

THE POETS OF GOD

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The famous philosopher Kierkegaard, who sincerely loved and adored Jesus, says: God has created two types of people – heroes and poets. Heroes are those people who are ready to become martyrs for their faith even by risking their lives. But the poets do not do anything dramatic or extraordinary like the heroes. They, the poets, write and sing about the great achievements and accomplishments of the heroes and their exemplary lives of sufferings and sacrifices for the sake of others. When the poets meet the heroes, they go into various cities and inform the people about the great deeds the heroes have done.

As far as we Christians are concerned, Jesus is our hero. We are His poets – poets who extol and share His love through our words, deeds and lives. This is called a life of witness (1 Jn 1:1). The life of the Samaritan woman is an example of this kind of life. When she met Jesus, she ran back to the city to tell the city dwellers what she had seen and witnessed. Thus she proclaimed Jesus. Because of her testifying, many Samaritans believed in Him (Jn 4:39).

God wants everybody to know about the free salvation Jesus brought for mankind through his Passion and Crucifixion. God wants the sacrificing, blood-spilling love of the cross to be shared by many. It is the duty of the poets, their mission, to share the love of God. It was the same mission that the Risen Lord entrusted to Mary Magdalene (Jn 29:17) and his disciples (Mk 16:15) on his first appearance. We can see Mary Magdalene in the Bible who carries out the instructions of the Lord

verbatim. Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord” (Jn 20:18).

The Lent is not the time to withdraw oneself from the world and live a lonely, solitary life doing just prayers and penitence, fasting and keeping abstinence. It is not the time only to contemplate the love of Jesus who died for us on the cross. It is also a time to partake in his love and, like him, share our lives with others. It is a time to take up work of sacrifices and share the love of God with others. It is then that we become entitled to the exalted position to be called the poets of God. It is then that we bear testimony to him. This Word of Jesus has to be inscribed in our mind as an everlasting souvenir. “You will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8). The poets of God have to write about and proclaim the love of God through their lives. The source of energy for that kind of testimony is the Holy Spirit himself.

The mission of the poets is to enlist admirers and followers for the heroes. It might look a bit of a paradox that the name and fame, the honour and glory, goes to the heroes, but for that it is the poets that toil and moil, work and wander, whittle and wither. Sometimes when the poets realize that they are not getting the reward and recognition for what they are doing, they start singing eulogies and encomiums for themselves and start propagating their own misconceived fallacies. This is their vain effort to transform themselves from mere poets into heroes. Let all the poets, the evangelists, who feel that they are not accorded proper recognition imbibe and inscribe in their hearts that they are only the poets, proclaimers, of Jesus. They should neither feel perturbed by persecutions nor proud by praises but should endeavour to be passionate poets who partake in the love of God, enabling others to participate and prosper in it.