



# Blessed Be

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December 2020

*Welcome to this edition of Blessed Be. We have finally reached the end of an arduous year, although much less so for us in Australia. Hopefully, amongst all the stress and uncertainty, you have found things to be grateful for. May you find blessings in this period of Advent and Christmas.* *Helen MacAuley*

*We begin this edition with contributions from Alison Healey:*

## **WEAPON**

The will to power destroys the power to will.  
The weapon made, we cannot help but use it;  
it drags us with its own momentum still.

The power to kill compounds the need to kill.  
Grown out of hand, the heart cannot refuse it;  
The will to power undoes the power to will.

Though as we strike we cry 'I did not choose it',  
It drags us with its own momentum still.  
In the one stroke we win the world and lose it.  
The will to power destroys the power to will.

*(From **Judith Wright** *Collected Poems 1942-85*, Harper Collins, Sydney)*

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We do not see things as they are; we see them as we are.

## **Talmud**

### **TOO HUMAN?**

Do you fear that I might be human, too human?  
Mistrust that fear:  
following that path, you may stray into the inhuman,  
believing that you are near me,  
or even speaking in my name. In error, totally.

If you wish to be close to me, become as human as possible.  
That is how you will be closest to me.  
For my distance is beyond all distance that you are able to create or grasp.  
So remain in your place. I am there.

*Maurice Bellet, in 'Le lieu de combats', Desclee, Paris, 1976*

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*Next Judy Brown has sent us some pieces:*

**A Maxine Shonk (OP) Prayer:**

May the Voice of God awaken you, moving your spirit to a heightened sense of Divine presence within and around you. May you always be aroused by the sound of your name on the lips of God, calling you to “take off your shoes” for the life you have been given is “holy ground”.

May your “here I am Lord” echo in your experience of God and in your presence to those around you

May the voice of God awaken you to blessing.

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The purpose of politics is the promotion of justice and the common good.

In the better kind of politics the goods of humanity are for all, not just the rich.

We are fully a person when we are part of a people with respect for the individual.

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*From Richard Rohr OFM:*

“The best of Conservative and Liberal positions:

\*Radical Traditionalists: They love their group enough to critique it but not enough to maintain their own integrity and intelligence. They have stopped overreacting and over defending. They are usually a minority

\*Conservatives need to let go of their illusions that they can order and control the world through religion, money, war and politics. True release of control to God will show itself in compassion and generosity and less boundary keeping.

\*Liberals must surrender their scepticism of leadership, order or authority to find what is good, healthy and deeply true about foundational order, experienced as a move towards humility and real community”

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“All things by immortal power, near and far within me linked are.  
Thou canst not stir a flower without troubling a star.”

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“ when you stumble, make it part of the dance.”

Poem by *Rosslyn Nipperess of Crows Nest, Qld:*

There in shattering silence I touched a thread gossamer fine  
Delicately invisible in recesses beyond mind and time  
Drawing to the surface nourishment for the desert of the mind  
That has no earthly use of words, but in the conscious knowing and I left to time  
Will nurture, grow and bear fruit of the Divine.

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*Sheila Hawthorn has contributed the following pieces:*

Ask the Holy Spirit for fortitude  
and the power to endure  
to go on in spite of opposition in spite of discouragement  
when it looks as though we are achieving nothing

Ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom  
to be able to take the measure of things  
to know the right moment to act

Ask the Holy Spirit for understanding  
the power to see beneath the surface of event  
Realise fully what you are living for

Now look at the first words of the Lord's Prayer  
and you will find that the purpose of our lives is written there  
It is to bring about the Kingdom of God

*Fr James Van Ginneken SJ*, founder of The Grail.

#### **Universal Peace Invocation**

May there be peace in the heavenly region;  
May peace reign on the earth, and in the water;  
May all herbs be healing, and plants be peace giving;  
May there be harmony in the celestial objects;  
May peace pervade the whole universe;  
May that peace abide within us.  
Om Peace,Peace,Peace.

**Yajur Veda 36:18**

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#### **JUST A HOUSEWIFE**

I packed five cakes of bread and two small fishes,  
Sent him off, my youngest lad,  
To take his father's dinner to the field.  
Came back alone he did, all goggle-eyed.

My fresh-baked bread that varmint gave away  
To some young travelling preacher out of Galilee.  
It fed five thousand people. What a tale!

It can't be true....but if it is....  
What kind of dough did these hands knead  
This morning?

*Cordelia Baker-Pearce*

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*And finally.....*

Though I may not be here with you, I urge you to answer the highest calling of your heart and stand up for what you truly believe.

So I say to you, walk with the wind, brothers and sisters, and let the spirit of peace and the power of everlasting love be your guide.

**John Lewis**, US civil rights leader, written to be published on the day of his funeral.30<sup>th</sup> July 2020, died 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020

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**Jimmy Lai**, Hong Kong activist:

I'm not worried (about spending a long time in prison), just because, if my life is about myself, it would be meaningless. Only when I detach from myself and think of my life is it about something bigger and not about myself. Then my life becomes meaningful. And that keeps me going every day.

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From '**In Appreciation...**' a memorial flyer from The Grail in Uganda upon the death of Elizabeth Namaganda, published after her death on December 12, 2012

I longed for you, my God –  
to be one with you, to experience your touch.  
You were present and yet far away  
Your silence puzzled me  
till the moment the space  
between heaven and earth opened  
and I walked on Holy Ground.

