

To Sin No More

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"TO SIN NO MORE"

IF YOU LEAVE THE DOOR OPEN,
THE DEVIL WILL COME IN.
I CANNOT SEEM TO SHUT THE DOOR
OF POSSIBILITY UPON HIM.

IF ONLY I COULD TAKE THE HANDLE,
SHUT THE DOOR, AND LOCK IT FAST -
THEN WOULD I FIND HAPPINESS
AND A PEACE THAT WOULD EVER LAST.

FOR I WOULD HAVE LOVE IN MY HEART
EACH AND EVERY DAY,
AND FROM HIS UNDYING GRACE
I WOULD NEVER TURN AWAY.

BUT AS IT IS I AM QUITE LOST
AND CANNOT FIND MY WAY.

A LIFE OF GRACE I WISH TO LEAD
UPON THIS EARTHLY PLANE;
AND I MUST TURN AWAY FROM SIN
IF I WISH TO LIVE AGAIN.

II

SIN IS THAT WHICH WE CREATE
BY OUR OWN HANDS;
IT IS THE WORK OF OUR IMAGINATION.

IN REALITY IS WHERE GOD EXISTS,
FOR GOD IS, BUT OUR IMAGINATIONS ARE NOT.
OUR IMAGINATIONS ARE OF FALSE LIGHT;
THE LIGHT OF GOD IS LIFE ITSELF.

TAKE MY IMAGINATION, O LORD,
AND THE SIN CREATED THEREBY.
LET ALL MY WORKS FIND THEIR SOURCE IN YOU,
AND NOT IN MY OWN MIND.
LET ME STAND IN YOUR TRUE PRESENCE
AND SERVE ONLY YOU, LORD.
I AM MADE IN THY IMAGE;
LET ME LIVE AS YOUR IMAGE, NOT MINE.

SIMPLIFY MY SOUL, O LORD.
SIMPLIFY MY SOUL.
LET ME NOT BE LED DOWN DARK
AND TWISTING PATHS,
BORN IN CONFUSION,
MADE BY MY IMAGINATION.

MAY THE PHANTOMS FLEE MY SIDE
AND YOUR TRUTH REST UPON ME.

AND SO, TO SIN NO MORE
WE MUST LOSE ALL ATTACHMENT
TO THE THINGS OF THIS WORLD
AND LAY DOWN OUR LIVES
IN THE LIGHT OF GOD.

III

I WOULD THAT I COULD SIN NO MORE,
BUT SO IMPOSSIBLE IT SEEMS;
I WOULD BE SO FREE OF THAT WHICH BINDS ME,
WERE I NOT CAUGHT UP IN DREAMS.

A FANTASY FLIES BY MY PERIPHERY -
A LITTLE SLEEP, A LITTLE DREAM...
AND SO MY IMAGINATION SERVES TO TAKE ME
EVER FURTHER FROM THEE.

THE WOOD OF THE CROSS IS WHAT IS REAL,
THE FLESH OF OUR MIGHTY GOD,
WHO LAID DOWN HIS LIFE THAT WE MIGHT SEE -
IN HIS SWEAT AND BLOOD IS REALITY.

WHAT SHALL WE DO, WE MERE MORTALS,
CRAWLING BETWEEN EARTH AND HEAVEN?
HOW SHALL WE WAKE FROM SINFULNESS
AND COME INTO THE LORD'S TRUE PRESENCE?

WHAT HOPE HAVE WE OF FINDING HIS WOUNDS,
IF IN THIS DARK ROOM BLIND WE BE?

IV

"VANITY OF VANITIES;
ALL IS VANITY."
AND I AM NOT SET APART THEREFROM;
I AM NOT A HOLY MAN.
BUT THE WAY OF THE WORLD RUSHES IN,
AND I DO FALL INTO ITS SIN -
INTO ITS VAIN IMAGININGS.

EMPTY OF HEART AM I
AND VAIN IN MY SOUL -
MY WORDS THEY DO NOT REACH TO HEAVEN.
HOW SHALL I TURN THE TIDE OF FUTILITY
AND BECOME A FRUITFUL SPRING?

DEFILED AM I
AND IN THE LORD'S HOLY TEMPLE -
HOW FAR ASTRAY SHALL I GO
BEFORE YOU CALL ME BACK, O LORD?

HUMBLED I SHALL BE
WHEN I SEE MY VANITY;
WHEN I KNOW THE TRUTH OF MY SIN,
HOW SHALL I STAND?
AND HOW SHALL I FIND YOUR SAVING HAND?

LEAVE ME NOT EMPTY
AND LEFT FOR DEAD, O LORD:
TAKE THE VANITY FROM ME.
FILL ME WITH THAT WHICH IS TRUE AND GOOD;
NOURISH MY SPIRIT WITH LIGHT -
ELSE THE ROOF SHALL FALL IN UPON MY LIFE.

V

TO WHAT GLORY WE ARE CALLED -
O WHAT THE LORD DOES HAVE IN STORE!
AND YET HOW FAR SHORT WE DO FALL,
AND SEEM TO HAVE NO WAY TO FIND MORE.

LIMITS WE PLACE UPON OURSELVES,
BARRIERS WE CANNOT BREAK;
FEAR THAT IN OUR LIVES
DOES TAKE UP A SECURED PLACE...

THESE WALLS WE FIND BEFORE OURSELVES,
KEEPING US FROM GRACE,
MUST INDEED BE TORN DOWN
AND BRIDGES TAKE THEIR PLACE.

FOR THERE THE LORD DOES WAIT FOR US
TO LEAVE BEHIND OUR SIN,
AND MAKE OF OUR ADULTEROUS LIVES
HIM OUR TREASURED POSSESSION.

LET GO. LET GO OF THAT WHICH HOLDS YOU.
HAVE FAITH IN THE WORD SO TRUE.
FEAR NOT TO COME UNTO HIM,
AND TO BE BORN ANEW.

THE GLORY WHICH AWAITS US
ALLOWS NO PLACE FOR SIN.

VI

SIN DOES CALL ME,
CALL ME TO ITS CLUTCHES,
SEEKING MY SOUL AND DOWNFALL -
DESIRING MY DEMISE.

SIN IT DOES FOOL ME -
FOOLING ME WITH ITS DEVICES,
SHADING MY EYES
FROM THE LIGHT OF CHRIST.

MY WIFE, THE BRIDE OF MY SOUL,
DOES SAVE ME;
HE SAVES ME FROM SIN'S DARKNESS -
JESUS SETS ME FREE FROM LIES.

VII

TURNING THE TIDE OF SINFULNESS,
CALMING THE WAVES OF PASSION'S FLAME,
STANDING COMPOSED ON THE LEVEL SHORELINE -
THE PURIFIED HEART SHALL BEAT AGAIN.

THOUGH OVERWHELMED BY SATAN'S INFLUENCE,
THOUGH INUNDATED WITH THE WATERS OF LUST -
THOUGH UNHOLY FIRE TAKE OUR ATTENTION,
WE SHALL RETURN TO POOLS OF LOVE.

I KNOW NOT HOW WE HAVE FALLEN SO FAR
OR WHY IT IS AS IT IS -
BUT I KNOW WHEN CHRIST IS REVEALED,
THERE WILL BE SIN NO MORE.

VIII

"TO SIN NO MORE":
HOW SHALL WE LIVE IT
EACH AND EVERY DAY?
TO MAKE COMPLETE THIS BLESSED CALL,
WE MUST THINK OF TODAY
AND NOTHING MORE.

FOR IF WE MAKE THIS DAY COMPLETE
IN THE BLESSINGS OF THE LORD,
IF WE CAN MAINTAIN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST
THROUGH OUR SINFUL LIVES -

WE SHALL KNOW THE COMMAND IS TRUE
AND CAN BE LIVED FOREVERMORE.

BUT EACH MOMENT INDEED WE MUST TURN AWAY
AND FIND CONFIDENCE IN OUR CALL;
FOR IF FAITH WE LACK AT ANY POINT,
THE DEVIL WILL ENTER AND TAKE ALL.

AND WE WILL BE SITTING WITH NOTHING LEFT
BUT OUR UNHOLY LIVES;
WE WILL HOLD NOTHING BUT SINFULNESS
IF THE MOMENT WE LET SLIP BY.

IX

TO SIN NO MORE.
TO SIN NO MORE
WOULD BRING SUCH SWEET CONTENT;
WHAT PURE HAPPINESS WE WOULD FIND
IF THIS WERE BY THE ANGELS SENT.

TO LIVE ETERNALLY SO FREE FROM LUST,
SO FREE FROM GREED AND ANGER -
SO FREE FROM ALL THESE WEIGHTS UPON US,
TO HEAVEN WE WOULD FLY.

AND SO, WE WOULD OPEN UP OUR EYES
TO SEE THE LIGHT ALL ABOUT US;
SO WE WOULD LIVE IN PEACE COMPLETE
FOREVER WITH SWEET JESUS.

X

TO SIN NO MORE
WE MUST LIVE EACH DAY WITH THE LORD;
OUR COMMITMENT MUST BE COMPLETE IN HIM.

NO TURNING TO THE LEFT,
NO TURNING TO THE RIGHT -
NO LEAVING THE DOOR OPEN
FOR THE DEVIL TO COME IN...

A FAITH SO WHOLE,
A SOUL MARKED BY SELF-CONTROL -
THERE IS LITTLE ELSE WE NEED.

TO LIVE DAY TO DAY...
THIS DAY ALONE IS SIGNIFICANT;
THIS DAY IS ALL WE HAVE.

AND IF SO PURE THIS DAY WE REMAIN,
WE SHALL NEVER SIN AGAIN.

EPILOGUE

AS LONG AS YOU ARE SPEAKING
WITH THIS HUMAN TONGUE,
YOU WILL BE IN SIN -
NEVER CLAIM PERFECTION WITH IT.

TO SIN NO MORE
COMES
FROM THE GRACE OF GOD ALONE,
NOT BY HUMAN CONTRIVANCE.

AND SO, NEVER NEGLECT
TO BEAT YOUR CHEST
AND CALL UPON FORGIVENESS;
ONLY THEN DO YOU DRAW NIGH
TO HIM.