



A Life-Giving Mystery

The Deed of Destiny: Life without Reservations

An address for Good Friday Agape ● 21st March 2008 ● Rev Max

A Scene in Paris

There is a place in Paris near the Louvre.

In this place there are four seats.
Each one faces a wall,
and each wall is covered with a painting.

There is a pool of water,
lilies,
and a bridge.

You can guess the name of the artist!

A man is seated on one of the chairs.
Who knows how long he has been there.

No movement is perceptible.
His whole being is a captivating speech.

He is drinking in the wonder of life
and the transcendent light flowing from it
so ably portrayed by Claude Monet.

Through this artist the beauty of the universe speaks to him.
His soul drinks in the water of life
and eloquently responds.

The Response of a Quiet Soul

The quiet soul responds to whatever speaks of the reality of life.

The quiet soul,
the soul that is free of concern about the meaning of life,
the soul that does not strive to solve the mysteries of life
in a brief moment of time,

the soul that is not threatened by the storm clouds,
that is not compressed by fear.

Is there such a soul in this world?
Is it possible to be still and to comprehend what is real?

On this day, this Easter Friday,
we do well to take into ourselves the man John.

Just as a single man takes into himself the wonder of creation
as he sits in the Orangerie in Paris
in the presence of a lily pond,
so there is a single man who continues to be present
on the first Easter Friday.

On this Friday,
this Good Friday,
there is a man who remains as his beloved dies.

He is the beloved disciple,
John,
The Beloved.

He remains present.
He remains,
and therefore is able to take into himself the mighty spirit
of the one who suffers and dies.

He takes into himself that spirit
and knows that he is not witness to a tragedy.

He knows that he is being transformed
by the presence
and power
and beauty
of the life of the world.

He is filled by the light that flows from that being.
And he witnesses the fulfilment of the words of Isaiah:

*He was wounded for our transgressions,
he was bruised for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that made us whole,
and with his stripes we are healed....
He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is dumb,
so he opened not his mouth.*

John remains in the presence of Jesus
as he becomes completely unified with the mighty Christ spirit;
he remains present as our human nature is transformed.

John remains as a divine-human being comes to birth,
completely human
and completely divine.

A Transforming Presence

And what of us, what of us today?
Today, each one of us is living in that transforming presence.
That presence surrounds us
in all its beauty,
compassion,
and creative life.

Each one of us is surrounded by his life,
and the spirit of John prompts us to remain with that presence.

John prompts us to let go of useless baggage,
of every thought that binds us to what we already know,
to let go of memories of failure,
defeat,
fear,
isolation,
self-doubt,
self-condemnation,
mediocrity,
and so on.

John prompts us to let go.
He prompts us to be,
to be in the presence of true life,
to remain
and to absorb into our being that divine light.

Let the spirit of Christ stand before us this morning.
May we be taken into other realms
where we are bathed in the mighty spirit of love.
May we be transformed.

Surely we are not here to muck around!
You have not come here for social reasons.
You are here to eat the food that satisfies.
You are here to drink the spirit of Christ.

For his food is meat indeed,
and his wine is drink indeed.
There is nothing else that satisfies.

The Christ entered this world to give life,
real life,
abundant life,
and he did not swerve from the path.

He came into the body of Jesus
and he refused to go along with seductive promises,
promises that did not relate to who he was
and to the fulfilment of his own life.

Like us he was faced with seductions,
like us, surrounded as we are by cunningly devised scams,
and by con artists with sliver tongues.
Yet his love shone out without reserve.

May we respond to that love without reserve.

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