



Bicycles,
Roller Skates,
& Peanut Butter

Contemplative
Verse #3

SQUANDERING LOVE

Am I the keeper of swine, so base, Squandering love, mercy, and grace? Consumed my father's inheritance i_n vanity year

after

year. With the devil's swine, I feast, Unworthy to be called His least. Not a son, nor Christ's own kin, Lost in the mire of worldly sin. Yet in this loathsome state, I cry, for redemption's light from on high. To cleanse my soul, to make me whole, to restore the love that sin has stole. In humble prayer, I seek His face, to find again His saving grace. To turn from swine, to rise above, and be embraced by endless love.

THE AUTHORS PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

In humble reflection, I come before You, acknowledging the fair and glorious image in which You created me, in Your own likeness, to dwell with the Holy Angels and Your children, In eternal happiness, power, and glory.

Grant me the patience to enter the Passion and Death of Christ, under the Cross, setting all my hope and confidence Upon the life to come.

In the Spirit and Will of Christ, may I begin and finish all my actions in this world, Guided by Your divine light and love.

Help me to remember the eternal light, the praiseful and melodious harmony of Your angelic and divine kingdom of joy.

With a heart full of gratitude and reverence, I seek Your grace and strength, to live in alignment with Your will, now and forevermore. O God in Christ Jesus! I am blind in myself, and know not myself because of Vanity

Amen



The Shift of Sin

What is the profound shift that occurs when society moves away from Gods sovereignty?

1. **Loss of Divine Measure:**

- When God is removed from our lives, we lose the ultimate standard of what is right and wrong.
- Sin, which was once seen as an offense against God, is now viewed merely as a crime defined by human laws.

2. **Redefinition of Sin and Crime:**

- Crimes are no longer judged by sacred, divine law but by the flawed and imperfect standards of the state.
- This leads to crimes being redefined as symptoms of psychological or environmental issues, rather than moral failings.

3. **Diminished Moral Weight:**

- The shift from divine judgment to human rationalization diminishes the seriousness of sin.
- Sin is sanitized and rationalized, losing its moral weight and significance.

4. **Innate Awareness of Sin:**

- Despite societal changes, the human soul still feels the weight and pain of sin.
- There remains an intrinsic longing for the moral and spiritual guidance that comes from God.

The Shift of Sin (Poem)

*When God was banished from our sight,
We lost the measure of what's right.
Sin, once an offense divine,
Became a crime by human line.*

*No longer judged by sacred law,
But by the state, with all its flaw.
And crimes, in turn, were redefined,
As symptoms of a troubled mind.*

*In this shift, we lost the weight,
Of moral truth, of heaven's gate.
What once was sin, now rationalized,
In human terms, it's sanitized.*

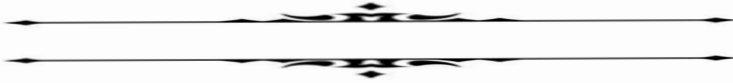
*Yet deep within, the soul still knows,
The weight of sin, the pain it sows.
For in our hearts, a void remains,
A longing for those holy chains.
So let us seek the sacred path,
Beyond the state's imperfect wrath.
To find in God, our true north star,
And heal the wounds that mar and scar.*

Overall, this poem reflects a deep yearning for a return to divine sovereignty and moral truth, highlighting the consequences of neglecting God's authority and the innate human need for spiritual connection and guidance.



Absolute surrender

In your heart, release all cares and desires of this life. Let go of every imagination and attraction. Entrust your entire being to God, who tenderly cares for you. Surrender to God's Good Will and Pleasure, as if your own will were but a whisper in the vastness of divine love.



Absolute surrender (poem)

*In the soul, let burdens fall away, Desires and
dreams, like whispers, gently sway. Entrust
your heart to the One who cares,
In divine embrace, release all worldly snares.*

*No need to strive, no need to seek,
In God's good will, find the peace you seek.
Surrender your will, let it softly fade,
In the light of love, be serenely remade.*

*As stillness wraps you in its tender grace,
Feel the divine presence in this sacred space.
With every breath, let go, be free,
In God's care, find your true identity.*

Mirror of Holiness

*In the presence of the Holy One,
Where light reveals what we've undone, Our hearts laid
bare, our sins exposed, In shame and guilt, our souls
enclosed.*

*Holiness, a mirror bright,
Reflects our flaws in piercing light. Embarrassment and
terror rise, truth unveils our hidden lies.
Yet in this pain, a grace profound,
A chance to kneel on sacred ground. For in the depths
of our despair,
God's mercy meets us, tender care.*

*Our culture flees from such a sight, Avoids the dark,
denies the light.
But in His holiness, we find,
A path to heal, a peace of mind.*

*So let us face the holy flame, Embrace the truth,
release the shame. For in His presence, though we fall,
His love redeems, His grace is all.*



A deep connection with God (poem)

*In the heart of each believer, there lies, A call to worship
beyond mere rites, to touch the truth with spirits
high, and fellowship in heavenly sights.*

*An hour comes, and now it is here, True worshippers in
spirit cheer, not in rituals or rigid lines, but in the grace
that intertwines.*

*God is Spirit, pure and true, in deep communion, life we
renew, With Christ, our truth, reality, we find our
constant, living plea.*

*Each day, each moment, we aspire, to touch His heart,
to feel His fire, in fellowship so deep, divine, God's
presence in our lives align.*



What's the meaning

The poem captures the essence of true worship, emphasizing a deep, personal connection with God beyond just rituals and regulations. It highlights how true worship is about calling upon the Lord from within and engaging in a genuine fellowship with Jesus Christ. God desires us to experience this constant, life-giving communion, touching and enjoying His presence every day. It's about finding spiritual depth and reality in our daily walk with God.

Who do YOU say that I am?

This question has been reconed through the centuries and is still asked of us today – personally, individually, intimately.

Our answer to the question comes more and more out of our wordless encounter with the Divine Indwelling. Before we go forth into each new day, we devote a time of silence and solitude that allows us to be intimately present to God.

At some point along the daily journey, we rest in this encounter again. How we answer the question will evolve out of our personal and inner life. Our answer to the question grows as our relationship to God grows. It invites us to new directions in our relationships, our work, our responses to the situations of day-to-day living.

To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God.



Who do YOU say that I am? (poem)

*In the silence of dawn, where whispers reside, we seek the Divine, where mysteries hide. In moments of stillness, our hearts intertwine, With the essence of God, in **His** presence divine.*

Each day we awaken, to a question so deep, "Who do you say that I am?" in our souls it does steep. Through wordless encounters, in solitude's grace, we find our true selves, in the Divine's embrace.

As we journey through life, with each passing day, our answer evolves, in a sacred display. In the quiet of morning, in the hush of the night, we rest in God's presence, in love's pure light.

Our relationships blossom, our work finds new meaning, In the depths of our being, where God is convening. With each silent moment, our spirits do grow, In the dance with the Divine, our true selves we know.

So be still, in the presence so near, In the silence, the solitude, God's voice we hear. For in answering the question, our souls are set free, In the intimate journey, with the Divine Mystery

GOD'S RELATIONSHIP WITH HUMANITY

Understanding God's Nature and Relationship with Humanity: Christianity teaches that God is a loving and personal deity who desires a relationship with humanity. This understanding is shaped by the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, which reveals God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each person of the Trinity plays a unique role in this relationship:

- God the Father: Creator and sustainer of all life, who loves and cares for His creation.
- God the Son (Jesus Christ): The Redeemer who, through His life, death, and resurrection, reconciles humanity to God, offering salvation and eternal life.
- God the Holy Spirit: The Comforter and Guide dwells within believers, empowering them to live according to God's will.

This triune nature of God is a cornerstone of Christian faith, providing a comprehensive understanding of God's character and intimate involvement in the lives of believers. A Personal Bond, a Sacred Tie: Christianity emphasizes a deeply personal relationship with God. Through Jesus Christ, believers are invited into a close, intimate connection with the divine. This relationship is often described as a sacred bond or tie, characterized by:

- Love: God's unconditional love for humanity, demonstrated through the sacrifice of Jesus.
- Trust: Believers' trust in God's promises and guidance.
- Communication: Prayer and meditation as means of communicating with God.
- Transformation: The transformative power of God's grace, leading to spiritual growth and renewal.

This personal bond is central to the Christian experience, fostering a sense of belonging and purpose. To others, your faith journey and the way you live out your beliefs can be a powerful testament to the transformative power of a relationship with God. Here's how it might look:

1. Inner Peace and Calm: People might notice a sense of peace and calm in you, especially in challenging situations. Your ability to remain composed and hopeful can be a source of inspiration and curiosity for others.
2. Acts of Love and Service: Your commitment to love and serve others selflessly will stand out. Acts of kindness, compassion, and generosity reflect the love of God and can deeply impact those around you.
3. Joy and Positivity: The joy and hope you carry, even in difficult times, can be contagious. Others may see your positive outlook and wonder about the source of your strength and happiness.
4. Wisdom and Guidance: People might seek your advice and guidance, recognizing

the wisdom that comes from connection with God. Your insights and counsel can provide comfort and direction to those in need.

5. **Authenticity and Integrity:** Living out your faith with authenticity and integrity will earn the respect and trust of others. They will see that your actions align with your beliefs, making your witness even more powerful.
6. **Spiritual Conversations:** Your openness to share your faith and engage in spiritual conversations can encourage others to explore their own beliefs. Your willingness to listen and share can create meaningful connections and opportunities for growth.
7. **Resilience and Strength:** Your resilience in the face of adversity, supported by your faith, can be a powerful example. Others may be inspired by your ability to persevere and find strength in God.



PRAYER

Prayer means turning to Reality, taking our part, however humble, tentative and half-understood, in the continual conversation, the communion of our spirits with the Eternal Spirit, the acknowledgment of our entire dependence. For Prayer is really our whole life toward God: our longing for Him, our whole drive towards Him. It is the humble correspondence of the human spirit with the Sum of all Perfection, the Fountain of Life. No narrower definition than this is truly satisfactory or covers all the ground.

Here we are, small half-real creatures of sense and spirit, haunted by the sense of a Perfection ever calling to us, and yet ourselves so fundamentally imperfect, so hopelessly involved in an imperfect world; with a passionate desire for beauty, and more mysteriously still, a knowledge of beauty, and yet unable here to realize perfect beauty; with a craving for truth and a deep reverence for truth, but only able to receive flashes of truth. Yet we know that perfect goodness, perfect beauty, and perfect truth exist within the Life of God; and that our hearts will never rest in less than these.



PRAYER (poem)

In the quiet moments, we turn to the Real, Humble and tentative, yet deeply we feel. A conversation eternal, spirit to Spirit, in this communion, our hearts find merit.

Prayer, our life's breath, a longing profound, A drive towards the Divine, where true peace is found. Dependent and small,

yet in Him we stand, In the Fountain of Life, held by His hand.

No narrower path, no simpler way, Than this humble correspondence, day by day. With the Sum of all Perfection, we align, in prayer, our spirits with the Eternal entwine.

In Real of existence, we stand, Half-real beings, both spirit and sand. Haunted by Perfection's distant call, yet in our imperfection, we often fall.

A world imperfect, where we reside, With beauty's longing, deep inside. We glimpse its essence, fleeting and rare, yet perfect beauty, we cannot bear.

Craving truth, with reverence deep, in flashes, its light, we briefly keep. Perfect goodness, beauty, and truth, In God's Life, we find our proof.

Our hearts restless, seeking the divine, In His perfection, our souls align. For in His Life, we find our rest, In perfect love, we are truly blessed.



Faith

Seeing light with your heart
when all your eyes see is darkness.

Family

Having a place to go is home
Having someone to love is family
Having these both is a blessing.

Friends

Friends are angels who lift us up
when our own wings have trouble
remembering how to fly.