored,
Disfigured, dysfunctional, tentative, vulnerable, humble,
Plain-looking, awkward, slow of speech,
And unnoticed ...*

Self-Giving ¹

Human self-giving
Involves letting go –
Of our spirit of self-absorption,
Our self-focussing MINDS,
Our self-indulging EMOTIONS,
Our self-seeking MOTIVATIONS,
... And especially, letting go
Of our self-selected PASTS
... Those controlling self-constructs of our memory ...
And of our self-fancied FUTURES,
... Those self-affirming future worlds of our imaginings .

O ! To be
Open ! Open ! Open !
Truly OPEN people ...
With spirits, open to Abba's Presence
With minds, open to Christ's
With feelings, open to the Spirit's PROMPTINGS,
Wholly open to GOD'S VALUING our past,
Wholly open to GOD'S VISION of our future,
Wholly open to GOD'S WILL for us now .

1 Poem 1066, Year 14 of Prayer Ministry, Wooloowin Community, May 2012.

Plunged into God ¹

*Our baptized, resurrected humanity
Is our old limited, 'unopen' humanity
Wholly transcended !
Paschally enveloped !
Divinely transformed !*

*The real miracle of our resurrected humanity
Happens not in the confines of a tomb
– Within the darkness of an earthen womb –
But in our darkened, dying hearts,
In our dried-up, hardening spirits,
In the black cave of our humanity.*

*To be resurrected, is to be plunged into God :
Heart-first into Love's Ocean !
Our baptized resurrected humanity
Is bathed in new Life !
Awash with new Energy !
Immersed in a new Identity :
Re-humanized ! Re-vitalized ! Re-destined !*

The waters of re-generation drench our very spirits

And they come dazzlingly ALIVE :

God's Life

–As grace-spangled Light –

Surges through the whole of our being

– Through all our relationships –

DIVINIZING

Our minds, our emotions, our past, our future ;

God's Presence enters and enables our PRESENT,

Companioning us ...

So, IN CHRIST, we are swept up into the Fellowship of Love !

Quenched with joy !

... At rest in a sea of peace .

The Dance of Love ¹

*In Eucharist,
Jesus 'BROTHERS' the wondrous loving and the deep tenderness
Of Divine Belonging
... To us .*

*The Ascending Jesus takes our hand within His,
Encompassing our hearts within His
... His empathy becoming OURS ...
Enfolding our spirits within His
... His openness to Abba becoming OURS ...*

TOGETHER we are swept up into Abba's Embrace :

*The "One-ing" Song of the Spirit
Cascading with life !
Explosive with joy !
Limitlessly free !
Transforms this Paschal Embrace of Heaven and Earth
Into
The Dance of Love.
Together we experience
The Three as One
One as Three
Family in harmony .*

For the homecoming Jesus

... Divinity's humanity

Becomes

Our humanity's Divinity !

Dancing now 'The Dance of Love',

Our human hearts swirl,

And galaxies twirl

... As Abba dances out His Wondrous Love

For His loved and loving Son !

The Dance of Love

Becomes

Our circle of Belonging

Our circle of Destiny !

Our circle of Community !

... Deepening into

Our Embrace of Glory's Intimacy ...

Our Embrace of Love's Eternity ...

Our Embrace of Mystery's Trinity ...

Each Human Face ¹

*As every bloom
Is a glimpse of Beauty Divine,
So each human face
—Be it through creation’s grace alone,
Or the grace of redemptive struggle,
Or the grace of divine intimacy—
Reveals
A FACET of the goodness and humanity of Jesus,
And thus, some personal image of Abba Himself,
And captures, in some light,
The shy splendour of Their Spirit .*

¹ Poem 1069, Monthly Retreat, Tugun, Gold Coast, May 2012.

The Spirit's Prompting ¹

*If we are not sensitive
To the subtle promptings of grace,
Not responsive to their understated simplicity,
—Our spirits are slowly numbed
By a glib, competitive, overstated, adrenalized world ;
—Our spirits are gradually estranged
By the relentless drift into SELF-ABSORPTION ...
Which, in the end, leaves us, with just that — our SELF ;
— And our spirits are, choice by choice,
De-sensitized, hardened, and de-humanized — by worldliness
... Especially our own .*

*Indeed, the Spirit, within,
— As Jesus teaches us —
Moves “AS THE WIND”, without : ²
Its IMMEDIACY upon ourself is subtly sensed,
... And leaves us unable to discern
—How it arrives, its timing and duration, and its effects .*

*Positively, the Spirit's PROMPTING —
Comes as a gift, and as a surprise,
Comes as a suggestion ... to be chosen, not debated,
Has a focus that is personal and specific,
Favours gentle, receptive spirits,
And engenders a simple, deep trust .*

The Spirit's prompting settles in our spirit

... Like dew-fall .

We need to respond, with faith

– As we do

To Jesus' Bread of Sacrifice, and to Abba's Fellowship

... With reverence and thanksgiving .

1Poem 1070,Monthly Retreat, Tugun, Gold Coast, May 2012.

2 Jn 3:8

The Spirit's Sevenfold Gifts ¹

*The Spirit unfolds the sevenfold Gifts of Love
Within the Paschal Mystery of our lives,
And does so, as it were, concentrically
... In a sequence, moving from the impersonal 'secular' wilderness
Of spiritual 'lost-ness' and estrangement,
To the first outer circle – of repentance and welcoming forgiveness .*

*Progressively ... as the growth of love in our 'spirit-lives' unfolds,
Gift within gift, circle within circle,
We are DRAWN, by way of continuing Paschal Sacrifice
– Ever more deeply, ever more intimately –
Into the innermost circle
... To that Ascensional Union of Abba and Jesus in the Spirit .*

THEY, within this Mystery of Their Wondrous Communing,

CENTRE

*Not merely our consciousness, and our identity,
But also our freely-willed experiences of living and loving .*

Abba, Jesus, and the Spirit PERSONALIZE and ENABLE

– Within Their Fellowship of Love –

Our profoundly shared Destiny

– Such that Their wise Loving

Becomes ours

... As we see, feel, think and choose

AS THEY do .

Our pilgrimage begins, as we become RECEPTIVE

*To **the Spirit's first Gift – FEAR OF THE LORD** .*

From fearing God's absence in our lives

And fearing to offend God's goodness,

Through being amazed at Abba's forgiveness

And amazed at His loving – kindness,

We are DRAWN

To being in awe ... that we've become a home for God !

And equally in awe, of all others in whom God finds a home !

*WITHIN that Gift, the Spirit bestows **the GIFT OF PIETY***

... Wherein we reverence Abba

For His wondrous daily activity in our lives,

Honouring His Paschal Presence within us,

Through PRAYER .

Through this GIFT, we are moved to be more responsive,

More emotionally expressive,

With freer body language

... Reverencing, also, Abba's Presence

IN our friends, WITHIN our family, and WITHIN community .

We are moved, also to GLORIFY Abba's indwelling them, through the Spirit ,

With devotion and deep respect.

We are moved to revere Christ's Brotherly Presence

... In the Sacraments, especially in the Eucharist, and in the Sacred Scriptures.

Continuously we venerate His Spirit's re-shaping and sanctifying of our lives

With devotion and fervour .

WITHIN that Gift, the Spirit bestows the GIFT OF KNOWLEDGE

... *Wherein we PERSONALIZE any new knowledge of the Trinity,*

*As another movement into a deeper MUTUALITY,
Being drawn into a more profound INTIMACY with Them .
Through this GIFT, we freely allow any new graced insights
To move easily from the intellect's objective knowing ,
Through our subjectively FELT, graced emotional awareness,
To being RECEPTIVE to what our body
Sub-consciously tells us .*

*Then, as we watch and wait, in silence and stillness,
Our very spirit SENSES a new quality,
Through this GIFT OF KNOWLEDGE,
... In being ever more 'OPENED' TO GOD .*

WITHIN that Gift, the Spirit bestows the GIFT OF FORTITUDE

... *Wherein we welcome the STRENGTH the Spirit especially offers us*

As we strive to live out each experience PASCHALLY .

We welcome also the GIFT of COURAGE – literally a movement of the heart

*... Whereby we FEEL GOOD about facing difficulties
– Confident in the Spirit's empowering company .*

We further welcome the GIFT of PERSERVERANCE the Spirit offers us ...

When – sensing that the Spirit ALWAYS provides –

We love to remain, trustfully, within Abba's embrace .

*There now follows, in our lives,
A distinct deepening of the Spirit's Presence
—Such that the remaining Gifts much more HIGHLIGHT
The Spirit's activity, not ours .*

*The Spirit thus invites us to be distinctly more RECEPTIVE
As, from WITHIN the Gift of Fortitude, there emerges the GIFT OF COUNSEL .*

Here, we sense the Spirit's Presence, as that of a GUIDING FRIEND

... Eager, hour by hour, to suggest to us

Our way into the Mystery of the Cross .

The Spirit also suggests to us how, on rising each day,

And renewed by Eucharistic Love,

We ought allow ourselves to BE LED ...

To encounter the Paschal Christ in others .

Moreover, the Spirit co-opts others, TO DISCERN WITH US

New directions for our lives

—So we can become, who we are, THROUGH others .

Conversely, as the Spirit animates us to COUNSEL others,

The same Spirit prompts us to suggest

New directions for THEIR lives .

*Sensitizing us into a deeper receptivity still,
The Spirit now draws, from WITHIN this Gift of Counsel,
The precious GIFT OF UNDERSTANDING, for us .
Here, the Spirit gifts us with profound insight
Into the Paschal Mystery ...
So we begin to understand, as Christ understands
–In a profoundly deeper way, than through our earlier GIFT OF KNOWLEDGE .*

*Indeed, the Spirit leads us into the VISION
Of both being immersed within Christ's Identity
As the Beloved of Abba,
And beholding the wondrous Circle of Love – from WITHIN !
We come to understand, from within
–That all of these graced Gifts of the Spirit
Can operate concurrently
... In a re-cycling, and ever enriching way of love !*

*The Spirit's crowing, and CENTERING Gift is that of WISDOM
... Emerging within our experience of the Gift of Understanding .
Through a process of growth,
Wisdom buds, blooms, and fruits
... Under the radiant Light of the Word
... And enveloped in the vitalizing warmth of the Spirit .
Ultimately, we come to see, as God sees
–With the eyes of the Beloved : Risen, Ascended and En-Spirited .
We come ALIVE to a vision of our humanity
Divinized within Abba's Embrace .*

*We are vivified by this all-encompassing, catholic vision,
Drawing all of the Church's experience into focus
... And what we see, WE BECOME !
We behold the Face of Love,
And Love beholds ours : AS CHRIST'S !
In so doing, the Spirit brings all into unity ...
So, being One'd in Love,
Being Togethered, in Giving and Receiving,
We are wise, as God is wise
... Seeing, feeling, thinking and loving as They do .*

God's Very Breath ¹

*With the Father's utter love,
And indescribable compassion,
Our Abba God
Speeds the Spirit Most Holy,
God's very Breath,
To breathe into Jesus,
Dead and sin-entombed
... TO BRING TO LIFE, IN CHRIST,
The Body of Christ, the Church
... Divinizing faithful humanity in the Beloved
... Readying all, for Abba's Enrapturing Embrace !*

¹ Poem 1072, Year 14 of Prayer Ministry, Wooloowin Community, Pentecost 2012.

Within Jesus' Relationship with Abba ¹

All of Jesus' activities

... His loving-kindness to the needy, and to the hurting,
... His shaping of the hearts of The Twelve as servant-leaders
... His Paschal devotion in creating the Eucharist,
 Occurred within the heart-space
 Of his relationship with His Abba .

For EVERYTHING OF WORTH, in His life, and IN all of life,

He honoured Abba.

His whole consciousness centered on Abba

– *“What the Father teaches me, is what I preach”* ²

In truth, the giftedness of His very IDENTITY

Rested with Abba ...

“Abba and I are one”. ³

Indeed, ALL of Jesus' CHOICES

Revealed His all-encompassing love of Abba :

... *The simple, humble expression of a Son's feelings*

“Abba, if it's Your desire, take this cup for me”, ⁴

... *His deep desire to lead those “sheep without a shepherd”* ⁵

Home to the heart of Abba ;

... *The deep trust and utter openness of His heart*

Suffused with prayer to Abba.

It is out of the depths of this intimacy with Abba
... That His profound kindness, and thus His heartfelt teachings, flowed
... That His deeply healing and reconciling exorcisms were sourced
... And that His compassion-filled, and faith-centering miracles of love, arose.
Out of this intimacy and giving energy and unity to all He did,
Was the WAY in which He loved !
“I do only, what I see Abba doing”⁶
... Most wondrously expressed, as humanity’s son,
In the love-holocaust of His Paschal Sacrifice for us all .

Thus, ultimately, Jesus’ VISION of His destiny
–And, of course, of OURS –
Lay only with Abba .
Yet, a most intimate, a most profoundly amazing
REALITY
Newly emerges, for Jesus,
And thus, for us, as well
... In Jesus’ Ascensional Encounter with Abba .

In His Ascension,
Jesus’ HUMANITY is wholly suffused with a Presence
... So mysterious, so marvellous, so PERSONAL
That Someone
–The very SPIRIT of Who They Are Together –

Radiates forth Their love
... Actualizing it : en-vitalizing it !
Being, PERSONALLY One with Them !
Wondrously alive IN Them !
This is the Spirit of Union with God, of Union within God
– Eternally forming a Tri-unity of Love !
And as it is with Jesus, so it is with us, IN Jesus Ascended !

1 Poem 1073, Year 14 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, June 2012.

2 Jn 8:28

3 Jn 10:30

4 Lk 22:42

5 Mt 9:36

6 Cf Jn 5:19b.

The Fruits of Freedom ¹

True human freedom
Opens the heart, to feel more keenly,
Revitalizes and sharpens our memories,
Values and enhances our present imagery,
– All ... to VIVIFY our imagination,
So that, with ease and with delight,
We ENVISION a more joyful future
Together .

Spiritually, this freedom
– Deepens all of our relationships
Anchoring them to our Covenant with Christ Crucified ;
–Opens us to the liberating love
Of the Spirit of Destiny
Who enables us, in the Ascended Jesus, to gaze
Into the love-filled eyes
Of a grateful and welcoming Father !

*Most deeply, freedom allows us to be drawn
Into the very heart of the Mystery,
Into the surrender of the whole of self
... With its multiplicity of motivations ...
To the Divine simplicity of Fellowship .*

*Here we freely abandon ourselves to the Eternal Rhythm
Of breathing forth ...
Of breathing in ...
The Breath of ALL Life
...Love unto Love
Love within Love .*

Love-Light-Life-Love ¹

How are Love, Light, and Life linked ?

Because "God is Love" ...

All begin with Love, and end with Love .

The Love

Of Abba, Jesus, and Loyce ²

Is 'a consuming Fire': ³

ALL given, in a holocaust of Each Person's Self !

Three Flames blaze as One

In a Triune self-surrender

That ETERNALIZES Their Love .

It also actualizes the Fellowship of Their Giving

As the RADIANT Light of Love .

This Light

Is like the sun's LIGHT, being transformed into LIFE in plants,

And, as in a deeper reality, each human person

Comes ALIVE and is sustained, biochemically

Only through LIGHT, ultimately ... of the sun .

Surpassingly, the true "Light of the world" ⁴

Radiates forth within our SPIRITS,

Wherein it vivifies, uplifts, and unifies us SPIRITUALLY !

*This Light VIVIFIES us, deep within our spirit,
By triggering the Life-force
Which is the seed of faith, planted there as gift .
Divine Light causes this faith
To bud forth, to OPEN TO the Divine .
Divine Light sustains this growing openness, with Scriptural insights
– Causing it, as it were to break ‘into leaf’
So to enable it to track its real source of warmth and light !
Thus is our new Life, continually enriched by Light !*

*In time, Divine Light causes this new Life in us
To bloom, with flowers of love
... A love, orientated, now, in its INNER, reproductive possibilities,
To spreading the very Love it itself is experiencing !*

*Moreover, Light IDENTIFIES us
... Giving us an identity,
Allowing us, through the flowering of our love,
To replicate for others,
A radiance of that vitalizing Light .
We thus become a co-source of that Light .
IDENTIFIED with this Light of Love,
We yearn to be one with that Light
That irradiates all, with Life and Love !*

Ultimately, this Light UNIFIES us .
By bringing us INTO UNION with itself
– The ONE SOURCE of Light, Life, and Love !
Light unites US together
... As we come alive with a SHARED Life
... And with our hearts orientated to a common DESTINY .
This destiny is, AS ITS SOURCE :
‘A-living-forever-in-Love’.
Thus, the cycle is complete
... And, what began with Love, ends with Love .

1 Poem 1075, Year 14 of Prayer Ministry, Wooloowin Community, June 2012.

2 Loyce is my familiar name for the Holy Spirit, who is Paschal LOVE, JOY AND PEACE. Pronounced LOY-CEE – Author.

3 Cf Ex 3:2 and Sg 8:6, 7 4 Jn 8:12

“I Am who Am”¹

*For those with faith,
Every self-revelation of God
Inevitably re-forms and transforms our hearts .
God is present within His Lovable Word,
Personally inviting God’s people, us,
To listen
– To allow our hearts to be changed,
And to follow our hearts ... with graced courage .*

*Because God alone is “First”,²
God’s self-revelation,
And desires for us,
Are, always, God’s own loving initiative
–Expressed simply, directly, clearly and specifically ,
And are always, fundamentally, LOVE-requests .*

*Thus, to love God, IS TO BE LOVED by God
... Because, our spirits are daz̃lingly TRANSPARENT
To God’s loving gaze !
Yes God is utterly empathetic
To ALL the movements of our hearts,
Wondrously sensitive to our layered, often ambivalent, responses .*

God's central self-revelation,
– *Until the RADLANT REVELATION of the Paschal Christ*
Lights up our “new humanity”, and creation itself – ³
Is Yahweh's
“I Am Who Am”. ⁴

Firstly, this Divine Name draws us into the Divine Mystery
That is essentially PERSONAL – “I ... WHO” :
– *To SOMEONE, who is absolutely different ... “Who Am” ... from man ;*
– *To SOMEONE, who is incomprehensible and inaccessible to us*
... Because of OUR INABILITY to stay in the PRESENT ;
– *To SOMEONE, who, in ‘NOT-BECOMING’ ‘not-being-a-body’ IS SPIRIT*
And thus invisible, intangible and immeasurable
... To our SENSATE persons, with our MEDIATED perception ;
– *To SOMEONE, who is both ETERNAL PROMISE ... “I Am”,*
And ETERNAL REALITY ... “WHO AM” ;
– *To SOMEONE ... “I AM WHO AM” ... who is beyond time, timeless,*
... Wherein, memory of the past, imagining the future, has no relevance ;
– *To SOMEONE, who is WHOLLY OTHER to us humans,*
And thus, INCOMPARABLE and UNSURPASSABLE
... Beyond the reach of us, who proceed from the known to the unknown !

POSITIVELY ...

All is Mystery,

Other than what

Yahweh willingly, personally, lovingly reveals .

“I AM WHO AM” is utterly PRESENT :

– To God’s Self ... immediately, wholly !

– To us ... through sign and symbol, from “glory unto glory”,⁵

To those present, in the present, and as ‘a present’!

– To all space ...being everywhere ‘here’ ... without and within,

... Loving us ‘heart to heart’, ‘spirit within spirit’ ,

... Dialoguing with us in prayer, ‘face to face’, unsensed by us .

– To all time ... being with time, centering time, uniting our past, present and future

... Thus rendering our past and future radically OPEN to our present,

... Allowing our past and future graces, forgiveness, loving encounters and prayer,

To flow freely into our present – and vice versa !

“I AM WHO AM” is a LIVING presence :...⁶

Who is ALIVE ... as the very SOURCE OF LIFE is ALIVE !

Who is immediately, and utterly spontaneously present

Who is extraordinary active and attentive,

Who is the consciousness with our consciousness,

Who is the source of all en-ergy and en-thusiam .

“I AM WHO AM” is utterly PERSONAL ... “I ... WHO”:

– Utterly open to God’s Self

... And thus, to utter Self-giving,

– Utterly open to all creatures

... Relating to all, WITHIN God’s Self,

... Relating to God’s chosen, IN Christ .

“I AM WHO AM”, in being SPIRIT

– Is ‘utter withinness’

... The consciousness within ALL consciousness ;

– Is utterly close

... Nearer to us than our thoughts and decisions,

Centering our spirits ;

–Is utterly intimate

... At home with, indwelling ALL ...

Whose lives invite Yahweh to abide with them,

Immersing them in divine loving-kindness

And in limitless tenderness .

In being intimate THUS, Yahweh –

Loves, utterly,

Loves, to self-surrender,

Loves self-openness and revelation,

And loves, creatively

... That is, being lovingly CREATIVE of new lovers,

Wooing them to share in God’s own love .

*Indeed, "I AM WHO AM'S" KNOWLEDGE
Is lovingly, limitlessly available
To each, and all, of these new lovers .
So too, Yahweh's compassion, freedom and power
Is lovingly, limitlessly, available
–Healing, liberating, and empowering these new lovers !*

*This core self-revelation, "I AM WHO AM",
Is revealed only to Isra-el
... The people 'forever-struggling' with God ...
The people of Yahweh's heart,
The people Yahweh repeatedly favours and faithfully chooses .*

*While holding the vast universe caringly close,
Yahweh shows lowly, powerless Israel
Both the tenderness of a father, ⁷
And the passion of a man in love . ⁸
Unable to restrain an overflowing heart,
Yahweh reveals the God-Name
To Moses' humble heart, ⁹
And the choice of being a faith-father, with a faith-family,
To the wide-open heart of Abraham, ...¹⁰
And then, in faithfulness to his descendants
... Affirming this Covenanted Saving Love anew to David
... Offering to ALL, the Divine Presence – as an Eternal Pledge .*

Glorifying in being “the Holy One of ISRAEL”,¹¹

“I AM WHO AM” pledges

That His radiant goodness, and His overflowing generosity,

Dwell with ... become the prized possession of ... His people, “God’s betrothed”¹²

–For it is Yahweh’s holiness that sanctifies them :

“ I Yahweh, will sanctify you !”¹³

For Israel’s part, Yahweh becomes

“ The rock of Israel”,¹⁴

“God, our saviour”,¹⁵

“O Shepherd of Israel”,¹⁶

“ Yahweh whom we love”.¹⁷

Indeed, “I AM WHO AM” has won their hearts

... And ours, the New Israel !

1 Poem 1076, Year 14 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, June 2012.

2 Is 41:4

3 Eph 2:15

4 Ex 3:14

5 2Cor 3:8

6 Cf JG 8:19

7 Cf Hos 11:1

8 Cf Hos 2:16ff

9 Cf Ex 3:14

10 Cf Gen 15:5,6

11 Is 1:4

12 Hos 2:21

13 Ex 31:13

14 Gen 49:24

15 Ps 85:4

16 Ps 80:1

17 Ps 18:1

“You Are My Son, the Beloved” ¹

*It is IN the Spirit
That the encounter of the Father with the Son of Earth
Takes place .
It is at His baptism,
That Jesus becomes joyously filled with this understanding
... As He hears the Father say to Him :
“You are my Son, the Beloved ;
My Favour rests on you !”* ²

*This wondrously loving affirmation
... Of God being His personal Father ...
–At the very moment of His chosen IMMERSION
In the lives and sufferings of ‘the poor of Yabweh’ –
Overwhelms Jesus
With waves of filial tenderness .*

*Awesomely, breathtakingly amplifying
This marvellous reality of Sonship,
Is Jesus’ exultant joy
In being simultaneously enveloped
By the Spirit of Favour
– Seen as a DOVE HOVERING DIRECTLY OVER HIM
And, as the Father Himself arranged,
“Coming down ... TO REST UPON HIM”.* ³

*Equally astonishing,
The Dove had “descended on Him”⁴
... In a shaft of light, connecting heaven with earth ...
Just as Jesus “saw the heavens torn apart”,⁵
And heard His Father’s voice !
‘Surely’ Jesus wondered in awe –
‘This Cloud of Presence is the same Glory Cloud
That overshadowed Moses and Yahweh’s people,
And is the same “Power of the Most High”⁶
That, so lovingly, “covered” my own mother
“With its shadow”?’⁷*

*Jesus’ humbled heart opened in an abyss of love
For being so wondrously favoured ...
So divinely familial ...
Familial by the Father of all love !
IN this Spirit of depthless love
... Jesus’ heart almost burst with joy !*

*Amazingly,
In OUR baptism into the Paschal Mystery
–The Mystery which “COMES ... TO REST” within our spirit –⁸
This too, is OUR inner experience :
The Father’s utter Revelation to us
Of the totality of His Godness
–As Jesus
–IN the Spirit !*

*For, immersed in our Paschal encounter,
... IN the Ascended Jesus, WITH the Father of Homecoming,
ENVELOPED in the Spirit of Adoption ...*

*We, too, hear the words
– As they are IMPRESSED on our hearts –
“You are my Beloved ,
My Favour rests on you !”⁹*

*In the ‘NOW’ following our baptism,
Our response needs to be that of Jesus
Following His immersion :
As, with the Beloved, gazing into HIS Father’s eyes,
We give word to our love
... With the familiarity and impulse of being Child :
... “ABBA”...*

*And, equally wondrously, with Jesus, in His ‘NOW’
In His very moment of emerging from the waters,
–In His fellowship with “the poor in spirit” –¹⁰
We, too, sense the Spirit of Uniting enveloping us
– ‘Twin-ing’ our spirits with Jesus’,
Animating every fibre of our person ,
Moving us to dance the dance of love :
... With our ocean-hearted Abba !
... With the Spirit of All Joy !
... With all the poor in spirit IN Christ Uplifted,
Singing the song of ‘Abba ! Abba ! Abba !’*

Later in His ministry, yet still coupling His words to His baptismal epiphany ...

Our Brother Jesus reveals to us

His Identity with His Father

... In the enabling Presence of Their Spirit

– Within a Trinity of Love

... ‘ “ABBA and I are one” ¹¹

In OUR SPIRIT’.

Now, FOR US, Abba graces us, in Jesus Ascended,

With the Spirit of Their Embrace :

The Spirit of Communing, of Community, and of Communication !

This Spirit so penetrates us,

That we ourselves RADIATE the Spirit of the Glory of God

... Within humanity, within creation ...

Becoming, through the same Spirit –

“The radiance of the Father’s splendour” , ¹²

“Radiating the light of the knowledge of God’s Glory”. ¹³

Thus, in Jesus – in us, God’s self-revelation becomes complete

... Jesus fully, utterly revealing God in OUR humanity .

Thus, with the Gift of His loved and loving Son,

Abba has nothing more to give !

God lies utterly OPEN

... And never more open, never more self-giving

Never more self-sacrificial,

Than in the climactic outpouring of love for us

In the death of the God-Son upon the cross .

*Equally, God is never more open
Never more welcoming,
Never more receptive,
Than in Abba's "running" to "clasp and kiss" us, ¹⁴
IN Jesus Ascended .
In our enrapturous embrace
Within Abba's enveloping arms,
Within the depthless love of Abba's heart,
We enter Love's Family Home
... At peace within in the Spirit of Rest
And Conviviality !*

1 Poem 1077, Year 14 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, June 2012.

2 Mk 1:11

3 Jn 1:32

4 Lk 3:22

5 Mk 1:10

6 Lk 1:35

7 Lk 1:35

8 Jn 1:33

9 Mk 1:11

10 Mt 5:3

11 Jn 10:30

12 Heb 1:3

13 2Cor 4:6

14 Lk 15:20

Paradise ¹

*'Paradise', literally, is a GARDEN OF DELIGHTS
... Scripture's image of the promised paradise of HEAVEN .*

*But, deeper than both of these,
Paradise is A HEART FILLED WITH LOVE
... Most profoundly, the heart of our Brother
– Jesus, the Beloved of God and humanity –
Who, like a garden fountain, fills our hearts with delights, and gladdens our eyes !*

*So, how wonderful it was for Jesus, on the Cross,
To say to the good thief,
With the deepest of brotherly love –
"This day, you will be with me, in paradise". ²
For the thief, this means being raised up with Jesus,
Adopted as son, ALIVE in the heart of the Son,
And, as such, welcomed AS the Beloved of Abba's heart !*

*Ironically, the Beloved even pre-occupies hearts DEVOID OF LOVE .
Within these who have rejected Jesus, and His way of love,
And who have re-focussed radically on themselves ,
Their experience of self is of a hellish, emptied heart-space
Defiantly exclusive, because they define themselves as in absolute nil need of Him.
Theirs are hearts in turmoil, burning with the tormented feelings
... Of rage, self-hatred, jealousy, and resentment,
Of arrogance, stubbornness of heart, and deep despair !*

*For us, then, to KNOW that our lovable brother Jesus
Draws us from such a possible hell, to His paradise
Of a Divinely-human heart filled with love,
IMPELS us to pray with ever-heartfelt gratitude,
A boundless Eucharist of Thanksgiving
... In the Spirit of deepest Communion.*

1 Poem 1078, Year 14 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, July 2012.

2 Lk 23:43

De-humanizing, and Humanizing Our Lives ¹

*There are two truths, evident to most :
That deceit slowly de-humanizes both the deceived and the deceiver,
And, that espousing equality, enhances the humanity of all !
But what of the deeper origins and causes
Of de-humanizing, and humanizing, our lives ?*

*If there be three levels, of depthing these two realities,
Then, at the INITIAL level ...
Failure “to read the signs of the time” thus deceiving ourselves, ²
Clearly de-humanizes us ...
Because, we fail to LIVE WITH CHANGE :
–We develop mind-sets and limiting repetitive responses
That smother spontaneity, creativity and initiative
Both in ourselves, and in others ;
–And, crucially, we fail to develop that Paschal consciousness
That integrates ALL life ...
The old, the present, and the new .*

*Contrarivise, it is Paschal consciousness
That welcomes the new, that welcomes change ...
Ever re-generating, and deepening our humanity
– “I make all things new” ³*

At a deeper level,
A wilful READINESS TO DECEIVE spreads its white-anting tactics
De-humanizing us, degree by degree .
No longer “face to face” with God and others,
We wear a wardrobe of guises !
The OPENNESS, essential to all good relating,
Disappears ... ploy by ploy ;
Secretiveness enters in, keeping all in a shadowland of evasion ;
Our Paschal consciousness withers away ;
Accelerating distrust spreads through our network of relationships ;
Our humanity struggles to surface ;
And our deceit deepens, into destructive betrayals
... Remembering, it was betrayal that put Jesus on the cross .

This vicious circle,
This whirlpool of lies, flattery, and subterfuge,
This adrenalized state of ‘double’ lives, pretence, and fear of exposure
Cause one’s swirling energy, to tighten and tighten
– Highly TENSING US, squeezing the humanity out of us :
Expediency becomes all !

However, this cycle can be broken, and its tightening energies loosened

... With the gentleness and sacrificial love of Jesus :

“Be children of the Most High,

For He is kind towards the ungrateful and evil”. ⁴

And more gently still, Jesus heartens us :

“Love your enemies,

Do good to those who hate you,

Bless those who slander you,

Pray for those who mistreat you .” ⁵

It is this Divinely-human love for our slanderers

That can break the cycle of deceit

—Profoundly HUMANIZING those who deceive,

And ultimately their whole web of ‘victims’ .

Such unconditioned love

Mirrors the love of the Crucified One

Who died, for sinners

... Including those whom He had condemned as hypocrites !

*At the deepest level,
There is, accumulatively, nothing more de-humanizing
Than divisions between us ...
And nothing more divisive, for ALL of our relating,
Than ruptures within our 'FAMILIES'.
If we are divided, in heart,
'Father against son, son against father'
... Implicitly rejecting the Trinity ...
'Mother against daughter, daughter against mother'
... Negating the Spirit of Nurturing and Unity ... ⁶
Then we are lost !*

*Ruptures at this core emotional level,
Spread like a cancer to the rest of our lives
—Often, like cancer, INVISIBLY over years .
It contorts self-imagery, and our imagery of father and mother figures,
Causing self-esteem, trust, and impulse-control to plummet,
And, ironically, self-confidence and risk-taking to inflate .*

*Such 'family' divisions damage our identity
—Diminishing many of our relationships
... Within other groupings and communities as well .
This legacy conditions the way we study, recreate and work,
Shaping our core moods, and how we handle suffering,
And crucially ... whom we marry,
How our marriage evolves,
And how we relate to OUR children .*

Positively, what most profoundly humanizes our lives
Is the presence
Of an unshakeable sense of BEING LOVED,
And the JOY in relating to every human person EQUALLY
... As another Christ
—Who, in His Paschal reality,
Shares HIS VERY PERSON, EQUALLY, with all who desire !
Yes, to espouse equality, is to IDENTIFY with the Paschal Jesus
—Our enabling exemplar for loving deeply, and being passionately HUMAN !

Moreover, we choose Jesus
Not only as our exterior model,
But as one who abides deeply within our spirit
—As one we can invite
‘To be OUR COMPASSION, to be our CHASTITY
And to be our FREEDOM’⁷
... BECAUSE, our very identities unite !

It is the Paschal Jesus, raised up as humanity’s “new creation”⁸
—Humanity’s “alpha” and “omega” —⁹
Who regenerates and re-vitalizes OUR humanity
... If we so choose .
Believing in Jesus, or his “works”,¹⁰
Enables us to experience
The Deep Communion
Between Jesus Ascended and Abba¹¹
—That is the CENTERING REALITY of our lives !

Ultimately, our Paschal TRANSPARENCY, and OPENNESS, to Eternal realities

Convinces us that sin, divisiveness, de-humanization,

Will ALWAYS BE NEGATED ...

Through living the life of the Paschal Jesus

–Wherein He gifts our humanity with His Divine Dignity and Destiny !

This Paschal Jesus, in gathering a community to Himself,

OPENS our every act, our every experience of suffering and joy

–To a universal, integrative experience of being ALIVE in Him !

–And to an enabling, self-sacrificial love

That unites both friends and enemies !

... Our earth to His heaven !

... Our humanity to His Divinity !

1 Poem 1079, Year 14 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, July 2012.

2 Mt 16:14

3 Rv 21:5

4 Lk 6:35

5 Lk 6:27, 28

6 Lk 12:53

7 Cf 1Cor 1:30

8 2Cor 5:17

9 Rv 21:6

10 Jn 10:26

11 Cf Jn 10:38

