

VISIO



DIVINA

*The Wisdom Contemplative Vision*

**ALSEEP IN SEED FORM**

*L. BAUMAN inspired by RUMI*

This poem, inspired by the images and metaphors of Jalaluddin Rumi, recounts the eternal history of the human soul, especially as it traverses space-time. The sapiential question from Perennial Wisdom (Why am I here? What am I doing on the earth?) is answered by these words and images. We know our own personal history and narrative, at least in part, but this is a higher seeing, from a mystical (or perhaps divine) perspective as to our purpose and what divine Consciousness is up to.

We do not think of ourselves as seeds having fallen to the earth, or as having been cast onto the ground of temporal being, but we are. Our own purpose for coming here is often a total mystery to us. We do not know how to answer the question, “Why am I here?” except by using values and conditions that are completely transient and shaped by human culture. We often answer, “Oh I am here to finish college, get a job, be a success, raise a family, help the earth, do good.” All of these may be entirely correct when seen from a temporal perspective, but this poem sees from an eternal perspective.

We are here, says, the poem, so that our seed-covering—those egoic shells that protect us will decay and be destroyed, and then the process of spiritual evolution begins in earnest. Not till there is disruption and decay in the soil of this earth, says Yeshua, can we truly come to life (John 12:24), and when this happens it totally confuses us. We feel perhaps that we have been abandoned and even destroyed by God. And in some sense, perhaps we have.

Yeshua cried on the cross—*Eloi, eloi, lamasabakhthani*—My God, My God why have you forsaken me? In dire straits this is a common human experience, especially for those who feel they have been following a sacred path.

Earth experience is often cruel beyond imagining, and if we put words to it, we are left bereft and stunned by what we experience personally and by what we see happening to others all around us. So the question always is, is there some higher purpose in all of this? Or is this simply meaningless nonsense? Just our question may send us spiraling into despair. But behind the veil of appearances, according to the mysteries and the mystical seeing of many generations, of saints and sages, there is another perspective, one that is entirely outside our normal consciousness. The difficult metaphors in this poem expresses it.

The bright divine blade falls? The harvest begins? God eats us even in the present moment? We slide into God, into the divine seeing? God has a soul? Inside God there is nothing but Light? That Light covers all, even this? Our questions multiply. We are stunned by the answers and sent reeling into the vast Unknown of eternal Consciousness, well beyond the seeing of the normal or rational mind. These seeings are unbelievable to us, and often we simply do not believe that such realities could ever be possible. But the mystics say they are, and inspire us to see and believe—to listen and not to despair.

We are an “arising” (a form of resurrection) out of the earth. Our destiny is to live in God—within the divine Light. There we will see from the divine perspective, and we are told, Light will cover all.

## Reflections on Image and Text:

1. *What is a seed, and if you were a seed, how might you think and feel?*
2. *What is “divine rain” in your view, and how does it operate in our world? What does it do to a seed?*
3. *If you could imagine your own arising, how might you experience that? Does it mean something like climbing the ladder (of spiritual success), or does it mean something entirely different?*
4. *Notice the words “in time.” What could these mean? Notice how other words and phrases, and how the image interprets them.*
5. *So what is this divine bread making? If you know anything about bread making, how does this process inform you about the culinary procedures of the Divine?*
6. *When you eat something, what happens to that food? Is this process what is meant here?*
7. *Can two souls unite? Is that possible between humans? Might it be even more possible between a human and God?*
8. *Can humans ever see as God sees? How is that possible? When is that possible? Does light have anything to do with it?*

## A Place for Notes and for Journaling your Answers:

*This reflection, text and its illumination have been provided by Alison Hine and Lynn Bauman as a means for contemplative prayer.*

# LECTIO DIVINA

*The Contemplative Reading of a Sapiential Text*

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The mystery of human existence is this:  
We are like seeds  
asleep in seed-form.  
The divine rain comes and You fall all around us,  
making a moist, sweet stain in our world.  
Our seed coverings begin to decay,  
and You mix with whatever is inside of us.  
And look!!!  
Something entirely new arises.  
But in time your bright divine blade falls  
and the harvest begins  
at the keen edge of this present moment.  
And then You make bread, and You eat,  
and our souls slide into the very seeing of your Soul ...  
And there, inside You,  
it is Light upon Light, as your Light covers all.

*—The poetry of Jalaluddin Rumi inspired me  
to rewrite his visionary seeing in poetic form.  
Lynn C. Bauman*

*These poems are found in the  
Kulliyat-e Shams-e Tabrizi (Volumes 1-VII)  
or the Mathnawi (Volumes 1-VI)*

*Contemplating*  
**THE ILLUMINATIONS**





