



Of Seeds and Flowers



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MARY'S MANTLE

If you like the following and want more of the same brilliant life and spiritual wisdom, get a copy of “Mary’s Mantle” by Christine Watkins, Queen of Peace Media. This “three minutes a day book for busy people”, is better than 10 hours of marriage counseling or 10 hours with a psychologist or a holy, wise spiritual director. Think of the money you will save!! -a true “Do It Yourself”, “Home, Spiritual Healing”, book. -A JEWEL!! Get a copy. Get two, and share one!!

ACCEPTANCE: The human being, without having tried or wished for it, finds herself on earth. She did not choose her parents. She did not choose her hometown or her looks. Those realities that she never wanted or never chose can become anathema.

In frustration, she releases emotional aggression in order to attack and destroy them in her mind. A person can come to live in a perpetual battle against all that displeases her. Ashamed and saddened, she rejects herself and her circumstances: her weight, her nose, her temperament, her commute, her moodiness, her acquaintances, her political enemies, her relatives, mosquitoes, and withering heat . . . She resists everything that she dislikes but cannot change, and she labels it her adversary. As a result, she becomes depressed, anxious, and suspicious.

If I abhor my reflection in the mirror, it is my enemy. If I reject the shrill voice of my neighbor, it is my enemy. My adversaries, therefore, live within me to the extent that I give them life through my resistance.

Yet within me are also friends. The first stage of inner freedom involves befriending myself. If I accept my aging eyes or my awkward gait, they become my friends. The problem is not with my slowness in math or inability to deliver a good punchline, but in my rejection of my deficits and failures. No matter how unlike another may be, if I embrace him, he is my friend. In acceptance, this ill-timed storm becomes brother storm; this influenza virus becomes sister flu. And if I accept my life's end, I have befriended death. Thus, no matter who I am or the circumstances of my existence, I can choose to live in the crossfire of a battle zone of my own making, or within the boundaries of a peaceful, temperate forest. The power lies within me to embrace or reject those things I cannot change; thus, the alchemy to turn evil into good rests in the palm of my hands.



“Every disorder of the soul is its own punishment.”

- Confessions, Book 1, Augustine



RESPECT: The human being is a mystery, a whole universe unto himself. Each and every person is a unique island, never to be repeated throughout all of time. The first step in respecting others is to recognize that I know almost nothing about them because they are hallowed, unknown worlds.

Lack of respect in the private arena of words is called gossip, and we who initiate or take part in it intrude upon the sacred world of others. We step into another's inner sanctuary and hold court, act as judge, condemn, and make public their sentence. Reputations are ruined in a sentence. Peaceful air is now poisoned. They spoke badly of you, so you speak badly of them. Thoughts become bullets that ricochet and kill, and rumors run from mouth to mouth, becoming more exaggerated and distorted each time, like cancerous tumors.

In this state of affairs, no one truly listens to anyone, and no one speaks sincerely. Insecurity and suspicion fog the air and transparency becomes impossible. Bodies sit in open rooms with imaginary doors slammed shut. As a consequence, each soul takes refuge in his or her inner world and outwardly assumes a defensive posture. Like a slow burning firework, lack of respect sets off sparks of loneliness, evasion, fear, and for its finale, a dazzling display of animosity.

But from the moment we comply with the virtue of mutual respect, and we honor the living mystery of the people God has placed beside us ... from the moment we choose to bite our anxious tongues and treat others as we would the walking and breathing Jesus ... seeds of trust are planted, the tree of friendship grows, and acceptance and joy flourish in its branches.

How long can we put up with the "OLD SELF" before we give-in to God, religion, the truth of the Gospel/Christian life?

PRUDENCE: Prudence sees the world from a lofty vantage point. Standing like a towering redwood, stately and statuesque, it governs over the smaller virtues, the pines and oaks, dictating how they are to be used. It judges rightly between good and evil and discerns what is great above what is good.

Of its many dictates, prudence tells when to move into decisive action and when to lie down in surrender. At critical moments, we can come face to face with extremely bothersome, unjust, or harmful life circumstances. Prudence compels us to ask, "Can this thing which hurts me be changed or bettered? Does it have a solution? And if so, is the solution something I should attempt?"

Prudence guides our best assessment, in keeping with Church teachings and Holy Scripture, aided by research, prayer, and wise counsel. If a worthwhile solution-however small-appears on the horizon, prudence will join with fortitude and say, "It is not time to surrender for any reason. It is time to fight with all of your weapons at hand and to excite your energies into play."

When looking at reality, however, we too often discover that a great many of life's thorns have no remedy or recourse, or if there is a solution, it does not lie within our grasp. These are the impossibilities" of life. If there is nothing that we can do in a situation, then it is futile to cry over it. To resist with all one's soul a fait accompli is a suicidal act, causing a violent mental reaction. It leaves us indignant, afraid, sad, blaming, embittered; and the more we resist, the more the situation oppresses us. Before long, we are trapped in a self-destructive cycle, which spins us into depressive or anxious states. We can live obsessed with that which we cannot alter, and precisely because we reject it, it becomes a fixed attachment in our minds.

In the end, when faced with life's dead ends, we have only two choices: to surrender or explode. Those who are prudent say to themselves, "It is useless to weep and complain. From this moment on, I will bend the knees of my spirit and lay my head on Your breast, Lord. I surrender this problem to You. It is Yours to take care of, not mine." At this, God raises up the prudent far above the vicissitudes of life into a gentle stream of peace, where nothing can trap them, not disappointment or success, adversity or prosperity, discomfort or ease.

Check "Sister Claire" on YouTube. -a joy! An easy, loveable life changer!! -VERY GOOD!

PIETY: The pious may travel the same road as the impious, but they see the surrounding landscape entirely differently. They walk into gardens and notice that the flowers speak, the birds sing, even the insects chirp, telling of God's love. The impious notice the flowers, but focuses on the mud on their shoes, the gardener's mistakes, and the hot sun burning their necks, all of which close their hearts to God and remind them that beauty comes tainted with annoyance and pain.

The pious ponder the Good News preached by the One who came from the Father's House, who said that the Kingdom is like a jewel that projects a light different from the sun's, a light infinitely more resplendent than a sunrise--a splendor so rich that to possess it is worth selling everything. The impious do not wish to sell for they see only loss and no reward.

The pious honor the holy and run to fulfill their sacred duties. The impious find religious obligation an impediment to freedom and a lackluster chore. While the pious give to God what is God's and to Caesar what is Caesar's, the impious give to Caesar what is God's alone.

The pious and the impious descend together into the same deep valleys of injustice and woe: gorgeous mansions touching miserable shacks; racist collisions and sexual abuse; state-sponsored death from the newly conceived to the elderly; the marriage of what is spiritually forbidden; the flaunting of hedonism before children's eyes. Both the pious and impious may believe that the trajectory of the world is a downward curve.

But piety is not naivete, and impiety sees wrongly. As the pious walk along the valley floor, they see evil but know the dawn will appear and be triumphant. Their penetrating glance of faith captures luminous rays, hidden from the human retina. The impious see evil and know that goodness does not always win. They contemplate how by late afternoon the sky will darken, and soon the night's firmament will be void of stars.

For both, the day of death will arrive. In contemplation of the resplendent Face of God, the pious will see that their most extravagant dreams were insignificant alongside the glory of a Presence that satiates all desire. The impious will see that their vision was a smokescreen, which hardly resembled reality at all.



“Each one of us is an innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus.”



VISION AND REALITY

“The first Christians differentiated themselves from society. Modern Christians blend in.” We Christians have created a mediocre world of nice people. The poison of “blending in”, “Christian mediocrity” is invisible. The infection is so quiet that we have left our society, countries, continents ***die in their sleep.***

Remember Ireland, that very, very Catholic country. Last year they had two priests consecrated bishops but ONLY ONE, ONE priest was ordained. Christianity has been repudiated in Ireland; as in Italy, Spain, France England and the United States. (The name for this is APOSTASY. i.e.- people who once believed but no longer believe. Apostates.) God is VERY unhappy and words like ***chastisement, purification and Illumination of conscience*** are now coming up regularly from the holy people across the Christian world that are hearing the Lord speak. God is coming to clean up our “Messed up Room”.

This is God’s creation. **God is creating us at every microcosmic moment of time or we wouldn’t be here. Your next breath is dependent upon Him.** If He stopped thinking about you, you would end up a grease spot. But on and on we go! Check Watkins and Rodrigue at Queen of Peace Media on Face Book. -see what YOU think.

Shallow thinking and living have led to the assumption that if we replace capitalism, democracy with socialism we will eradicate our social problems. (As we all know socialism, as a system, only works if you kill God first.) Shifting from one political party or political system from one ideology to another does not deliver us from evil. Anyone who really prays and knows Jesus knows that. Our efforts must be more radical (rooted) than politics can possibly be. Only the Gospel, Jesus, have the wisdom and power to achieve the peace we all are longing for. When there is no God man becomes the measurement of all morality. ***“Woe to those who call evil, good; darkness, light and sour, sweet.”*** Isaiah



“To get nations back on their feet we have to first get them down on their knees.”

- Billy Graham



As the political “NOISE” grows louder, voting as a conscientious citizen and Christian becomes more and more important. Issues to consider: Protecting religious freedom, LAWFUL reform of the immigration system, abortion/respect for ALL life, violence as a tool of change, rejection of physician assisted suicide, peaceful/lawful resolution of conflict, marriage and family rights, dignity of the weakest among us, children, the elderly etc..

CONSCIENCE, WELL FORMED, is our guide! EVERY political decision involves people. People have souls/a spirit. The souls of people are the job of religion. All churches, all pulpits need to say this. Good religion, good citizenship!

“We are ensnared by the wisdom of the serpent; we are set free by the foolishness of God”. Augustine

He That Is Kind Is
Free, Though He Is A
Slave; He That Is Evil
Is A Slave, Though He
Be A King.
- Saint Augustine

LumenQuotes.com

SPEAKING SOFTLY

"WHAT IS REAL", asked the Rabbit one day, when they were lying side by side near the nursery fender, before Nana came to tidy the room. **"Does it mean having things that buzz inside you and a stickout handle?"**

"Real isn't how you are made," said the Skin Horse.

"It's a thing that happens to you. When a child loves you for a long, long time, not just to play with, but really loves you, then you become real."

"Does it hurt?" asked the Rabbit.



"Sometimes," said the Skin Horse, for he was always truthful,

"When you are Real you don't mind being hurt."
"Does it happen all at once, like being wound up," he asked, **"or bit by bit?"** **"It doesn't happen all at once,"** said the Skin Horse. **"You become. It takes a long time. That's why it doesn't often happen to people who break easily, or have sharp edges, or who have to be carefully kept. Generally, by the time you are Real, most of your hair has been loved off, and your eyes drop out and you get loose in the joints and very shabby. But these things don't matter at all, because once you are Real you can't be ugly, except to people who don't understand."** - Margery Williams, The Velveteen Rabbit



Love is like bread. It has to be made fresh DAILY.



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