

The Four Corners of the Universe

© 1992 James H. Kurt

If the Lord would bless me,
Now would I write succinctly
Of the four corners of the universe
And the essence of life itself.

Of the heart and mind would I write,
Of the body and soul –
And of the spirit.

Straight from my soul
Would I write this song,
A song with no need of revision.*

O Lord, please remain close by
Through the length of this labor.

*Once gone on to the next word,
Never do I correct any previous ones.

Of what shall I first write,
And how shall I begin,
To speak of the balance
Inherent in all things?

The soul, heart, mind, and strength
of Man
Find their source
In the sky, sea, sun, and earth
of Nature.

The head, legs, arms, and torso
Produce peace, love, wisdom,
and strength
By way of poetry, dance, music,
and drama.

And so does life go...

I

The Man of the West
Is of Peace.
His Soul is in Nature;
He breathes the winds of the sky.

The Spirit of God is strong
Within him,
For he is closest to the source
Of Life.

He is one with Nature,
One with Man, one with God.
He chants in reverence
His sacred song, his poetic soul.

He is the leader, the Head, of Man.

II

The Man of the South
Is of Love.
His Heart is eminently human;
He hears the waves of the sea.

The Love of God bleeds
Inside him,
For he is immersed in the compassion
Of Life.

He cares deeply for Nature,
For Man, and for God.
He flows with penitence
Through his blessed motions,
his graceful dance.

He is the mover, the Legs, of Man.

III

The Man of the East
Is of Wisdom.
His Mind is clear as a machine;
He sees the rays of the sun.

The Light of God shines
Through him,
For he is schooled in the knowledge
Of Life.

He comprehends Nature,
Man, and God.
He plies in patience
His healing art, his skillful music.

He is the practitioner, the Arms, of Man.

IV

The Man of the North
Is of Strength.
His Body bears the weight of the world;
He eats the fruit of the earth.

The Power of God is present
Upon him,
For he is founded in the substance
Of Life.

He is the fulfillment of Nature,
Of Man, of God.
He performs with humility
His talented actions, his dramatic work.

He is the doer, the Torso, of Man.

The soul, heart, mind, and strength
are intertwined and overlapping,
dependent upon one another
for their very existence.

They can hardly be separated,
except in this theoretical context.
Could the head, legs, arms, or torso
be separated from the other three
and survive, and have life?

Neither can the Man of the West,
the Man of the South, the Man of the East,
or the Man of the North
be separated from his brothers
and thrive alone.

We must strive together to succeed.
We must be whole within ourselves

and among ourselves
to find ourselves in the hand of God.

Final Words...

The four seasons
balance
to form a year.

Evening, afternoon,
morning, and night
balance
to form a day.

And in each of the four
may be found the dominance
of one of the four elements -
air, water, fire, earth.

Wherein is also the dominance
of one of the four parts of Nature -

thus forming the four kinds of Man.

And on the head of man
are the four organs of reception –
the nose, ears, eyes, and mouth.
(And touch is the quintessential sense;
all the senses are touch.)

And within also are four
principal organs –
lungs, heart, brain, stomach –
which constitute the four
principal systems – respiratory,
circulatory, nervous, digestive.
(Reproductive is the quintessential system.)

And these support the four
parts of the human body –
the head, the legs, the arms, the torso.
Thus is outlined the spiritual,

emotional, intellectual, and physical
parts of our being.

And the four parts of Nature
(sky, sea, sun, earth)
and its seasons, elements,
and times of day;
And the four kinds of Man
(West, South, East, North)
and his senses, systems,
and body parts;
And the four Arts
(poetry, dance, music, drama)...

All correspond and balance,
one forming the next
and, in the end, forming the four
qualities of life – peace, love, wisdom,
and strength.

Thus must we love God

with soul, heart, mind, and strength,
and be an image of God,
the Creator of all.