

V

To be present to oneself in order to be present before God means to lucidly assume the condition of man and grasp its dramatic aspect: hurled into life, in loneliness, half way to becoming, sometimes submerged under piles of interior blackness, incessantly immersed in ephemeral contingencies of all types, dispelling or disturbing, and yet, because of faith and fidelity, little by little achieving a life that becomes unique in its reality, consistency and stability. To be present to oneself in order to be present before God implies embracing the condition of man, giving thanks for it, thus affirming hope and faith.

- Irrelevant and ephemeral but necessary;
buried in immensity yet conscious;
lost in the innumerable but unique.

Immersed in complexity and ambiguity
but also essentially simple;

limited in every way in action and speech,
but each one, in himself, strictly, a mystery;

unfinished by nature and unceasingly perturbed,
yet with the potentiality of fulfillment.

Given over to the laws of matter and life,
hopelessly tied to the rhythms of time and space,
but free and responsible in our very centre.
Submitted to misfortune,

destined for death,
but called into being.

Alone amongst the lone,
rubbing shoulders more than knowing,
yet on the way to unity.

Improbable as soon as born,
increasingly more improbable whilst growing.

Groping before the inextricable,
stumbling before the impossible,
unceasingly inclined towards lesser being...

Through faith and fidelity,
in the midst of all the dispelling,
we live in stability;
in the midst of all that is corrupt,
we achieve our becoming with assurance.

- Inheritors of immense labour,
visited by a presence
which does not order but calls,
pushed, lifted, requested,
raised above our very selves,
emerging from slavery,
achieving freedom,
labourers of an endless future,
inseparable from You, my God,
we praise You.
Whatever our destiny,
even if miserable, even if tragic,
if we are, it is for your fulfillment.
That is our beatitude.

When we become purely ourselves,
occupying our place in reality,
beyond the doing and the resembling,
the pleasures and sufferings,
desires and projects,
concerns and distress,
we shall share the joy of being
with all those living
who go beyond the appetite of living,
those echoes of your happiness,
– Father –

So that we may really believe it,
despite all that denies it,
give us the strength to carry,
in your presence,
our miseries with dignity,
our greatness despite our weakness,
our unfolding being in its autonomy,
in the bosom of contingency
all throughout life.

Let our faith, in its nakedness,
for being deeply-rooted in us,
surpass our blindness.

Let our word, in its truth,
by its action in us,
secure our steps
along the path of the being.
Amen.