

VISIO



DIVINA

The Wisdom of the Contemplative Gaze

CASTING LIKE SUNLIGHT

An Invocation

This anonymous couplet is certainly an invocation from the Sufi tradition. It sees transcendently yet goes deeply into the heart of the human condition. Who are we? Where did we come from? What are we doing on the earth? Where are we going? These are the four major questions of Perennial Wisdom, and in this short, intense invocatory prayer we find some answers.

Everything is Light. Everything is related to, comes from, and moves back into the Light of its Source. This is the grand motif of creation, the process of Eternal Return, the movement from out of the Source and then back into it. We are cast into creation by the Maker of All. We are cycling through time and space, having been sent here to experience earth, and to allow Light from the Source to pass through our bodies, through our very physical existence.

So on earth, the question always is for us, what role does darkness play in our lives? What role does light play? How do they interact and weave together? Do we notice these threads within us? How are they woven together inside of us? Who does the weaving?

While we are here on earth we have a deep relationship with both light and darkness. Certainly all is not light in our lives here. William Irwin Thompson said that our earth experience was one of darkness and scattered light. The tapestries of our lives contain light and dark threads interwoven and juxtaposed. Without this interweaving, nothing gets done.

For certain we will one day leave this earth behind, for we are only here for a little while. In relationship to earth's long existence in time, we will have stayed a very short time, a mere instant. We will return through the window in time, through which the Light has poured, and we will pass into eternity—our ultimate homeland.

Will we have been purified by our time and experience here on earth? Can we not think of our time here as anything other than a purification process? Imagine water slowly trickling through fibers of carbon or charcoal to become purified and drinkable water. Is it something like that we are experiencing in the interplay of light with darkness? Or is it total contamination of light by darkness?

Somehow the poet-contemplative does not think so. Some other intuition has arisen and is given voice out of the inner seeing and the knowing. Can we ourselves stand with arms extended and pray this prayer?

Reflections on Image and Text:

1. *The divine Light is an emanation from the Source, you are a person upon which the light falls and also a window through which the light pours. How do you experience this?*
2. *Do you sense that you have in some way purified the divine Light as it has passed through?*
3. *What is your own relationship to light and darkness? In the second image these are seen as weavings. The full tapestry of your life must include both. How have you experienced this.*


4. *What role has light played? What role has darkness played? How have they been woven together in your life? Have they strengthened one another in some way?*
5. *How are you filtering divine Light? Do you see yourself as this kind of refinement or filter?*
6. *These are interesting ideas to contemplate. How do the strands of your life play that role?*
7. *Or if you use the metaphor of a window, where is that light going as it passes through you?*
8. *What is your final destination of return? How do you understand the light returning back to its Source in your own experience?*

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

 You cast us like sunlight
upon the earth,
and your Light,
passing through our bodies,
as if it were an open window to our Source,
returns,
purified to you.

—author unknown

Contemplating
THE ILLUMINATIONS



