




Salutation to The Dawn

Lamentations 3: 22-23

*Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.*

*They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.*



Dear Opal,



Heralded by the twittering of birds on the wing, she appeared in her usual manner and day was at the morn. Announcing that God was in his heaven and all was well with the world, a fresh new **DAWN** began eloquently painting the night shades of gray with a misty tranquil golden glow!

Thus, as if on cue, the choir of feathered friends resting among the branches of the nearby trees breathlessly witnessing their Creator's artistry sweeping across the horizon, broke into throaty notes all warbling to a "Cantate Domino", from Psalm 98, in praise to the father. As the air all around resonated with their rich melodies, one could easily imagine the words from verse 1, "*O sing unto the Lord a new song; for he hath done marvelous things*".

Everything was as it should be; not due to any effort on my part, nor that of any mere man's actions....but an expected happening that should be regarded by creation as something divine and immortal in our lives, handiwork that proclaims the Great Artist's love for his children, actions that should motivate all members of the human race to raise their arms in praise to the Creator of all whose works are good and perfect each and every day; a miraculous event that mankind fails to note each morning.

Opal, finding myself in total agreement with poets throughout the ages, methinks **DAWN** is a golden invitation engraved by God declaring our precious state of existence, signaling that today is mine, for it is the future of yesterday and the past of tomorrow, encouragement to live while I may with full realization that I have the past and the yet to be.

Therefore, shout with delight, " Life, I salute you! Good morning, new day!" Looking across the dew-pearled hillside dripping with blessings, we should react to each new **DAWN**, as poet Philip James Bailey did during the 1800s, that at this spectacular occasion each day, the Master is urging us to come to grips with the fact that our moments in time are filled with deeds, not years, in thoughts, not breaths, in feelings, not schedules or hands on a time piece, but instead, held tightly within our heart where our earthly sojourn is counted by heart-throbs.

Thus, when one expands and deepens the definition for the word heart-throbs as it relates spiritually to God, we must view the relationship between the Father and his children from an entirely different perspective, meaning agape, through the eyes of the highest form of love, charity, and the love of God for man and of man for God.

Given this description, Psalm 42: 1, *“As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God,”* succinctly clarifies the results of having agape love for the Creator, meaning to be **self-forgetful** due to a desire and need to focus on the one who will never fail to be present in each of our lives.

Consequently, if we are truly **self-forgetful**, we will internalize the fact that both the heavens and the earth belong to the Creator and all that is in it; meaning everything we see, feel, taste, touch, hear, smell, and our very breath itself. Certainly, Scripture lets us know the true feelings of Jesus when the Pharisees demanded that the voices of the people praising him be silenced as he rode on the back of a donkey into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday in Luke 19: 40 with his words, *“And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out”*; a clear behavioral example of individuals whose hearts throb for God and those that do not.

Further, since the written Word tells us that the very foundation of God’s throne is a composite of righteousness and justice, with love and faithfulness in front, is it any wonder that all nature automatically breaks out into a salutation to the **DAWN?**

Opal, if we truly internalize the concept that God is the Creator of all, and that each morning upon rising his compassions are new out of agape love for those he created, we should relax and be free of anxiety no matter the circumstances out of truly believing that he is in total control. And...even though weeping endures for a night, the Great Promise Keeper guarantees that joy will come in the morning. Thus, the turmoil that seems to last for an eternity will eventually come to an end—all in our Lord’s good and perfect time. Even when we witness people intending harm to others, the Bible is replete with examples of how the Father turned it into something good.

In the light of these words, let us relate them to each individual that lives and breathes on planet earth today---those physically trying to exist in the **seen world** where temptations and evil lurk as dark shadows waiting to devour the soul of innocent people trying to govern their behavior based on spiritual principles of the **unseen world**, that being to love God first and our neighbors as ourselves.

Certainly, when comparing an object that you can visually study to one that seems concealed to mere human eyes, the challenge of walking by faith is such an obstacle for a mere human that it is no wonder a source of wisdom beyond the sphere in which we live seems unfathomable. And... yet, Scripture tells us that faith in our Maker is truly the only answer and hope for surviving and thriving in the place we inhabit for a short time on the road to our eternal home.

Thus, each morning when we salute the **DAWN** of every glorious day, perhaps deeply contemplating verse 4 from Psalm 90 that reads, *"A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like the watch in the night"*, will prompt our spirit to soar and sing a song of praise and accolades to the Father.

Opal, simply realizing that the good Lord sees the past, present, and future in a single moment should make us understand how far superior the **unseen world** is to the **seen world**; knowledge when internalized and accepted by man, should motivate us not only to raise our hands in praise to the Creator at the break of day, but accompany it with shouting and singing. Most importantly, who can we name that has this ability or unconditional love for each one of us?

Afterall, out of a desire to belong, most people have been so intently focused on things of the **seen world** to accomplish this that their lives can be compared to that of rootless tumbleweeds, a condition that results in our being blown about without ever identifying that our true north star is the One who lovingly formed us with his own tender hands.

Admittedly, reflecting back at my own life through aging eyes, this tumbleweed that I am, has been blown around rootless for so long because of worry over both tomorrow and yesterday out of the desire to be included. How often have you

joined the writer with this endeavor by asking yourself, “What will people think if.....?”

Yet, no matter, we all have belonged to the Lord all along, loved unconditionally, and have actually been sought after by him. He and he alone, is the One that longs to hear the sound of each of our voices, yet, here we sit in silence. Tis only he that has unrivaled wisdom to offer and yet is never summoned by our rigid tight lips. Although we all have ears to hear, eyes to see, and feet to follow in his footsteps, as rootless tumbleweeds, we allow the wind of the seen world to endlessly blow us from hither and yon. **Oh, for a heart whose pulse may be thy pulse!**

Given this goal, what should our heartthrob sound like when we view our fellowman? In answer to this question, if we desire a truly accurate source that stands firm for all generations, then we must rely on the actions of our compassionate Messiah demonstrated during his three years of ministry on earth to understand the character of God, the Father. After all, God took on a human form named “Jesus” when coming to dwell among us for the purpose of drawing us back to him.

During his time on earth, he immediately sent the message of inclusivity as well as compassion to his creation with the verses:

“A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.”
(Life Study Bible, New International Version) Isaiah 42: 3

“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”
(Life Study Bible, New International Version). Matthew 11: 29

Then, going beyond words, he proceeded during his last three years on earth to demonstrate what is expected by the Father as to how members of the kingdom of heaven will behave to both their Maker and one another.

The actions of Jesus clearly set him apart from those claiming to be messiah! Our Lord went against the teachings of the law by associating with people labeled by the religious leaders as being untouchables and unclean. The act of connecting with them in any manner made the one doing the touching, unclean, as well. In

Biblical times, it was believed those classified as downtrodden in society were there because of being punished for a committed sin. Everything from being poor to suffering from physical illness were viewed as being in this condition as the result of sinful behavior; thus, punishment straight from God.

Consequently, when the compassion flowed from the heart of Christ like a crystal-clear stream from the desert, great multitudes followed him and he healed them all! The heat of fever, the lethargy of palsy, filth of leprosy or the rage of madness were no match for the Jewish Messiah's power that came from the mighty hand of God! Down every path, throughout the villages and in every corner of the fields, the divine power of the Lord triumphed over evil. Pause and think for a moment how the people who suffered from years of disease and starvation reacted to the healing actions of Jesus. It is no wonder he had to escape to quiet places during the night or in boats floating on the water with the purpose of communing with his Father in a time of restoration. Yet, this time alone in the presence of his Father was so critical to his existence that it was always a top priority; thus, never missed or ignored. And... yes, dear friend, that is why his heart throbbed so passionately and completely for all God's creation both then and now.

Following the pattern set before us by our compassionate Lord, let us salute each **DAWN** for as long as we live as a time when, no matter our failures and weaknesses, it is an opportunity for revival of the soul...a second chance to recalibrate our heart so that each throb will be first for him, followed by our neighbors far and wide; meaning learning to watch over the widows, orphans, and aliens/strangers as commanded by God, and internalizing the basic truism that the **DAWN** of a new day is for them as much as us. Accompanied by the melodious notes from the birds, let our voices unite as one chorus caroling, *"O sing unto the Lord a new song; for he hath done marvelous things"* .



In closing, allow the words from the Ancient Sanskrit below to penetrate to the very core of your soul.

SALUATION TO THE DAWN

Listen to the salutation to the Dawn!

Look to this day! For it is life, the very life of life,

In its brief course lie all the verities and realities of our existence.

The bliss of growth, the splendor of beauty,

For yesterday is but a dream and tomorrow is only a vision,

But today well spent makes every yesterday a dream of happiness

And every tomorrow a vision of hope.

Look well therefore to this day.

Such is the salutation to the dawn.

(From the Ancient Sanskrit)



Love,

Colene