

Folio Sixty

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Persons of Love ¹

God is CREATIVE LOVE ... in our Father-God

Who is wholly life-giving, initiating all that lives .

God is TRANSFORMING LOVE ... in our Brother-God, Jesus,

Who wholly renews and elevates human life .

God is COMMUNING LOVE ... in our Spirit-God

Who wholly enables unity between All .

Suffering Becomes a Source of Resurrected Life ¹

It is only by CO-EXPERIENCING the Mystery of redemptive suffering, WITH CHRIST

... Being found in the suffering Paschal Christ ...

That suffering can be transformed

And OPENED TO THE DIVINE !

Through suffering, humbly assumed by Christ,

We can be incorporated into that Paschal de-humanization of Jesus

Which divinely, and thus wondrously, is transformed into LIFE-GIVING LOVE

— The wondrous, UPLIFTING LOVE of Jesus' loving Father of Life !

Thus, only within Abba's Enfolding Love

Is it possible for our suffering to be TRANSFORMED .

Through sharing in Christ's "New Humanity" ²

— Our old humanity's pain, wounds, and limitations

Become openings for the entry of RESURRECTED LIFE

... Both for ourselves and others,

And, by extension, for our exploited world itself !

Because "our God is love" and Christ ³

Eternally carries the markers of humanity's suffering, in His Person ⁴

... The very nature of His regenerative Love, includes previous WOUNDEDNESS .

In Jesus the Wounded One, all love-focussed suffering

Opens us to the healing, integrating Presence of the Spirit .

*For us to be uplifted thus, out of suffering
Into Jesus' gloriously healed, and life-radiant, Ascended humanity
... Is the journey of communing-in-love .
We are borne by Love's One-ing Spirit, IN Christ
— Freed of sin's isolating, disintegrating impacts
Open to Love's transformative power —
Into the ever-welcoming arms of a compassionate Abba .
With Christ, we the once suffering ones
Become “lovers of life !”⁵*

1 Poem 1181, Year 16 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Brisbane, February 2014.

2 Eph 2:15 (N.R.S.V.)

3 1Jn 4:16

4 Cf Jn 20:25

5 Wis 11:26

Abba's Transcending All He Is ¹

"Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect". *Mt 5:48*

Here, Jesus' focus is not on our self-fulfilment,

But on our self-transcendence

... Being moved BEYOND ourselves

To the point of selflessness

... As Jesus, on Calvary .

Within the wondrousness of the Trinity,

The Father's own self-transcendence

Consists in His utterly surrendering Himself,

Bestowing the Gift of His Divinity on His Son,

Becoming literally Self-less ... infinitely poor,

And His Beloved Son ... infinitely rich !

What a Perfect Giver !

Transcending All He is !

As Jesus and I Co-identify ¹

*Transformed by Abba's grace,
I no longer live out of my own IDENTITY,
But welcome Christ to live out His Identity
WITHIN ME .
As Jesus Ascended and I
Co-identify ...
I'm mindful that any heart, that's closed to others
... Stays closed to Abba
— And unimaginable prospect for Jesus
... And thus, for me .*

Unlimited Openness, Intimacy, and Dignity ¹

Gospel poverty gifts us with the potential

For UNLIMITED OPENNESS TO GOD

... Through self-emptying .

Gospel chastity gifts us with the potential

For UNLIMITED INTIMACY WITH GOD

... Through total self-surrender to the God of love .

Gospel obedience gifts us with the potential

For UNLIMITED DIGNITY AS GOD'S CHILD

... Through utter dependence on God .

¹ Poem 1184, Year 16 of Prayer Ministry, Marian Valley monthly retreat, February 2014.

Within Us, Yet Utterly Other ¹

While Jesus Ascended is, essentially, GOD-WHO-IS-WITH-US

... Our Brother who dwells within the heart

Of each Christlike person, every loving community, and His faith-filled Church .

At the same time, He utterly TRANSCENDS all of these,

Through essentially, being beyond each : GOD-WHO-IS-UTTERLY-OTHER

... The key relational Other for all our lives !

To Hearts Sensitized by Grace ¹

Suffering IN Christ, makes a person's face TRANSPARENT,

Revealing their inner reality

... The 'face' of their spirit ...

To all those hearts, sensitized by grace .

This allows these to glimpse the outline

Of our Beloved Brother's face on Calvary

— In the very MOMENT of His surrender —

WITHIN the person .

¹ Poem 1186, Year 16 of Prayer Ministry, Marian Valley monthly retreat, February 2014.

Images Underlying Abba's Choice ¹

*While the Spirit's Gift of Knowledge
Allows us to experience, personally,
A sense of the wonder of God's dwelling
In our lives, and in our very persons
... The Spirit's Gift of Understanding
Is a sheer revelation of God to us
Often, not able to be put into words .*

*As to what lovingly UNDERLIES
Abba's choice of us, IN Christ .
Here, the Spirit love to use
Paschal IMAGES of Christ :
... Jesus' wholly trusting self-surrender to Abba ...
... Risen Jesus' exhilaration in His New Humanity !
... Ascended Jesus' enrapturing embrace by Abba, ' Lover of Life ' !
... Newly En-Spirited Jesus wondrously eager to share the Togethering Spirit
His new Sister and Brothers .*

Becoming Crucified Hearts 1

Gifted with forgiveness,

With a renewed focus on Jesus,

We become PRAYING HEARTS ...

Who, gifted with humility,

With a renewed focus on others,

Are transformed into SERVING HEARTS ...

Who, graced with a suffering love, like Jesus',

Co-offer their lives with Him, to become CRUCIFIED HEARTS ...

“Abba, into Your hands I entrust my spirit”.²

Crucified hearts CENTER OUR HEARTS, within,

As we are LED BY THE SPIRIT, in Christ,

Through the WHOLE Paschal Mystery ...

1 Poem 1188, Year 16 of Prayer Ministry, Tugun Beach monthly retreat, March 2014.

2 Lk 23:46

At the Heart of All Relating ¹

The modern 'search for God'
Is for the God of INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS
... With an openness to the Mystery at the heart of all relating .
If graced with humility, such 'seekers'
Are DRAWN into Mystery ...
Wherein God seduces and makes love TO THEM, IN CHRIST .
Thus, they come to VALUE themselves and others
In a truly Divine Light
... So that their spirits, becoming ever more TRANSPARENT,
Reveal fleeting glimpses of the Indwelling Jesus .

The Spirit's Gift of Awe ¹

*In every movement of our hearts to God,
The Spirit's Gift of AWE
... Sometimes experienced as FEAR of the DIVINE ...
Both initiates the movement,
And generates the wonder, and tremulous attractiveness we feel.
Our graced response to this Mystery Divine
... Seemingly SO PERSONAL ...and yet enigmatic ...
Is to One who ever-draws us,
Both WITHIN and BEYOND
... Simultaneously to deep intimacy, and to profound wonder .*

Drawing Us Towards the Light ¹

*God often works in our spirits
In the context of darkness :
Mostly sightlessly, uncomprehendingly
— Working in hidden, subliminal ways
... Quite like the sunlight acting upon a seed
In the seemingly dark womb of the earth ...
Drawing it towards itself — LIGHT ETERNAL,
And to New Life !*

*Yes ! “ Our darkness is never darkness in Your sight ”. ²
Our common inability to SENSE God’s Presence in our spiritual lives,
Is often experienced
As an emptiness of spirit, as a darkness ... as a night .
This often is God’s preferred ‘ clouded ’ way
Of working within us
... With LITTLE stimulation of our outer senses .
Paradoxically, it is often also God’s common way
Of stimulating and deepening our FAITH
And of amplifying our TRUST in the hidden Reality of Presence !
Again, it is IN Christ’s Paschal Presence
That we learn how to be emptied of self,
And how to STAY FAITHFUL in the darkness !*

1 Poem 1191, Year 16 of Prayer Ministry, Tugun Beach monthly retreat, March 2014

2 Ps 139:12

Love ¹

Love begins with ... love

Love grows through love

And the journey is one of love .

Love's destiny is love itself !

Indeed, it is love that provides

... Its own continuing motivation,

Uniting the lover with the beloved !

This is true of human love and God's love .

The clear difference is that God's

... Is an initiating love

... And an enabling love .

Still our love as a Christian

Is not simply, a responsive love, to Christ's

... But a CO-ENABLED LOVE :

Enabled by Christ ... IN Christ,

We BOTH receive ... and give ... love,

Deep within the Tri-Personal Mystery of Love .

All love is, ultimately, Divine,

Because it comes from God,

And unites us to God

— In God !

Our Love - Filled Focus ¹

Abba fashioned His Own Beloved's death

As the centering act of worship

For our YEARNING humanity .

ABBA, into whose hands

Jesus entrusted His spirit, and worship,

Was the love-filled focus of both His life ... and death !

Beyond death, Abba is the love-crowning focus

For both Jesus Himself, the Son of Love,

And for us, in Him, his loved brothers and sisters .

Who but Abba Himself

Could be Christ's ... and our ... focus beyond death ?

Abba is Jesus' ALL,

And IS ours ...

If, simply, we are graced

With openness of heart

— Because Abba, Eternally longs

To give ALL .

Togethering Us, In Christ ¹

“None of us belongs exclusively to himself or herself”. Benedict XVI, May 2005.

*If we act as if the opposite were true
... ‘That we do belong exclusively to ourself’ ...
There NEED be NO communing with God,
NOR ANY communing with others .*

The truth is —

*God and others have deep claims on, and clear rights with, US .
Through Jesus’ TRANS-HISTORICAL Passover ...
Presently accessible to us, in Eucharist, and through graced living,*

We are gifted ...

*Not only with a SHARED immortal identity, now,
But with the promise of an Eternal HUMANITY
Experienced TOGETHER-AS-ONE, in Jesus Ascended*

Clearly NOW ... in a hidden way !

O what a wondrously loving Father we have !

... TOGETHERING US, IN CHRIST !

Through the Eternal Spirit !

—A truly Family-God !

The Shock of God's Beauty ¹

If we 'cannot see God, and live', ²

It is because of the Divine SHOCK

Of God's Utter Beauty !

The Beauty and Wonder of God

Is death —

To all that is ugly ... ungodly ... within us !

To all that is unloving, un-Christian within us !

Paradoxically, however ...

It is a death, ecstatically welcomed,

Because it is our very passageway to Life

... IN Christ !

Sin Is Not a Mystery ¹

Sin is not a mystery

It does not share in the wondrous Mystery of Goodness

That is God .

Sin is opaque, churning incoherence .

It is, by turns,

Alluring, ensnaring and predatory

... Parasitic of all life around it .

It typically disguises itself, as good,

— Flaunting its true face, at times,

In intimidating displays

Of power, lust, greed and vanity .

Mostly, it clothes itself in secrecy .

The CUMULATIVE effect

Of a whole group's, or even a cultural majority's

Uninhibited surrender to sin

— Powerfully reinforced ... by the world's unbridled indulgence,

Greed-filled violence, and religious, racial or class arrogance —

Is that of an irrational, malevolent deceptiveness ... resentful of the Light !

Its violent, arbitrary energies are NEVER available

For the purposes of life, growth, goodness and enlightenment

— Only for its totally self-absorbed scheming, and addictive fantasies .

This miasma of evil

Through passive aggression ... right through to vicious violence

Firstly undermines, then degrades, then seeks to destroy —

All who fail to totally submit to its overtures and deals

... Or to its dark, degenerate enticements .

All that those, whose hearts are inclined to goodness, NEED DO

— Is to abide, IN Christ

... Who has totally, forever, DISEMPOWERED sin and evil !

... And transformed death into a passover-into-Life !

The Divine within the Human ¹

*In the very heart of Eucharist,
In Christ Jesus, we come to experience
... God's communing with us in love !
... And how, we can commune in God, with all others !*

*Here, in Eucharist,
God's Love, and human love, meet in Jesus
... Revealing God's limitless love of humanity,
... And enabling human love to be wholly transcended .*

*Indeed, for those who come ALIVE, IN Christ,
Participation in Eucharist
At times leads to a profound experience
Of the Mystery-of-each-other-person
... Opening us, ever more humbly,
To the Divine within the human !*

*In so doing, we rejoice to experience
How God, in thus exalting our human dignity,
Enables us to exult in God's own Reality
... The Love-Fellowship uniting all !*

' Discovering' God's Face ¹

In Abba's drawing us to Himself, IN Christ

We come to ' discover' God's Face

... Facet upon facet - each REVELATION, a gift,

... " Grace unto grace" - each grace, a gift . ²

Our enthralled ' exploration'

Of God's Wondrous Reality,

Is surprise upon surprise

... Forever-a-journey

Into the Mystery of Love !

On this path of exhilaration,

We share with Mary

Ever more peacefully ...

Her closeness to God ...

Such that, in the midst of suffering,

Like her ... and with her,

We live a life of Wonder !

¹Poem 1198, Year 16 of Prayer Ministry, Marian Valley retreat, May 2014. Eastertide .

²Jn 1:16

Contemplation Is a Paschal Experience ¹

Contemplation is a Paschal experience :

... A time of WATCHING

For Abba's face to look upon Jesus', and on our, uplifted Calvary gaze ; ²

... A time of WAITING

Of our patient sacrifice of self — emptying each to receive ;

... A time of WAITING IN SILENCE

Of the graced quieting of our spirits — sensing the Spirit's fond promptings ;

... A time of WAITING IN STILLNESS

Of the graced settling of our spirits — as Jesus' Spirit stills our spirit

... A time of WAITING IN GROWING AWARENESS

Of our graced openness — to the Spirit's gradual revealing of Abba's Presence ;

... A time TO END WAITING

Of our being sensitized — to celebrate Abba's Wondrous Presence with acts of love

... A time of REJOICING

Of offering one's time, energy and presence

To channel Abba's joyous outpouring to others !

Truly, contemplation is always a Paschal experience .

