

THE POETRY OF FAITH

***“This is a difficult land. Here things miscarry.
Whether we care, or do not care enough...
this is a difficult country, and our home”.***

Edwin Muir

“Life is difficult”. Things happen. There are no guarantees. None of us is exempt.

But at our peril we place a greater value on never being hurt than on life itself.

Difficult – Yes! But this is our home,

calling us “not only to know where [we] are but to learn to love what [we] find there”.

To “be in the desert and let it bloom”. Kathleen Norris

All this is difficult, not only to live with, but to talk about. Poetry, according to the poet Roy Fuller, is “the communication/of that which cannot be told”. Which is pretty much what we experience when we pray. And why silence, while not an escape, becomes the place where we confront mystery.

***“What we have received
Is the ordinary mail of the other world, wholly common,
not post-marked divine”.***

Les Murray

***“To do ordinary things with a perception of their enormous value.
This, I think, is the mysticism that is to come”.***

Teilhard de Chardin

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The 17th century poet-priest George Herbert knew it: ***“Heaven in Ordinarie”***.
And Jacob woke up to it: ***“Surely the lord is in this place and I never knew it”***.

This is the sacramental way of life, where...

“Visible veils the invisible

Reveal, conceal”

Kathleen Raine