

THE POETRY OF FAITH

***“Mysteries must
Be our way of life. Without them we might
Stop trying to learn and hoping to succeed
In the work we half-choose and giving the
love we need.”***

Elizabeth Jennings

We are inescapably involved in mystery, inexhaustible truth, where we allow the ordinary to uncover its hidden energy and glory. It is best appreciated and described through the allusive medium of the imagination. We don't want more information: we want wonder.

“God does not die on the day when we cease to believe in a personal deity, but we die on the day when our lives cease to be illumined by the steady radiance, renewed daily, of wonder....”

Dag Hammarskjold

***“the mystery
that there is anything, anything at all,
let alone cosmos, joy, memory, everything
rather than void”***

Denise Levertov

Philip Carter is a retired Anglican Priest. He was the inaugural president of the Australian Ecumenical Council for Spiritual Direction (AECSD). He ran the Julian Centre in Adelaide, an independent and ecumenical centre for spirituality, from 1997-2009.

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With the Wise Men in W. H. Auden's *Christmas Oratorio*, we can follow the star to the nativity crib, and in the encounter with the humanity of Jesus, discover and value the gift of our own humanity.

***"To discover how to be human now
Is the reason we follow this star".***

W. H. Auden

***"Always, wherever, whatever, however,
When I am able to resist
For once the constant pressure of failure to exist,
Let me remember
That truly to be man is to be man aware of Thee
And unafraid to be. So help me God".***

David Gascoyne

One of the great mysteries of human life is freedom. Love, "the Great Asker", risks all so that we might find the courage to resist "the constant pressure of failure to exist". However strong the downward pull away from being and life seems there is a voice, deep within us, that calls us home to ourselves, to know who we are and **whose** we are.

Prayer is acknowledging that there is in every one of us a built-in capacity for the infinite.

Prayer is "God's breath in man returning to its birth".

George Herbert

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