



*Passionate About His Passion:
Meditations on the Holy Great Fast*

Nagwa Abdou

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LIVING CHRISTIAN LIFE

Pleasure in Life

Pleasure in life.

Some of it makes us feel great

And wonderful for some time,

However, it leads to quick destruction

Spiritually, mentally, and physically,

Therefore, we should protect ourselves

With the armor of God,

Godly knowledge, wisdom, and purity of heart

In order to overcome temptations

And not be defeated by them.

Fairness in Life

***When life is not fair to you,
When you feel all alone and there is no way out,
When you are sad and anxious and
In need of a word of hope and encouragement,
Be sure to ask God to lead you
Through that dark valley,
For whatever you are going through,
You are not alone,
But He is backing you up in your time of need
And opening doors for you
And finding a way out for you.***

At the Crack of Dawn

What a beautiful sight to see!

At the Crack of Dawn

Everything comes back to life:

The birds and the animals wake up so early,

The wheat in the fields is so tall and shimmering,

They look straight at the sun

And thank God for the new day.

How can we be like nature:

Sensitive and responsive to God,

Grateful for the new day with its ups and downs,

And filled with thankfulness

And having a merciful heart?

Soul Searching

I traveled on my own for so long;

I felt lost and distressed.

My soul was searching and searching

And my body became weak,

No one to turn to, No one to rely on.

I was very exhausted and afraid.

How can I come back to You

With my weakness, my shame, and my doubt

Thinking and hoping...

Hoping that You may free me again,

That You may comfort my soul and give me hope,

So I can reach others and lead them in Your way,

And become someone You proudly call Yours.

I love You, God.

Earth and Heaven

There are two lives to be thankful for:

The heavenly life and the earthly life.

The heavenly life is where our Lord reigns,

Where our hearts long to be with Him.

The earthy life is where we learn many lessons,

Choose our destiny with our own free will,

And become ready for the heavenly things.

Lord, let my heart choose to live

In heavenly and earthly harmony.

Living

What is living?

Living is not being alive and still breathing.

Living is not about waking up every morning

Wondering

How you will feel today.

Living is about being with God,

Being part of His body and His plan.

No matter where He takes you, you will go,

Whatever His plan for you, you will accept

With thanksgiving, with compassion,

And with trust

That He is right there by your side,

That He will never forsake you.

Life

What is life without the feeling of seasons?

A season of joy and gladness,

A season of suffering and sadness,

A season of peace and contentment,

A season of love and understanding,

A season of discovery and acceptance,

And the list goes on and on

And differs from one person to the other,

But we all must know

That God does not do anything randomly,

And

We all must trust that everything happens

For the good of His people.

The Word of God

*Filling my heart with peace,
As the sun sets down gracefully in the sea,
And as the moon prepares to take over the night,
What a beautiful sight
To see the work of God in action,
And to see His words come to life.
Lord, let my heart recognize Your work
In everything I see, I hear, and I touch,
So I may praise You forever and ever.
Amen.*

OVERCOMING TEMPTATION

Awake, O My Soul!

Awake, O my soul, and become enlightened

By knowing your heavenly Father

In order not to be troubled and sad.

He looks at you and has compassion on you,

He helps you every day

And wants to bring you to Him forever,

Therefore, rejoice and be content,

Not being afraid,

Rather, trust in His love and constant care for you.

What our heavenly Father wants from us

Is to have a relationship with Him,

So that we might be an example of Him on earth,

And to be an effective example

In the life of His brethren,

***So that they might hear His voice within them,
Therefore, we must continue to pray continuously,
Until we find grace in the eyes of God.***

Dear God

Until when will I feel earth-bound, unable to fly?

Until when will my tears be dry,

My eyes unable to cry?

Until when, O Lord,

Will I feel that I have nothing to offer?

Only You, my Lord, can...

Free me, carry me, love me,

And give me hope.

Only You, Lord, can... give me back my freedom

So I can fly freely,

And then, I can live for You, O Lord,

Until eternity.

Come, O lord

Come for I am in need of Your intervention.

Come for I am in distress.

Come and give me advice, help, and peace.

Come and save me

For so many are trying to persuade me

To let go of my faith and trust in You.

Come, O Lord, and put shame in their heart,

For You are my Salvation and my savior.

There is no one like You.

My Lord

Deep in my heart, I am longing for You, My Lord.

Let Your light shine

Through the deep parts of my heart

So I can be a tool in Your hands,

And a witness to Your love and tender mercies,

That I can be a light to others

And a road to Your heaven,

And that way I will humbly be grateful to You

For You are my Lord and Savior.

Forever Yours!

O My Lord

You give me strength to move on.

You believe in me and help me too.

You look at me with a loving heart.

You surround me to protect me.

You never leave me or forsake me.

You are the only one who understands me.

You are the only one who knows my needs.

God, You are all I need.

I love You.

REPENTANCE

Bring Us to You, O Lord

Every day, my Father, You move the hearts of

People to come back to You.

You want them to come to You

So that You might bless them,

Help them, and stay up at night to comfort them.

How can they not come to You

To give them a fountain of peace,

Inner joy, and a pampered soul?

How can they not come to You when You are trying

To show them Your Fatherhood and wonders?

How can they not come to You while they see

Your Holy Spirit

Working inside them to strengthen them

And make them overcome their weaknesses?

Allow me to come to You, O Father.

Allow me to sit under Your feet, to look at You, and

To listen to every word uttered by Your mouth.

Your words satisfy my soul, quench my thirst,

And make my tears pour out in front of You,

For my bones are troubled within me.

Lord, allow me to be Your servant,

To take off Your sandals, and to wash Your feet.

Allow me, O Lord, to wash Your feet with my tears

And wipe them with my hair

As did the sinful woman,

So that You might look at me

And bless me as Your servant.

Please give the orders and I will carry them out,

Live by them, and thus You will be

The source of my love, grace, and peace.

Eager to Repent

O God, do not forbid me from coming close.

I know my sins are so many,

Nevertheless, let Your mercy be on me always.

Have mercy on me and protect me

From falling down.

Seal the lying lips that want to make me doubt

Your love for me.

They want to make me doubt even my love for You;

This will snatch away my sleep

And grieve my heart.

O God, please do not let them

Continue harassing me.

Tears

Tears... are a blessing.

In tears we can express our suffering.

In tears we can express our joy and happiness.

In tears we can express repentance

And ask for forgiveness.

Tears are stronger than words.

Tears are a universal language.

We can deeply understand one another

Without speaking.

Thank You Lord for tears.

Contrition

It is not easy, but necessary.

It is the most spiritual work for the true Christian.

It cleanses the heart and mind.

It reminds us that we need to test our thoughts,

Actions, and motives.

It gives us peace knowing that we are forgiven.

It makes us prevail over Satan.

It helps us build a relationship with God.

A Repentant Heart

I am falling at Your feet with a repentant heart.

I am crying out and confessing my sins.

I am praying You would snatch them

Out of my thoughts.

I am asking You to cleanse my heart

In order to be forgiven and be Yours again,

Then I will be able to restore my relationship

With You, my Lord.

The Prodigal Son

He was a rebel against everything that is good and wholesome and wanted to have the freedom to explore anything and everything that will ruin his life and his future without regard to anyone's feelings or wisdom. This leads me to think that life for him was just living for the here-and-now and nothing beyond that. Everything his father taught him made no sense to him. Will he recognize the bad decisions he made, or will it be too late for him? Despite all the wrong he committed, his Father never stopped loving him, but waited and hoped he would come to his senses. It is easy to see that the younger son was in need of forgiveness. However, it turns out that the older son was a

sinner too. Even though he stayed and served his father and worked hard in obedience, the sin in his heart became apparent when his younger brother came home in repentance. We too are sinners in need of repentance. The only thing that can be a stumbling block for us is our own ego –an unwillingness to be humble.

The Sinful Woman

The sinful woman felt the need for repentance when she heard about Jesus and saw His love towards her. She could have shied away from approaching the Lord Jesus, and felt embarrassed by her life and ashamed of people knowing that she is a sinful person. However, she did not care about any of this, but all she thought about was repentance and the return to the bosom of the Lord Jesus Christ. The sinful woman wanted to be pure and consecrated to the Lord Jesus Christ. She wanted to be part of Him with all her heart and mind, and for Him to accept her and save her from her sinful life. That is why, when she

learned that the Lord Jesus Christ was a guest in the house of Simon the Pharisee, she hurried to meet Him. She was driven by her need to pour out her life in front of Him and by her desire for Him to forgive her sins. She did not care what anyone would say about her, but her focus was directed completely to the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. Here we see the difference between Simon the Pharisee and the sinful woman. Here we see Simon as a person filled with pride. He Invited the Lord Jesus Christ, not because of his love, purity of heart, or generosity but because he wanted to examine who this person is and to try to trip Him up by words or actions. Simon did not care about the hospitable custom of kissing the

guest, but rather, looked down upon the Lord Jesus Christ and wondered if He would let the woman touch Him. He said to himself, if this person were a prophet, He would know that this woman is sinful and He would not have let her touch Him. The sinful woman was crushed under the weight of her sins. She was humble and focused only on Jesus. Therefore, Christ responded to her humble need for repentance and forgave her sins. On the other hand, Simon and his guests received nothing but condemnation. Dear Lord, please awaken us to feel crushed under the weight of our sins and make us hurry back to You with all humbleness, that we may repent, so that You may forgive our sins and bless us, by allowing

us to be one with You forever.

The Samaritan Woman

Dear God, every time I read the story of the Samaritan woman, I rejoice at the thought of having her same hope. She was ignorant, simple-minded, and did not know much; I am the same. She lived a shameful life and hid from people so they would not gossip about her and her sinful life. However, You, my Lord, looked at her and did not belittle her because of her sins. Rather, You taught her how to live a better life with You. You showed Yourself to her and opened the eyes of her heart to find the true joy and the treasure she was looking for. In You, Lord, she found the living water that pours out in excess to satisfy her thirst and the thirst of her brethren. She left her water pot and

ran to tell the villagers about You, the source of true and living water. Her focus shifted to testifying to the truth and to saving others. She no longer was in need of her water pot or any water well. She realized that You would satisfy this earthly need, therefore, she left her water pot by the well. She cleansed her earthly thoughts and repented from her sins and immoral desires. All she needed was to come to You to fill her heart and soul with heavenly knowledge and wisdom, and to strive to do the will of her heavenly Father. She willingly and joyfully did good deeds, and her heart's desire was to reap the fruit of her godly works and offer them to others. Unlike Nicodemus, she did not need any proof or biblical passages that the Lord Jesus Christ was the Messiah. Your

words, Lord, were all she needed to believe. My Lord, I know You are the Life-giver and You are the one who opens our eyes and softens our hearts to see You and long for You. My Lord, my own words are weak and no matter what I say, I cannot express the depth of my love towards You. My only consolation is that You search my soul and know my heart! I thank You, my Father, for saving me and looking after me, for teaching me Your ways, and for letting me get to know You more and more every day. My Lord, every day, my heart waits for You to teach it to know You, to grant it Your peace, to heal it from the hardships of the day, and to make it happy with Your unconditional ever-flowing love and tenderness.

ENLIGHTENMENT

The Blind Man

*The blind man is not
Simply a man who cannot physically see,
But is a man
Who can physically see but does not see
God's work in him,
And does not recognize
The hand of God working in his life,
Therefore, he complains and despairs
And does not grow in his spiritual life.
Forgiveness steers a man away from hatred
And fills his heart with happiness,
Then God comes and wipes out all
That is challenging and problematic in his life
And gives him a new heart,*

*Therefore, a man should be keen to love
And to humble himself always,
That he might gain the gift of vision,
And continue to hear the word of God within him.*

The Chosen Man

Great and blessed is the man chosen by the Lord.

He fills him with tenderness and grace

And adorns him with the treasures of heaven.

He makes him in need of nothing.

He does not even need to look under his feet

Because he will be soaring high

In the Lord's heaven.

The Lord fills his heart with knowledge

And truth

And makes them reside in his heart,

In His dwelling place.

Father, I listened and I did not hear,

And I saw but I did not see.

My mind was unable to fully understand You.

*I thought I knew You, but I was totally ignorant,
Until You looked at me, Father,
Then You opened my ears to hear
And spat in my eyes to see You.
My wisdom and knowledge became nothing,
But Your wonders hovered around me.
I see Your wonders every morning and I enjoy them
And I rejoice in them like a little child
Who cannot express his feelings or his emotions,
And so, he either smiles or cries
But he knows that You are there
And You fill his little heart with Your light.
You give him invisible comfort and inner peace,
As so, he calls You, Father.
His heart sings all day long,
Thanking You in the morning and evening*

*And in the middle of his sleep
Because he knows that You
Attend to him in every second of his life.
He knows that You have compassion on him
Like an affectionate Father.
He knows that You always guide him and feed him.
You guide him on his way to You.
You forgive him when he falls
And You raise him up again.
Your love, my Father, makes my heart happy
And makes me want to thank You every day.
Your love makes me want to always look at You
And makes me count the hours
Until I can come and sit with You
So that I may hear You and talk to You
Because You are what my soul desires.*

My Father

You work hard with me.

You always lift me up during all my trials.

You always delight my soul,

Making my heart happily long for You.

My Father, I absolutely do not deserve

Your kindness and love for me.

The blessings You were pouring on me this week

Were especially hard and stressful for me,

But You, Father, knew how tired I was

And the wars I was fighting;

You were right there by my side.

I feel You saying

Do not be afraid and do not trouble your heart

Because I Am with you.

*I take refuge in You, Lord,
And I let You carry my burden.*

Under Your Feet

I look around me and I become very happy

And I run and sit under Your feet

So You may bless me and give me grace and peace,

Then I run to my brethren and give them my heart

Which is overflowing with Your grace,

So they might rejoice like me and have peace.

Father, I know that my abilities are very weak,

I also know

That my strength, love, and peace are from You,

And in order to pour my love on my brethren,

To help them, I must first receive it from You.

I see my brethren changing before my eyes

And I long for them to see You as I see You,

That they would come to their Father,

*To learn more about Him,
But they are far away from You.
They do not know You;
They do not feel Your presence.
They think that everything that happens to them
Is just a natural coincidence.
They do not want to change,
Do not want to know You,
But I know that grace is from You alone.
I know You can change them if it is Your will.
My Father, I wish that everyone would come to You,
But when I watch them,
Putting on a smile becomes enough for me.
Grant me, Lord, to always long for You,
To know You, and to sit under Your feet.
This is my joy and my humility.*

Our Physician

Our Physician is an outstanding physician.

He has medicine for every illness,

Therefore, if you want to be treated

From any disease that ails you,

Do not hesitate to go to Him.

Whenever a person is cured, he becomes Happy

And feels a desire to recover from all his illnesses.

This person continues to persevere,

Turning to His physician for full recovery.

After recovering fully

He is keen not to return to his deadly illness.

Whenever he feels somewhat ill,

He immediately seeks His physician,

So that he might fight the disease

And not allow it to overtake him again.

My Father, please grant me to come to You

To draw my knowledge from You.

Grant me a continual desire to rise and grow,

So You will continually purify me

From every disease

And protect me from every stumbling block,

So that my life will be nonexistent without You

And You will become the light of my life.

Let Your voice be in my thoughts and my will.

Therefore, Father, do not deprive me

From coming closer to You

And have mercy on me always.

Let Us Fly

No matter how high we fly

We will never reach the sky,

For we are very limited

Even though our imagination soars high with us,

And sometimes leads us to destruction.

Look up and you will see

That you are only a feather in the wind

No matter how high you fly.

A Child's Heart

A child's heart can see beyond what we see.

He sees purity in everything.

He sees great possibilities in little things.

He sees miracles in every day that he lives.

He sees God and completely trusts in Him.

God shows us

Through the eyes of a child how we should live.

God expects us

To have a heart as pure as the heart of a child,

And as a child,

God wants us to smile

And be full of excitement for every little thing.

My Thoughts

I travel away from the world and its reality;

My thoughts take me anywhere I want.

My thoughts can make me happy and peaceful,

Or they can make me fearful and full of anxiety.

My thoughts are like a wild animal,

They can be out of control and untamed,

They must be tamed and controlled

In order for me to be useful and successful.

My Own Lord

***My own words are weak, and no matter what I say,
I cannot express the depth of my love towards You.***

***However, my only consolation is
That You search my soul and know my heart!***

***I thank You, my Lord,
For saving me and looking after me,
For teaching me Your ways,
For allowing me get to know You
More and more every day.***

***My Lord, every day, my heart waits for You
To teach it to know You, to grant it Your peace,
To heal it from the hardships of the day,
And to make it happy by Your
Unconditional ever-flowing love and tenderness.***

A Drop of Water

A drop of water in the middle of the ocean

Resembles

Our understanding compared to God's wisdom

Or

Our love compared to God's love

Or

Our intelligence compared to God's knowledge.

A drop of water in the middle of the ocean

Is

A reminder of who we are

And how limited we are.

The Storm

*When the storm comes rushing your way,
When you feel alone and don't know what to do,
When your life is in disarray
Or becomes suddenly confused,
Look up.
All you need to do is ask
For help, for guidance, for peace.
The word of God will come rushing to you
To give you peace, wisdom, and understanding,
And your heart will be filled with joy,
Nothing will be able to trouble you
In the middle of the storm.*

WITNESS

How Terrible Was Your Pain!

*They whipped You with whips my Lord!
They did not pity You, but continued to hurt You!
They competed in who would insult You more,
Who would shed more of Your blood,
And who would tear off more of Your flesh!
Instead of whipping the sinful Barabbas,
They whipped You, the Holy one of Israel.
O how terrible was Your pain my beloved Master!
I listen and look
But there is nothing I can do other than my tears,
Which are for You,
Because You accepted the pain and suffering
For me,
I the undeserving and sinful.*

You did this so that You can bring me back

To the Father's bosom,

And to erase the shame of the sin

Committed by Adam,

And to get me out of the devil's grip.

Thank You.

My heart thanks You forever.

Amen.

You Have Taught Me

You cried in the garden!

Jesus, You did not have any friend to comfort You

During Your time of suffering,

Therefore, God sent His angel to strengthen You,

He did not give up on You even for one moment

Because He knew, saw, and felt

All that You were feeling inside.

He also was longing to see

The salvation of mankind and its safe return.

That is why You endured Your pain;

It was Your love

For Your Father, Your children, and Your flock.

I thank You, Jesus,

For not withdrawing from Your sacrifice for us.

*Rather, You taught us
That the will of God must be our first priority,
His desire must be ours as well.
In doing so, He will give us
Strength, determination, peace, and blessings
-seen and unseen. Amen!*

My Lord Jesus Christ

***Not only did Satan and his agents
Strip You and whip You,
But they also wanted to despise You
And demean Your purity and righteousness,
So they crowned You with one of the worst crowns,
They planted a large number of thorns
On Your head.
O how awful was the pain You experienced
In both Your being and Your body!
As a result, Your blood flowed down Your face,
And also Your many tears streamed down
And blended with Your blood.
Your blood and tears flowed to the ground
To wash away the curse on the earth***

*Started at Adam,
And to destroy Satan's kingdom
And his authority over mankind,
Therefore, death will not be dreadful
And the Devil's thorn will be broken forever.
Thank You, Jesus, for putting Yourself in my place
And doing everything for me,
I, the weak and sinful one!*

My Beloved Mother

How could you go to Calvary and see your Son's humiliation, His pain, and the crown of thorns embedded in His head? No words or expressions can describe the state of your heart, which was filled with groaning and pain as if a sword had passed through it! Even though you were as silent as usual, your plethora of tears and your facial expression showed what was in your heart. You stood under your Son's cross without any power to change His circumstances! But, you had known since His birth that He came to the world for this purpose, to save the world from the grip of Satan. Therefore, you placed the glory of God and the salvation of mankind ahead of your own pain and

your Son's pain, and you accepted His death.

Here we see Jesus.

In spite of the fact that He was approaching death,

He did not forget His mother,

But wanting to express to her His love and care,

He said, "O woman, behold your son,"

And He said to John, "Behold your mother."

Now, you will have another son

Who would take care of you and love you

As much as I love you.

HEALING

Be My Comfort, O Lord

*Often, I feel very far away from You
Because of my sins, stubbornness, and pride,
However, in spite of all this,
You, my Father always come
To embrace me, comfort me,
And give me new hope,
As You did with the adulterous woman
Who sold everything
And bought a bottle of expensive fragrant oil
With which to anoint Your feet,
She whom You, Father,
Whom You forgave
And had compassion on,
That she might be able to thank You*

*For what You have done for her.
Likewise, I also thank You, Father,
For Your love for me and for Your care
Which I do not deserve.
I beseech You, Lord,
To always look at my weakness
And my need for Your love
That I may always and forever be with You.*

You Know, O Lord

I was afraid to make a mistake and let You down,

And in spite of that

My tears betrayed me,

And my smile vanished.

Today I was worried and anxious

Because

I did not want to get upset or upset anyone.

I asked our Father for guidance

And did what He suggested.

Afterward, my heart was comforted

And my tears dried up.

But You, Lord, do attend to me and make me happy,

You fill my heart with joy

And make my tears fall down again,

But this time they are tears of joy.

O Father,

You always turn my sorrows into joy and peace.

My thanks and gratitude

Will never be sufficient Lord.

My Father, the more I know You,

The more I love You.

I know, Father, that the privilege of knowing You

Is a grace that You give to Your beloved children

And to those who love You,

Therefore, Father, give more of Your love

Because I am all Yours.

The Cross

The cross is nothing

But a way

For condemned criminal slaves and thieves to die.

The cross is not a joyful instrument,

It is an instrument of shame

For those who carry it and die on it.

The cross was chosen by Christ

To be the instrument of His death.

He sacrificed His whole life on earth for everyone,

Especially for the poor

And those who do not have anyone,

To teach us

That we should not boast in what we have,

But rather should be thankful

And have compassion on others.

Lord, teach us that love from the heart

And sacrificing in the service of others

Is everything,

That without love we are worthless dust.

You have come for the whole world,

You also came for every one individually;

You came for the great as well as for the small;

You came for the rich as well as for the poor,

So that those who listen, understand, and strive

May have eternal life

And a relationship with You.

O Lord, You have not withheld anything

From the weak or the strong,

From the pure or the evil,

Until the time of judgment

When You will condemn us in fairness and justice.

I thank You, Lord,

May Your mercy be upon us forever.

Teach Me, O Lord

Lord, teach me to speak through my heart

And not my lips,

For when I speak through my heart

I will truly begin to have a conversation with You

And I will be a tool to lead others to You.

My Beloved Jesus

They looked at You, not with compassion and love, but with the hatred and cruelty that filled their hearts. They shouted with one voice, "Crucify Him... crucify Him!" They did not back down from demanding Your crucifixion, even though they saw how much You suffered and how exhausted You were. Pilate approved Your crucifixion, and You carried the cross on Your shoulders and walked the streets despite Your weariness, and You also carried our sins in Your heart. O what a heavy burden! Your body betrayed You and You fell to the ground several times because of Your weakness and Your pain, but their whips were pitiless and merciless, even when Your soul was broken and

*You fell down. They asked Simon to carry the cross
for You, but our sins were too heavy to bear and
You alone carried them. Thank You, Jesus. Please
teach me how to be like You and carry my cross.
Please fill me with the spirit of patience and
longsuffering so that I can imitate You and so that
You can heal me from all illness. Cleanse my heart
of every sin, and give me Your peace.*

My Jesus

I marvel at how worthless we consider our souls, and how worthwhile God considers them. O Jesus, I wonder at Your unusual love to mankind. You planned our salvation from the beginning, and in the fullness of time You shed Your blood on our behalf to remove our shame and to give us Your righteousness, freedom, and freedom of choice. You came among the human beings and You were treated badly with cruelty. They stripped Your clothes and left You naked. They put a crown of thorns on Your head and they tied You up, viciously putting nails through Your hands, nevertheless, You had the longing to go up on the cross so as to bring us back to You and to the Father. You

***accepted everything that happened to You, and still
You continue to pity us and pray for us. Thank You!***

What is Hell?

Real Hell is when God withholds His face from us.

Jesus felt this sensation

When He agreed to carry our sins on the cross.

God withheld His face from Him,

The world began to darken

And nature started to despair.

When Jesus felt the Father's distance from Him,

He started to shout with a loud voice,

“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

People,

Please meditate how Jesus descended to Hades

For our sakes,

How He carried our sins instead of us,

The sins that we were unable to carry,

So that He may bring us to the bosom of the Father.

Look how much He suffered

Both physically and psychologically,

How He offered Himself a sacrifice of love,

To bring us back to the Father.

He presented us to the Father

With complete satisfaction.

Jesus, Your sacrifices are wonderful

Are one of a kind

Because of Your great love

For us and for the Father.

Words of thanks will always be inadequate

In expressing

How much we love You!

JESUS REIGNS OVER MY HEART

Heal Me, O Lord

*They knew a great deal about You,
They studied Your life in depth,
But their hearts
Were without love or transparency.
They were willing to lose their salvation,
And for their souls to perish,
So long as nothing touched their reputation
Or their image in the eyes of the people.
They cared about the false glory
Instead of caring about their eternity.
You came to raise them from their death
And to elevate them to the heavenly glory
In the bosom of Your Father,
But they rejected You*

*And refused to hear Your voice;
Their hearts had been hardened as stones.
They waited for a chance to catch You and kill You.
Father, because of my stupidity I was like them;
I read but I did not understand,
I loved the noise of the world and was busy with it.
You called me but I did not hear You;
My ears were full of noise
That rendered me hearing-impaired
Throughout my life.
I did not know You,
So I became like a pain-stricken patient
Who could not find a physician to heal him.
Finally, after I became very sick, I looked at You
And I recognized my need for healing,
And You, Father, did not leave me,*

*But by a word from Your mouth,
You saved me from my deadly illness.
Afterword's, You turned my life into a lasting joy
And a great comfort.
I no longer have anyone but You,
My soul longs for You.
My soul waits for You every morning,
And sits with You for hours every day.
She grieves when I go to sleep
Because she will not be in Your presence.
Lord, grant me the privilege
Of always being in Your bosom
And feeling the presence
Of Your Holy Spirit in me forever,
In me forever.*

Jesus

I see You on the cross, sad and hurting, and without anyone to comfort You. Your loved ones left You alone! You gave them more than they deserved of Your unconditional love, and You did not withhold kindness from anyone. Where are the blind? Where are the lame? And where are the lepers? You walked around serving everyone, You did not complain, and You did not have a place to rest all Your days on earth. I wonder, where all these people were in Your hour of need. They all left You to go through Your agony alone and did not appreciate Your acts of kindness. Even Your disciples, none of them came to defend You, mend Your wounds, or carry the cross with You. They ran

*away and hid, and one of them denied that he even
knew You. But Jesus, in spite of Your grief, You
were consoled by what is coming and what is
great: Your salvation for the world and the church
-Your beautiful bride who You have created from
the water and holy blood flowing from Your side.
You created it to yield thousands and ten
thousands of holy saints who would glorify Your
holy name and become beacons to the lost.*

Salvation

*The heavens sing about Your glory
And the universe reveals the work of Your hands.
What a terrible scene nature witnessed:
The Creator of the universe and the Lord of lords
hanging on the cross!
The sun darkened and nature shook with wonder,
Wearing clouds of mourning
For Jesus' pain, suffering, and humiliation
For three hours.
Nature looked at the ingratitude of man,
And attested to his injustice,
Calling with a loud voice,
"Where are you son of man
And why are you hiding?"*

Man might say, "My sins are more than I can bear."

He does not know

That the righteous Jesus carried his sins for him

To guarantee his salvation.

O that you, man, may know and understand!

The Words of Jesus on the Cross

These words express

His overwhelming love for Mankind.

All His words point to an honest shepherd

Who sacrifices Himself for His flock.

Jesus uttered seven words,

Each of which refers to man's salvation

And his desire to reconcile with God.

His pain was of no importance,

Compared to His desire to reconcile man with God,

Therefore,

God set no limit to what He wanted to give him,

And He opened the heavens

For him to enter

And enjoy it forever with their loved ones.

Humanity

The state of humanity boils down to the case of the two thieves crucified on the right and the left of Jesus. The right hand thief sensed the righteousness of Jesus and consequently realized the extent of his sins, regretted his sins, and acknowledged his need for Jesus the Savior. He believed Jesus could save him, so he defended Him, and with all confidence asked Jesus for forgiveness, even though he did not feel he deserved it. That is why Jesus gave him more than he deserved and told him he would be with Him in paradise. As for the thief on the left, although he was in the same situation and in the same circumstances as the thief on the right, he did not acknowledge his sins,

but began to challenge and mock Jesus. He did not take responsibility for his own personal mistakes, but attributed all his torment to the inability of Jesus to save him; that is why he perished in his evils.

We have the freedom of choice that the Lord has granted us.

The Lord sees our sins and awaits our return to him, so that He can forgive us, erase our transgression, and remove our sins that have separated us from Him, then we will rejoice with Him in His heaven, which is full of joy, because we have returned to Him.

The Story of the Cross

This story is coming to an end and the crucified Christ is seen as a suffering and weak human being by the people and Satan, because they thought they were rid of him forever.

They did not understand, and did not know, that He was suffering and screaming, "I am thirsty," out of His love for us, as He likewise told the Samaritan woman, "Give me a drink," only because He wanted to give her the living water.

He paid with every drop of His blood, so as to fulfill all the requirements, in order to unshackle our chains and expel the evil spirits. He is the Lamb of eternal redemption who raises fallen humanity to eternal life with God. He conquered Satan and

opened the way of victory. At this point, He said, "It is finished," meaning the work of redemption is complete.

The Beloved Died on the Cross

My Lord Jesus Christ bowed His head and surrendered His soul into the hands of His Father.

He died instead of us. He was not the one who deserved to die, but rather we the sinners. He died to lift us up and to give us eternal life. His accusers thought He had died alone and His message had come to an end! They did not understand that when they stabbed His side with a spear, when water and blood flowed from His side to the ground, when He died, that He guaranteed eternal life to all those who believed in Him. At that moment, the graves opened and the bodies of the saints roamed around the city to declare that their chains had been broken and that this was the

beginning, not the end.

After Jesus' Death on the Cross

They brought down Jesus' body, after He died on the cross. Not many people were there to say goodbye. His mother embraced Him and kissed Him, and her tears poured down like torrents from her eyes. No bystanders could believe what had happened to Jesus. He did not deserve this, after He had sacrificed Himself for so many. Jesus healed the sick, fed the hungry, and treated everyone with unconditional love.

What we do not see is that there were crowds of angels standing around Him who were very astonished at what had happened to Him: the King of heaven and earth, who fills the universe died and was buried in a small grave! They looked at

man and marveled at his ingratitude.

As for Jesus,

He loved them, and Loves us, as He told His Father,

"Forgive them, for they do not know what they are

doing." And also, "I want these people to be with

me where I am." What a tremendous love that

boggles the mind!

This is the Father's love: He sacrificed His only Son

for us.

This is the Son's love: He suffered and died for our

sins in order to make us worthy of the Holy Spirit,

Who will live in us, guide us, teach us, and lead us

to Him.

Meditation on the Cross

Let us meditate on the cross and on the divine works performed for the sake of our salvation. No one could have done this work, even the angels, but

only the Holy God.

O sinful man, why do you not look and see how much pain and humiliation He who suffered because of your sins, the Holy and Righteous One, carried!

See how He loved you despite your corruption and defilement.

He did not find anyone who thanked Him, showed Him some gratitude, or spoke gentle words to Him.

O man, know that God does everything for your benefit and for your healing.

***Therefore, do not harden your heart, but humble
yourself and hurry back to Him asking for help,
begging Him, "Lord, what do You want me to do?"***

In doing so,

***He will hasten to help you and pave the true path of
life for you.***

