



Bicycles,
Roller Skates,
& Peanut Butter

Contemplative
Verse #4

“Ugly Monster”

Death and hopelessness are in front of us all unless we embrace the hope and love that God offers. Through faith, compassion, and divine connection, we find purpose and strength to face life's darkest moments. Hope is not just a fleeting emotion, but a steady light guiding us through the storm. Embracing God's love transforms despair into resilience, and fear into courage, allowing us to transcend hopelessness and find peace.

In the embrace of divine love, we discover an unwavering source of strength and comfort. This love illuminates our path, dispelling the shadows of doubt and fear. It is in God's grace that we find the courage to face the unknown, trusting that He holds us in His care. As we walk this journey, we are reminded that we are never alone, for His presence is constant and His love, boundless.

Moreover, hope and faith instill in us a sense of purpose, driving us to act with kindness and compassion. By spreading love and light to those around us, we create ripples of positive change, fostering a community of support and understanding. This shared journey of faith becomes a testament to the power of collective hope, inspiring us to persevere through challenges and celebrate our triumphs together.

Dealing with the "ugly monster" is about confronting our deepest fears and flaws, the parts of ourselves we often want to hide.

So, while death and hopelessness may loom, they are not the end. With God's love and the strength of our faith, we can rise above, finding beauty and meaning in every moment.

Grace and sanctity offered by God are foundational aspects of a life transformed by divine love. Grace provides the

strength and support we need to navigate life's challenges and grow spiritually, while sanctity represents the journey toward living a holy, pure, and purposeful life. Together, they guide us in becoming closer to God, embodying His will, and reflecting His love in our daily actions.

This understanding helps frame the spiritual journey as one of continuous growth, supported by God's unwavering love and mercy. It emphasizes the transformative power of divine grace and the call to live a life that honors God.

When the soul experiences the divine love and light of God, it becomes deeply aware of its own flaws, sins, and the stark contrast between its current state and divine perfection. This realization brings about a sense of immense fear and anguish as the soul recognizes its unworthiness and the judgment of God. Let's name that process the "ugly monster".

The "ugly Monster" represents the soul's recognition of its impurities and shortcomings in the holy presence of God and Heaven. This intense awareness and subsequent fear are meant to drive the soul towards repentance, transformation, and ultimately, redemption through God's grace.

Through this divine encounter, the soul embarks on a journey of profound inner change, shedding its flawed nature and embracing the sanctity offered by God. This process, though challenging and often painful, purifies and refines the soul, leading it closer to divine perfection. It's a testament to the power of God's love, which illuminates our darkest parts and guides us toward a path of healing and wholeness. In recognizing its own imperfections, the soul opens itself to the infinite mercy and grace of God, finding true peace and union in God's divine presence.

"Ugly Monster" (poem)

In the light of God, the soul does see, the "ugly monster" it must face and be, A stark reflection, flaws laid bare, in divine love's unfaltering glare.

*Fear and anguish grip the heart, as judgment rends the soul
apart, yet through this pain, a path is shown, to heal and make
the soul God's own.*

*Repentance starts the journey long, Transformation's tune, a
sacred song, through grace, redemption is bestowed, In God's
pure light, the soul is glowed.*

*Each step towards divine perfection, A testament to love's
reflection, God's mercy, boundless, heals and mends, In holy
union, the journey ends.*

*With faith renewed, the soul ascends, beyond the trials, where
peace extends, in eternal embrace, all fears dissolve, in God's
great plan, we all evolve.*

*In every challenge, strength is found, as grace and love do both
abound, together in God's light we grow, with hearts aglow, our
spirits flow.*

This poem speaks to the spiritual struggle and the process of repentance. Here's the breakdown:

Christ's Call to Repentance: Christ is urging the soul to repent and forsake vanity to receive God's grace. This is an invitation to turn away from worldly distractions and sin.

The Soul's Response: The soul, recognizing its flaws (the "ugly monster") and comes before God seeking grace and pardon. It believes in the atonement of Jesus Christ but struggles with its inner conflicts.

Inner Conflict: The "evil Properties of the Serpent" symbolize the worldly desires and rationalizations (Lusts and Inclinations) that hinder the soul's will from fully committing to God. These properties are deeply ingrained and resist the soul's efforts to let go of earthly honors and glory. The soul fears the loss of worldly status and the associated reproach.

In essence, the poem highlights the internal battle between spiritual aspirations and worldly attachments. The call to

repentance and the acceptance of Christ's atonement are central to overcoming this conflict and attaining divine grace.

The poem also captures the tension between the soul's desire for divine grace and the pull of worldly temptations

Let's break it down further:

The Soul's Awakening: When the soul realizes its flaws and sins, it becomes desperate for God's grace. This is the soul's sincere attempt to repent and seek forgiveness.

The Call to Repentance: Jesus's call is clear—repent and forsake vanity. This is the first step towards attaining grace. It's about acknowledging one's sins and making a conscious decision to turn away from them.

The Inner Conflict: Here lies the struggle. The soul is willing, but the "evil Properties of the Serpent"—worldly desires and rationalizations—create resistance. These are the lusts, ego, and attachments to worldly honor that the soul must overcome. This is a common spiritual struggle: the conflict between higher spiritual aspirations and lower, worldly desires.

Attaining Grace: Grace comes when the soul fully surrenders these worldly attachments and aligns its will with God's. It's about overcoming the inner resistance and truly repenting. This journey is often challenging and requires continuous effort, prayer, and faith. Grace is the divine gift that follows true repentance and transformation.

In essence, the conflict is between the soul's higher spiritual goals and lower worldly inclinations. Overcoming this conflict through repentance and letting go of vanity leads to the **grace** and **sanctity** offered by God.

Grace refers to the unmerited favor and love that God bestows upon us. It's the divine assistance and strength we receive to grow spiritually and overcome challenges. Grace is given freely, not because of our own efforts, but because

of God's infinite love and mercy. It empowers us to live according to His will and helps us in times of need, providing comfort and support.

Sanctity is the state of being holy or sacred. When God offers us sanctity, He invites us into a life of holiness, purity, and moral integrity. It means being set apart for a divine purpose, living in a way that reflects God's character and love. Sanctity involves the transformation of our hearts and minds to align with God's will, leading us toward a life that honors and glorifies Him.

In essence, God's grace gives us the strength and support to strive for sanctity, and through this journey of faith and dedication, we become closer to His divine presence.

Grace is also about forgiveness. It's the assurance that despite our flaws and mistakes, we are loved and accepted by God. This forgiveness is a powerful force that allows us to let go of guilt and shame, enabling us to start anew with a clean slate.

Sanctity includes living a life of service to others. By embodying God's love, we find purpose in helping and uplifting those around us. This act of service brings us closer to the divine and cultivates a sense of fulfillment and joy that material pursuits cannot provide.

Moreover, grace and sanctity are intertwined with the concept of spiritual growth. As we receive God's grace, we're encouraged to grow and evolve, continually striving to become better versions of ourselves. This growth is not about perfection but about progress, embracing the journey of becoming more aligned with God's will.

In essence, grace and sanctity transform every aspect of our lives, guiding us towards a deeper, more meaningful existence.

The transformative power of grace and sanctity can be seen in many aspects of life and spiritual practice. Here's how they manifest:

1. **Personal Change:** Many individuals who embrace grace and sanctity report profound personal transformations. They find inner peace, a sense of purpose, and resilience to face life's challenges. Their lives often become a testament to the power of divine love and guidance.
2. **Scriptural Evidence:** Religious texts are filled with examples of transformation through grace and sanctity. In Christianity, for instance, figures like Paul the Apostle underwent significant personal change after experiencing God's grace. His letters often speak of the transformative power of faith and grace.
3. **Community Impact:** Communities centered around grace and sanctity often exhibit stronger bonds, greater compassion, and mutual support. Acts of service, charity, and kindness become common, illustrating how grace and sanctity uplift and unify.
4. **Historical Examples:** Figures like Mother Teresa, Gandhi, and others have demonstrated how a life dedicated to grace and sanctity can lead to profound societal change. Their selfless actions and dedication to higher principles inspire countless others.
5. **Personal Testimonies:** People from various faiths and backgrounds share personal stories of how embracing grace and sanctity has brought them from places of despair to joy and fulfillment. These stories offer compelling evidence of the transformative power of divine love and guidance.

In essence, the proof of grace and sanctity is observed in the lives changed, the peace found, and the communities strengthened through their presence.

A soldier in a foreign land

I stand, A soldier in a foreign land. My prayer, a report of the day, to my General, I humbly say: "Today I fought with all my might, In the burning sun, through darkest night.

These were the battles, fierce and grand, these were the trials I did withstand. Tomorrow's plan, I lay before, with courage, I will fight once more.

Obstacles may block my way, but steadfast, I will not sway. My God and I, we ride as one, through pouring rain, beneath the sun.

Pale and starving, yet unbowed, In His presence, I am proud. 'Leader!' I cry, with voice so clear, He turns to me, His anguish near.

Our love is rough, yet deeply true, in this tavern of life, we renew. We share the wine, the bread, the strife, In this lowly, humble life.

Together, we will ride and fight, In the darkness, in the light." In this bond, so fierce and strong, I find my place, where I belong.

A soldier's heart, a prayer's embrace, In my General's loving grace.

With every battle, every tear, In His presence, I know no fear. His guiding hand, my constant guide, in faith and love, I will abide.

Through valleys deep, and mountains high, together we, my Lord and I, will face the trials, the struggles dire, fueled by His love, a holy fire.

In victory sweet, in defeats hard, God's grace remains, my soul's guard. No matter where my path may lead, in His embrace, my heart is freed.

In this journey, side by side, with my General, I confide. In endless love, we both unite, A soldier's heart, in divine light.



spiritual awakening

Every soul is inherently divine, infused with the essence of God. However, this divinity is often obscured by our earthly nature our physical desires and rational thoughts. It's only through moments of distress or divine grace that we become aware of this inner divinity. These experiences jolt us out of our everyday existence, opening our eyes to deeper truths within ourselves.

The "conflict" in your soul, your yearning for more spiritual light, and your desire to share this newfound wisdom are signs that your divine spirit is awakening. This awakening drives you to seek and communicate deeper spiritual truths, indicating that your soul, imbued with divine essence, is coming to life.

It's a call to embrace and nurture this spiritual awakening, understanding that your desires for greater understanding and connection are part of a divine journey.

spiritual awakening (poem)

*In the depths of every man's soul, A divine spirit seeks its role.
Overpowered by flesh and blood, Silent, waiting for the flood.*

*Distress or grace breaks the chain, opens eyes to hidden gain.
A conflict stirs, a light ignites, A heaven-born spirit takes flight.*

*Eager for truth, longing to share, A soul awakened, pure and rare.
In love's embrace, in nature's call, A divine essence lives in us all.*

*In times of doubt, when shadows fall, The spirit rises, answering the call.
With every trial, the soul grows bright, Guided by an inner light.*

*Through love's embrace and nature's grace, we find our place in sacred space.
Awake, alive, with hearts untamed, our divine essence, reclaimed.*

To truly align with God's will, one must let go of personal ego, desires, and individual perspectives. It means renouncing self-centered motivations and viewpoints. Even if your actions seem passionate and impressive, if they stem from personal gain or pride, they're not truly in harmony with divine intent. Instead, in seeking this higher purpose, we recognize the limitations of our own understanding and surrender to a greater wisdom. This path requires introspection, patience, and the willingness to embrace uncertainty. By letting go of our need for recognition and control, we open ourselves to the profound guidance of the divine. This journey transforms not just our actions, but our very essence, drawing us closer to the truth of our being and our place in the universe. It's about living with integrity, compassion, and a deep sense of interconnectedness with all life.

spiritual awakening (poem 2)

This journey transforms our very soul, drawing us closer, making us whole. Our essence blooms, in truth we find, A universe, our hearts entwined.

With integrity, we stand tall, compassion guiding through it all. Interconnected, life's grand thread, In every act, the spirit's fed.

Through love and light, we carve our way, embracing night, embracing day. A humble heart, a clear mind's sight, in unity, we find our light.

Ever growing, ever wise, In every being, the divine lies. This sacred path we choose to trod, draws us nearer to our God.

Redemption

Redemption is essentially the birth of God's divine nature, light, and spirit within a fallen person. This rebirth can only happen through faith, hope, and desire of the inner self

that is already divine. Only something born of the divine can seek the divine.

This understanding of Christian redemption brings the greatest honor to God and comfort to humans. It explains why simple, sincere people, who have their inner self ignited with love, hope, and faith in God, can achieve the highest divine enlightenment, while even the most learned and scholarly individuals can live and die without truly knowing God or Christ.

Moreover, this perspective emphasizes the importance of genuine spiritual experience over mere intellectual knowledge. It suggests that true knowledge of God and Christ comes from an awakened inner divine nature, rather than from academic or theological study alone. It's a call to nurture that spark of divinity within, seeking God with a pure heart and a humble spirit.

When you stand still from the thinking of Self, and the willing of Self; when both your intellect and will are quiet, and passive to the Expressions of the Eternal Word and Spirit; and when your Soul is winged up, and above that which is temporal, the outward Senses, and the Imagination being locked up by holy abstraction, then the Eternal Hearing, Seeing, and Speaking will be revealed in you; and so, God hears and sees through you, being now the Organ of God's Spirit; and so, God speaks in you, and whispers to your Spirit, and your Spirit hears God's Voice.

Blessed are you therefore if you can stand still from Self-thinking and Self-willing and can stop the prevailing of your Imagination and Senses; for thus you may arrive at length to see the great Salvation of God being and be in earnest. What is there required of you, but to stand still, and see the Salvation of your God? And could you want anything less? For God knows what is best; and if you can but trust God will most certainly do better for you, than if you were left to your own Choice".

God, the source of all goodness

Keep a close watch on your actions and thoughts, ensuring they remain pure and free from selfishness or earthly desires. Your mind should be open, impartial, and focused on doing good for its own sake, because it reflects God's nature. Don't seek enlightenment or the need to share it just for personal gain. Instead, your only goal should be to fulfill God's will and bring His goodness to life within yourself and others. True goodness comes from God alone, and it's only truly alive in you when your actions are guided by God's Spirit. Remember, there is only one source of true goodness, and it is God.

God, the source of all goodness (poem)

Through trials faced, in shadows cast, with faith and love, we'll hold steadfast. Each act of kindness, a divine spark, Illuminating the path when days are dark.

Let every thought be pure and kind, In God's true goodness, peace you'll find. Embrace His will in every deed, In selfless love, plant virtue's seed.

For in this journey, souls entwine, reflecting the divine design. His spirit guides with gentle light, through every day, through every night.

With hearts aligned to God's own song, we'll find our place where we belong. In unity, His love we'll see, A glimpse of what eternity might be.

May His grace in you be ever found, In silent whispers, love profound. In every step, His will embrace, and find in Him, your resting place.



Liberty & God

Liberty and faith in God are foundational principles that have shaped societies and inspired countless individuals throughout history.

Liberty: At its core, liberty is about the freedom to think, act, and express oneself without undue restraint. It's the bedrock of democratic societies, ensuring that every individual has the right to pursue their own path, make choices, and live a life of dignity and autonomy. Promoting liberty involves protecting human rights, encouraging open dialogue, and fostering an environment where diverse voices can be heard and respected.

Faith in God: For many, faith in God provides a moral compass, guiding principles, and a sense of purpose. It can inspire acts of compassion, justice, and community building. Faith offers a source of comfort and strength, especially in challenging times, helping individuals find hope and resilience.

When combined, the pursuit of liberty and a strong moral foundation rooted in faith can drive societal progress and personal fulfillment. Upholding these values can lead to a more just, compassionate, and united world.

Liberty & God (poem)

*In the land where freedom reigns, Amidst the sunshine, midst the rains,
Liberty's call, a sacred sound, In hearts of men, it's deeply found.*

*With faith in God, a guiding light, through darkest days, and starless night,
A moral compass, firm and true, In every heart, it stirs anew.*

*Together strong, with spirits free, United in our destiny, With liberty
and faith in hand, We'll build a brighter, loving land.*

*Let love and justice pave the way, In every heart, let virtue stay, For
liberty and God's embrace, Shall lead us to a better place.*



Your Liberty, Your Faith, Let love and justice pave your way