

PSALM 104

Psalms for Praying, Nan Merrill

Bless the Radiant One, O my soul!
O Heart of my heart, You are so very great!
You are clothed with justice and mercy,
arrayed in Light as your fine attire.
You stretch over the heavens like a tent,
your Radiance covering the waters.
You shine through the clouds,
and ride on the wings of the wind.
The wind, like the Breath of Life,
carries your Word,
Fire refines the dross of our souls.

You set the earth on its foundations,
strong and secure.
You covered it with the deep like a garment,
with many waters that life might come forth.
At your Word, the waters divided,
becoming rivers and lakes and mighty oceans;
storms came to ensure the balance and to renew the earth.
The mountains rose, the valleys became low
in the places that You did appoint.
You brought harmony to all the earth,
that life might spring forth in abundance.

You created springs to flow into the valleys;
they flow between the hills.
Giving drink to every creature of the field,
quenching their thirst as your Living Water quenches ours.
With the air, You have given birds their habitation;
they sing among the branches.
The majesty of Creation is seen throughout the land,
the sounds of Creation mingle with the music of the spheres.

Through your Word, grass came forth for the cattle,
and plants for us to cultivate,
That we might have food from the earth,
and wine, the fruit of the vine,
Oil and healing herbs of many varieties,
and bread, our daily sustenance.
The tress are watered abundantly and with the sun,
provide the air we breathe.
Every living creature has its home:
the birds nest in trees,

the wild goats upon the mountaintop;
even the rocks provide protection.
You created the moon to mark the tides and seasons,
the sun, that rises and sets in beauty.
In darkness, when night comes,
the creatures of the forest roam the earth.
They eat their fill, each according to their need.
You provide their food.
When the sun rises, they disappear from sight
and lie down in their dens.
As your people go forth to their work,
You are there to guide them.

O You, who know all hearts, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom You have created them all;
the earth is filled with your creatures.
We look to the seas, great and wide,
which teem with life innumerable,
helping to maintain the balance.
O, that we might receive your gifts,
taking only what is needed with grateful hearts.

All of creation looks to You,
to give them food in due season.
When we are in harmony with You,
the earth provides;
yes, a bountiful harvest to be shared with all.
When we misuse what You have created for us,
we blame You for the famine and
destruction that ensues,
and feel alienated from You.
Even so, You continue to send forth your Spirit, and
the earth, though not without turmoil, is renewed.

The glory of the Radiant One endures forever,
for the works of Love are sure.
You are ever-present to us, even as the earth trembles,
even as the mountains spew forth ashes and smoke!
I will abandon myself into your hands as long as I live.
I will sing praise to You while I have breath.
May my meditations be pleasing to You,
for I rejoice and am glad in You.
May all who feel separated from You
open their hearts to new Life!
Praise the Creator of the Universe!
Bless the Heart of my heart, O my soul! Amen.

