



Of Seeds and Flowers



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Lent 2021, IT IS ALWAYS ABOUT THE FALSE SELF VS. THE TRUE SELF

CHOSEN VESSEL

The Master was searching for a vessel to use;
Before him were many, which one would he choose?

"Take me", cried the gold one, "I'm shiny and bright.
I'm of great value and I do things just right.
My beauty and luster will outshine the rest.
And for someone like you. Master, gold would be the best."



The Master passed on with no word at all,
and looked at a silver urn narrow and tall.
"I'll serve you, dear Master, I'll pour out your wine.
I'll be on your table whenever you dine.
My lines are so graceful, my carvings so true, and silver
will always compliment you."



Unheeding, the Master passed on to the brass.
Wide-mouthed and shallow and polished like glass.
"Here! Here!" cried the vessel, "I know I will do,
place me on your table for all men to view."

"Look at me", called the goblet of crystal so clear,
"my transparency shows my contents so dear.
Though fragile, am I, I will serve you with pride,
and I'm sure I'll be happy in your house to abide."

The Master came next to a vessel of wood,
polished and carved, it solidly stood.
"You may use me, dear Master", the wooden bowl said,
"but I'd rather you used me for fruit, not for bread."



Then the Master looked down and saw a vessel of clay,
empty and broken it helplessly lay.
No hope had the vessel that the Master might choose
to cleanse, and make whole, to fill, and to use.

"Ah!" this is the vessel I've been hoping to find,
I'll mend it and use it and make it all mine.
I need not the vessel with pride of itself,
nor one that is narrow to sit on the shelf.
nor one that is big-mouthed and shallow and loud,
nor one that displays his contents so proud.
Not the one that thinks he can do all things just right,
but this plain, earthly vessel, filled with power and might."
Then gently he lifted the vessel of clay,
mended and cleansed it, and filled it that day;
Spoke to it kindly- "There's work you must do-
Just pour out to others, as I pour into you." - **B.V. Cornwall**



A DROP OF RAIN ... A BIT OF SUN

This story is inspired by a chapter in C. S. Lewis's "The Great Divorce".

A man is given the extraordinary opportunity to take a tour of heaven, guided by one of the great archangels who stands before the most-high God. He sees many wonderful sights. Perhaps the most wonderful of all occurs when he walks with the archangel down a beautiful mountain path leading into a lovely valley. With the clarity of vision possible only in heaven he sees, on the mountainside opposite him, on the other side of the valley, a magnificent vision.

Slowly wending its way toward the valley, there is a huge procession of rejoicing beings. At the head of the procession, he sees many varieties of angels singing and dancing, doing cartwheels in the air and filling the valley with their glorious chorus. To his amazement he sees that these are followed by none other than Adam and Eve, who in turn are followed by the rejoicing patriarchs, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac, Jacob and their spouses.

Then, singing and dancing with lutes, harps, and drums, come the great prophets of the Old Testament. Then close at hand are the four evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The solemn Paul of Tarsus is there dancing hand in hand with St. Stephen. Then follows the 144 martyrs of the early church, the great doctors and fathers, Jerome, Basil, Augustine, and Gregory the Great. Also present and joining in the glorious chorus are the saints of the middle ages, Bernard, Francis, Clare, and Dominic, followed by more recent holy men and women such as Teresa of Avila, John of the Cross, Ignatius of Loyola, Maria Goretti, and Therese of Lisieux. Then a mighty archangel walks grandly down speaking with a voice that shatters the oak trees: "My ways are not your ways, says the Lord. As far as the heavens are from the earth, so far are my ways from your ways."

Our traveler stands still in astonishment at this marvelous spectacle. Finally, he sees the reason for it all. Coming down the mountainside at the very end are four of the greatest angels of the heavenly host carrying on their shoulders a golden chair wherein is seated a woman of great beauty. He turns to his angelic guide. Thinking that surely this woman must be the Blessed Mother of God, he barely manages to gasp out his question. "Is that... is that?" The angel laughs and replies, "No, no, that's Molly Schultz! You wouldn't know her. She lived in your city in the poor section. She was a scrubwoman but she loved much. She is one of the Great Ones here." Remember, at the Last Supper, Jesus washed the Apostle's feet and then promised that HAPPINESS, HAPPINESS WOULD BE OURS if we acted in like manner. WE are "feet-washers"!

Holiness is in our DAILY LIFE or it is not at all. Remember how people were so surprised that Jesus came from Joseph, a simple carpenter, and Mary, a simple lady in a simple village. The dishes, toilets, dusting, garden, shopping, laundry, job, children etc. etc. are the raw material of holiness. Be present to the present and you will discover God's **presence**.



"God loves us as we are, but He loves us too much to leave us as we are." - Mother Teresa



**"FASTING WITHOUT LOVE MEANS
YOU ARE JUST ON A DIET."**

**God has a plan for your life. The Enemy
has a plan for your life. Be ready for
both. Be WISE enough to know which
one to battle and which one to embrace.**



"The Gospel of Christ's resurrection fills the heart with joy! Our mind nearly stops, because it knows that this news is more astounding than the burning bush in the Old Testament... A triumphant love song is already beginning." - Catherine Doherty

**"I adore you, O Christ, and I praise you
because by your holy cross you have
redeemed the world and ME!!"**

**"To live in the light of the
resurrection - that is what Easter
means."** - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Vision and reality

"I would go to sleep clutching the Bible to my heart." Words from Keilana, a young Laotian woman, whose culture celebrates shamanism and ancestor worship. Receiving a Bible encouraged Keilana to learn how to read (only boys go to school). Before she could read Keilana would go to sleep holding her Bible to her heart. How's is your Lectio Divina (Divine, spiritual, Bible reading) going?

REFLECT, PRAY AND "DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU."

"We live in an age of unbelief. What sets us apart from past generations is that, today, the unbelief is so often within religious circles. The problem of faith today is especially that of UNBELIEF AMONG BELIEVERS." Rolheiser

College campuses are preparing a generation of bubble-wrapped crybabies who drown out ideas they can't handle and expect everybody to bow down to their every demand." A Time article recently called it "Delusional Diversity"- (**why can't we have some delusional UNITY**), bias, victimhood, the obsession with race, class, gender, sexuality. Truth, facts, free academic exchange -the historical hallmark of solid higher education and a free society- have slowly, very slowly but SURELY drifted into oblivion. Religion, Faith, God, values, principles, genuine spirituality have evanesced like a spring mist: nowhere to be found. Our Constitution was written for religious people said the Founding Fathers. We are no longer a religious nation, and so the Constitution is being torn to shreds by non-religious people.



"If you don't pray, if you don't seek silence and your own spiritual growth you will inevitably become either depressed or elated or bounce back and forth between the two. Only prayer or quiet meditation, he says, can provide the fine line (spiritual, psychological and emotional) that will keep you from being habitually depressed or obsessed with **your own ego**. This is true, he says, **irrespective of whether you are religious or not.**" - Robert Moore. **That's worth thinking about and putting a little reminder note on the refrigerator door.**

"He needed no one to give him testimony about human nature. He was well aware of what was in man's heart." John 2:25. And that is why Jesus is STILL, AND ALWAYS WILL BE, the WORLD'S GREATEST TEACHER!! *When you create a heart, you know what it needs to become whole!!*

Thank you for your "LOVE GIFTS" "Your gifts are a fragrant offering, and acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God." Phil.4:18.



Mary's Field is now on YouTube. Everyday a short five-minute video will be uploaded to help nourish your heart and strengthen your spirit during these difficult times. Type "YouTube Mary's Field" into the Bing.com search engine or "Mary's Field" into the Youtube.com search to find our channel.



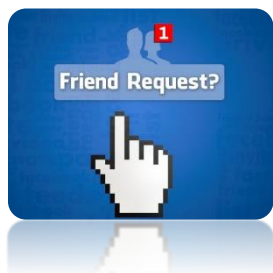
Many, many of the serious pray-ers and people with the gift of true prophecy, ALL AROUND THE WORLD, are aware of the world-wide crisis of non-truth and sin. They are REGULARLY, using the words, PURIFICATION, CHASTISEMENT and ILLUMINATION OF CONSCIENCE. They are warning us about the genuine, upset words and warnings that are coming directly from Jesus, God the Father and Mary, the Mother of Jesus. A word to the wise...

SPEAKING SOFTLY

ELEVEN WAYS TO PRACTICE RESURRECTION

1. Refuse to identify with negative, blaming, antagonistic, or fearful thoughts (you cannot stop "having" them). We have about 60 to 70,000 thoughts a day; 90% of them are negative! Wow!
2. Apologize when you hurt another person or situation.
3. Undo your mistakes by some *positive action toward the offended person or situation*.
4. *Do not indulge or believe your False Self*-that which is concocted by your mind and society's expectations.
5. Choose your True Self-your radical union with God -as often as possible throughout the day.
6. Always seek to change yourself before trying to change others.
7. Choose as much as possible to serve rather than be served.
8. Whenever possible, seek the common good over your mere private good.
9. Give *preference* to those in pain, excluded, or disabled in any way.
10. *Seek just systems and policies* over mere charity. The TRUTH, the TRUTH, the TRUTH!!
11. Never doubt that it is all about LOVE in the end. "BE OF LOVE A LITTLE MORE CAREFUL THAN OF EVERYTHING."

"**BECOME A BENEVOLENT GLANCER**" Each of us should try to develop the habit of "benevolent glancing", like Jesus did towards those who came to Him. That means looking at other with eyes that **SEARCH FOR THAT SPECIAL GIFT IN OTHERS WHICH REVEALS AN ASPECT OF GOD THAT I DON'T HAVE**. This practice will develop in us a greater gentleness, lasting patience and a deep respect towards ALL who come to us.



**"If the Bible had a Facebook page,
would you friend it?"**

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