

POEM OF THE WEEK

I AM A LOVER

Is this not, possibly, the biggest and most worthy
Of "I" statements? Mark me down as an "Aye"
In modern parlance, it might read as boastful
Of sexual prowess; it is not meant that way

It was not meant that at all! The verb is "to love"
"Lover" as being "one who loves". A category
That would include the bulk of humanity, you assert
I disagree. I do not mean it to be understood in that way

I do not mean it to be understood in that way at all
What do I mean? Let us consult 1 Corinthians, Chapter 13
Verses 4-8 from the Amplified Bible; in these verses
Paul of Tarsus uses the Greek term "Agape"

Which was translated as "Charity" by the King James Bible
But in modern translations, it has been replaced by "Love";
In verses 4-8, Paul admonishes the Corinthian Church for factionalism
And in four verses outlines what "Love" is, rather than isn't

Love endures with patience and serenity,
Love is kind and thoughtful,
and is not jealous or envious;
Love does not brag and is not proud or arrogant.

5It is not rude; it is not self-seeking,
It is not provoked, overly sensitive
and easily enraged; it does not take
into account a wrong endured.

6It does not rejoice at injustice,
but rejoices with the truth
[when right and truth prevail].
7Love bears all things

[regardless of what comes],
believes all things [looking for the
best in each one, hopes all things
[remaining steadfast during difficult times],

endures all things [without weakening].

8Love never fails [it never fades nor ends].
[Of the three graces, Faith, Hope and Love
Love is supreme]

The desire for, want of, or lust for is not included
This elevates Love to a higher plane
Power and domination are also not mentioned
Neither is greed, control of others or joy at another's

Adversity. Do you reckon I can deduce that?
I do, messieurs et mesdames, I do. I began this poem
With a statement, "I am a Lover." Where do we go
From here. Bloating your ego, even more??"

Mesdames et Messieurs, you have misunderstood me
Most surely, you have misunderstood me. Did I not say
Is this not, possibly, the biggest and most worthy
Of "I" statements? An "I" statement does not mean

I am self-centred, which means I take command and responsibility
For this act or statement, and the repercussions of it.
To choose "Love" as the motivating force is a decision
It is a demanding and challenging decision, with vows

Somewhat similar to marriage, "until the day I die".
The comparison to marriage opens up similes and metaphors
To say, "I am a Lover" is at best hypothetical, a goal and a journey
To say, "I love". A statement of intention as much as an honest attempt

A category that would include the bulk of humanity:
"Lovers," you have asserted? If so, I disagree.
If we accept 1 Corinthians 14. 4-8 has outlined what "Love" is
It has clearly defined what Love is not.

Do we live in a loving environment? No, sirs and madams, we do not
Our world is commanded by greed, governed by stupidity
In a race to the end of time, the human race. Is love supreme?
It is not. So, does it matter if one atom of this cosmos proclaims:

"I am a Lover.

You mightn't hear it over the screams of the embattled
The shouts of big industry, the screams of the stock exchange
Bartering lives, metals and bags of corn or wheat; playing Monopoly with
Our lives. People who have forgotten how to smile can only snarl

In the darkness, it is my wish to light a candle

To shine a light. To say, "I hope," I believe in humanity.
Do you know why the bad guys, the broken and empty people, scream?
To protect their fragile egos, they've become deaf. They can't hear.
It's all for a show, make-believe, pretend.

So why can't I proclaim
Somewhat quietly, "I am a Lover"?

Leslie D Bush
© 18 June 2022