

THE  
SOLITARY  
DEVOTIONAL

THE WORSHIP LEADER

Preparation:

- All materials should be removed from the study table with the exception of the centerpiece, devotionals, and pencils.
- Make sure each participant has a pencil.
- Have your meditative selection ready to read.
- Know the contemplation category for the evening. They are listed below.

Execution:

- Ring bell and prepare your own space for worship--others will follow your example.
- Say the whole ascription.
- Ring bell and read meditative selection without announcing its origin.
- When everyone seems ready, proceed by ringing bell and announcing contemplation category for the evening:

Jan.	Water	June	Sun
Feb.	Trees	Sept.	Jungle
Mar.	Fire	Oct.	Rain
Apr.	Desert	Nov.	Volcano
May	Rocks	Dec.	Snow

- Ring the bell--"Let us write our prayer..".
- When everyone again seems ready, ring the bell and proceed to put away your screen and close your devotional. Pause and begin reciting The Lord's Prayer.



## SYMBOLS OF WORSHIP

Each meeting shall have a worship center which contains the following symbolic items:

- the altar cloth depicting the season of the church year by its appropriate color.
- the mystery figure reflecting the central focus of the study.
- the candle symbolizing the light found in this world.
- the scattered stones discerning our own creaturliness and spilled-outness.

Each meeting shall close with solitary devotions which include:

- the meditative selection to be read from the study book.
- the rood screen to be used to mark our individual sacred space.
- the bell to be rung to call us to participate in the different categories of our solitary.
- the devotional to be used to record our current thoughts.

## MEDITATION

A review of the interior voices that all of us hear. We have an inherent community--those we think of frequently as well as those we disagree with. The intent of meditation is to give opportunity to bring to self-consciousness our meditative council. Those we call to mind, for instance, when making an important decision, fall into four personalities:

SAINT-----exemplification  
MEDITATOR--permission  
PRIOR-----demand  
COLLEAGUE--collaboration

## CONTEMPLATION

The Japanese culture understood the category of contemplation and reflected this understanding through poetry. Haiku is a simple verse using three lines.

- first line has five syllables naming a natural phenomenon.
- second line has seven syllables describing the natural phenomenon.
- third line has five syllables linking our life with the natural phenomenon.

Examples of Haiku:

Trees without light, die  
The source of their strength is gone  
God, we all need light.

Water reflects life  
Mirrors it for all to see  
Some refuse to look.

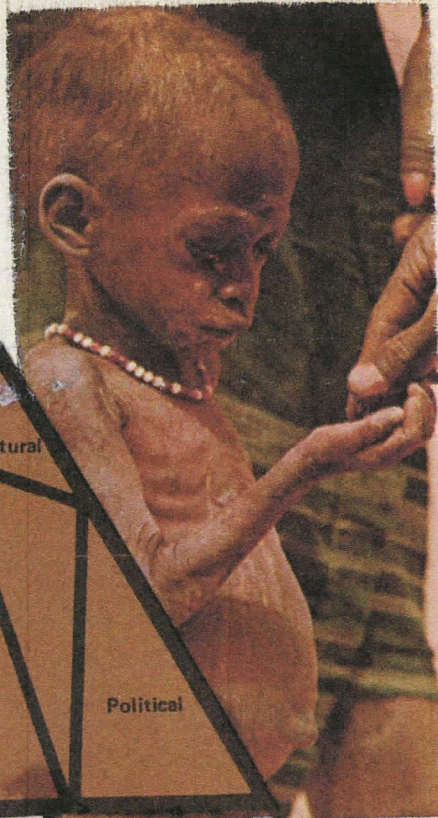
Wind comes through the trees  
As dangerous intrusion  
What is wind for me?

## PRAYER

The classical form of prayer can be described as thus:

- the address (to whom): Almighty God, Dear Lord, Heavenly Father, etc!
- the description of that being addressed! who has created us all in your image!
- the formal category (choose one for your prayer)
  - confession--sin
  - gratitude--dependence
  - petition--surrender
  - intercession--obligation
- promise (the why)
- salutation (through whom)

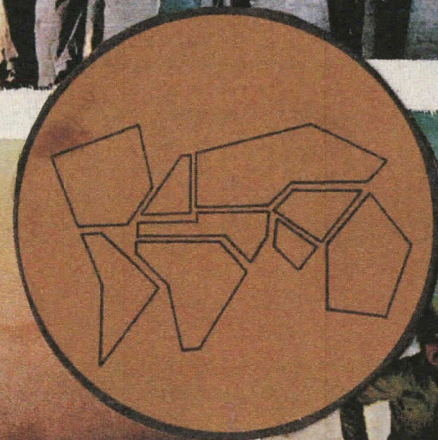




Cultural

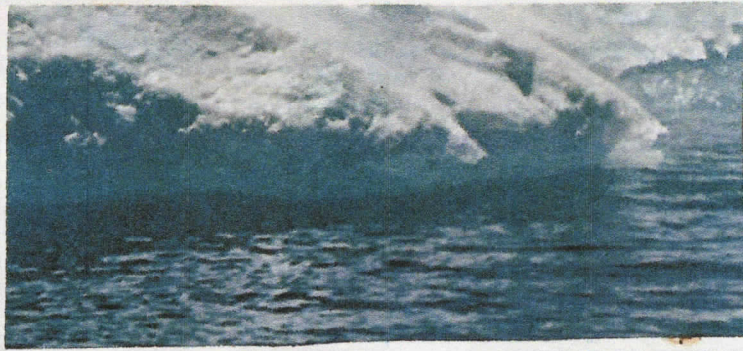
Economic

Political





## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

### Water

Water is pure, clear.  
It brings refreshment to me.  
Beginnings are pure!

## PRAYER

Dear God, who listens to all  
my petty askings, deliver me  
from all unworthy callings  
that I may be fresh and  
ready to serve thee in new  
areas through Jesus Christ, my  
lord. Amen.

## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

### Trees

Trees without light die  
the source of their strength  
is gone.  
God, we all need light!

## PRAYER

O God, who sees the struggles  
of us all and pronounces  
it good, stamp out my  
arrogance with each new  
success so that I realize  
I am only a channel of Thy  
love. Amen.



## MEDITATION

"man is like grass and  
the wind passes over  
it and it is no more"

## CONTEMPLATION

### Wind

The wind blows harshly.  
over the ages of time.  
The church must hear it.

## PRAYER

O God, who makes the wind  
to blow I know it must  
come and that I am strengthen-  
ed by it - Keep my sense  
of mission clear when the  
forces seem too strong. Amen.

## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

### Hills

The smoothed hills are old,  
older than the craggy mounts  
Hallow their timed wornness.

## PRAYER

Dear God, knower of my every  
sin, I have sinned many  
times today - vanity being the  
greatest - help me not only  
to recognize my sin but  
to act upon it. Amen



## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

### Snow

The snow comes softly.  
Cov'ring the ground with white-  
ness.  
Will I be hurried?

## PRAYER

O God, who is ever mystery to  
me, I am grateful for that  
mystery that prods me and  
keeps me ever before the task.  
I thank you for this year  
of my life in the name of  
Jesus the Christ who did so much  
in his short life time. Amen.

## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

### Desert

The desert is bare  
For miles it's void of all life  
No, I am wrong, see!

## PRAYER

Dear Lord, who shows me  
down and raises me up  
again, this is a down time.  
Help me to see life in the  
distance - hope for the future  
as did Jesus, my Lord, and  
something in each encounter

Amen.



## MEDITATION

For one who is a nitly -  
gitty person, it is under-  
standable that I only see  
the ground beneath me -  
only a person of vision looks  
as far as the horizon.

## CONTEMPLATION

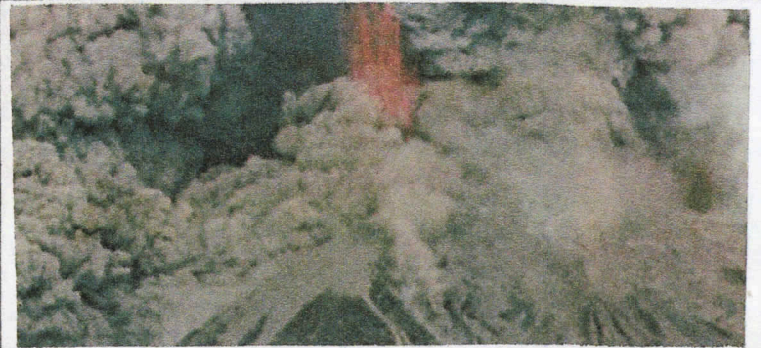
### Desert

Desert is barren  
But then a flower appears  
My thoughts can hold both.

## PRAYER

Dear God sustainer of us all,  
I come this evening with  
unspeakable joy for the  
richness I have experienced  
through the lives that have  
touched mine. I am truly  
grateful. Amen.

## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

### Volcano

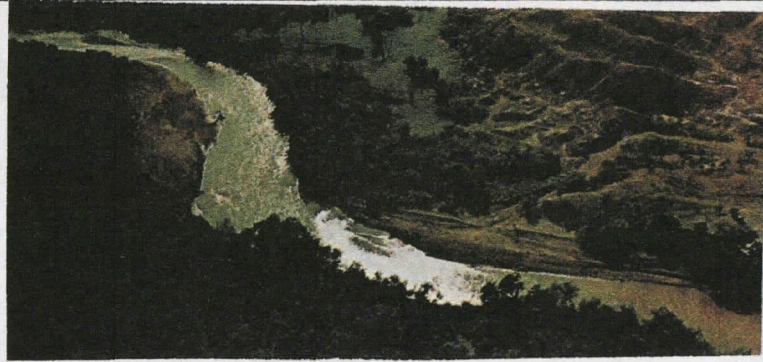
The eruption comes  
Hot, melting and destructive  
Winds can come like that.

## PRAYER

O God, who shows me signs  
continually but I sometimes  
refuse to look, open my eyes  
to every situation and bring  
it down that I might truly  
be a blessing in your sight  
Amen.



## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

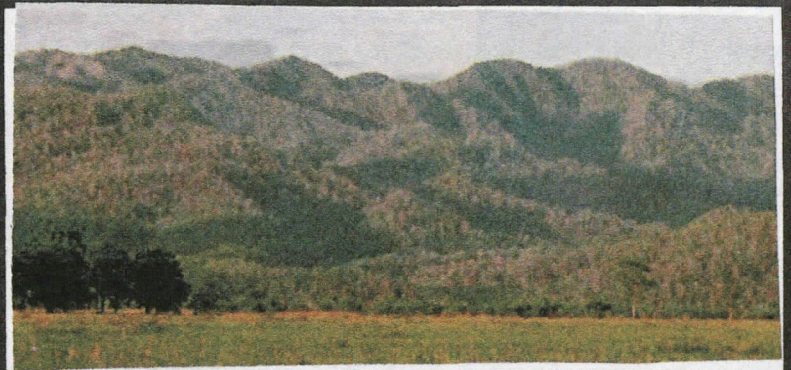
### Valley

When valleys run deep  
Floods come rushing in  
to drown  
Yet lives are lived there.

## PRAYER

Gracious God, I say I can  
stand in the midst of my  
enemies and yet I fear.  
Keep my

## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

### Hills

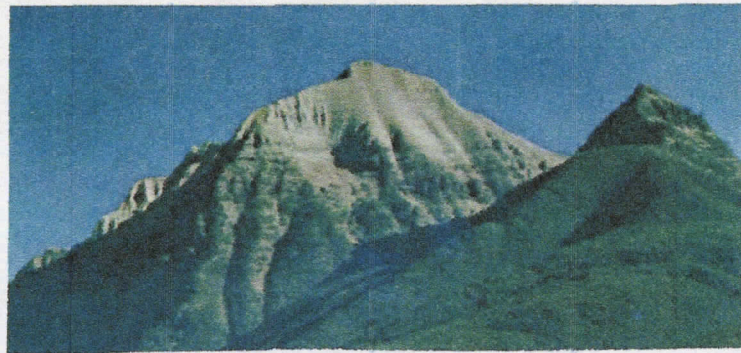
Drums can be heard  
over the far distant hills  
Are they calling me?

## PRAYER

O God, I am jubilant tonight  
my heart soars and yet  
I know nothing has really  
changed. Help me transform  
what I can and be  
faithful. Amen.



## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

### Earth

Unstable is earth  
as I stand before it now  
Stabilize me, Lord.

## PRAYER

O God who is aware of all even  
before I ask, let me not  
shut out the world in my  
disquiet and cynicism but  
may I be open to new possi-  
bilities even as Jesus seized every  
moment as an opportunity. Amen.

## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

### Jungle

Dark and thick and damp  
Mystery is everywhere  
How am I to cope?

## PRAYER

Dear God, the one who sent Jesus  
as my example for coping with  
reality, be with me when I  
want to withdraw from life  
as it is give me a new sense  
of direction drawing upon the  
teachings of others rather than  
myself. Amen



## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

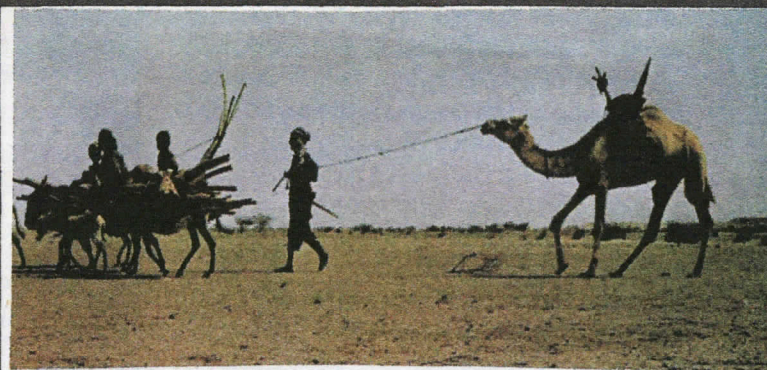
### Trees

Trees have lost their leaves  
And stand barren in the cold  
Without loss, no gain.

## PRAYER

Dear God, I have always  
known you to come to the  
aid of what is right—show  
me a sign soon.  
Amen.

## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

### church

The church stands erect,  
and yet inside its hollow  
Build from within—NOW!

## PRAYER

Oh God, your church does  
need to be a sign in the  
world—its shallowness must  
be smashed. Is there a way  
to "gut it" and rebuild. Help  
us in that task. Amen.



## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

### Water

Water moves in life  
With a great force or stillness  
We must move like it.

## PRAYER

O Lord, comforter of all, bless  
this night the Emig family  
help them to embrace death  
as part of life through Jesus  
Christ. Amen.

2-24-79

## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

Each finds work to do  
God gives each of us a task  
Will we accept it?

## PRAYER

I find just getting well  
a very difficult task. I  
would like for you to give  
me another one Lord, but  
you always seem to know  
what pushes me on. Amen.



## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

### Fire

The fire burns brightly  
But soon becomes charred ashes  
I, too, already burn.

## PRAYER

O God, who sent your son  
to show us the way, help  
me burn myself out  
for thee, in the name of  
the one who gave all he had.  
Amen.

## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

### Water

Water can drown me  
But I can drown in life too.  
To drown is the task.

## PRAYER

O hard giver of all life I  
need to concern myself with  
the problems of the city. Help  
me to vision that task in  
the name of one who showed  
great concern for all peoples and  
understood his Jerusalem. Amen.



## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

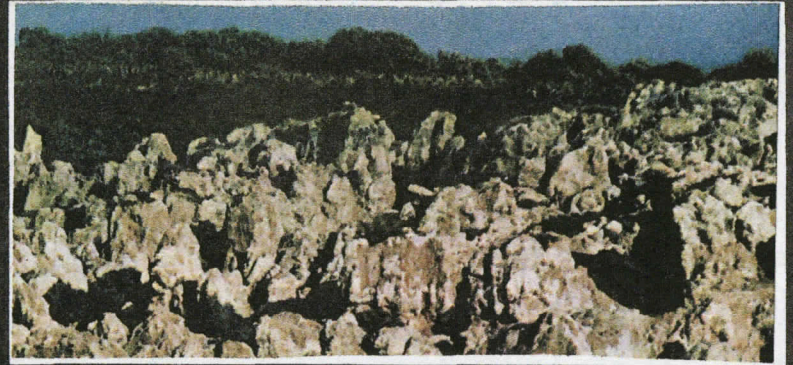
### Water

The water from the falls  
Descends from high places  
Look up and have faith.

## PRAYER

Dear God, it's been a difficult  
day not knowing where my  
future lies, but Lord, help  
me to know I can put my  
trust in thee - that I  
have done all that can be  
done. Amen.

## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

### Rocks

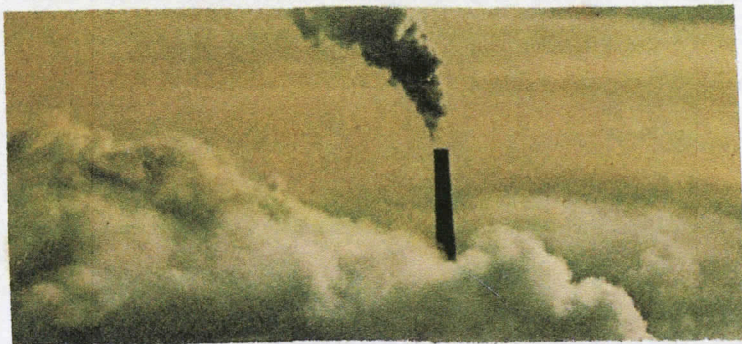
Rocks are solid stuff  
yet they too can crumble down  
all things pass away.

## PRAYER

O Lord, my provider + protector,  
remember me on my journey.  
Keep the evil of tiredness  
away. Help me to be thy  
example to all I teach in  
the name of the one true  
teacher, Jesus Christ. Amen.



## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

### Air

Our air is smog filled  
and yet we must hallow it  
It's all we have now.

## PRAYER

O God, who knew man should  
not live alone, marriage is both  
exhilarating and discouraging,  
help me to better articulate  
my inner most feelings so  
that the best possible might  
come from our union.  
Amen.

## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

### Fire

Fire suddenly comes -  
How quickly detach yourself  
from all that exists

## PRAYER

O God, as one who hears every  
prayer, show me the way  
of giving meaning to the life  
of another and therefore  
my own. Amen.



## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

### Trees

Trees show strength to me  
Their roots grow deep in the  
ground.  
In sparseness they die.

## PRAYER

## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

### Winter

Some say I am cold  
But beneath the icy sheet  
I, too, can bring life

## PRAYER

O God, Forgiver of all  
imperfect people, help  
me in my imperfection  
in the name of the one  
who loved all sinners.  
Amen.



## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

### Pond

The pond reflects life  
as a mirror to another  
our task is the same.

## PRAYER

O God, the One who constantly  
puts decisions before me  
and then sustains me in  
those decisions, help me to  
see thy will, to question  
my actions & my motives that  
I might always be a blessing to thy  
men.

## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

### Hills

Each hill is unique  
its shape unlike any other.  
Like the human form.

## PRAYER

Dear God, grant me utter  
awareness of those about  
me who are experiencing  
loneliness, pain, sorrow —  
let me so minister to them  
and they to me — that's what  
it means to be human. Amen.



## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

Rocks  
Once the rock was large.  
Now its in bits and pieces  
I, too, have been chipped.

## PRAYER

Dear God —  
I am still here!

## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

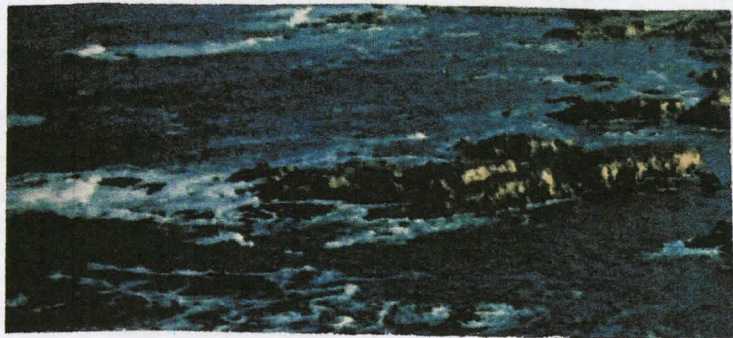
Fire  
The fire within me  
Burns as brightly as any  
other  
Bring sustaining fuel.

## PRAYER

Dear God, many years ago  
as a child I made a pro-  
mise to you — childlike I  
come again renewing my  
dedication to the work of  
renewing thy church.  
Amen.



## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

### Water

on top, water mirrors  
Deep down death comes  
quickly  
already I sink.

## PRAYER

O God, He <sup>my</sup> who sustains  
us all, my needs are  
many and some I do  
not wish to rid myself  
of, help me to fully know  
I must let go - Amen.

## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

### Earth

The earth is frozen  
Self contained beneath  
the ground.  
soon new life will come.

## PRAYER

O Lord, why am I constant-  
ly thrown into situations  
in which I do not wish  
to compete?



## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

### Trees

Wind comes through the trees  
as dangerous intrusion  
What is wind for me?

## PRAYER

O kind, hearer and forgiver of  
all unfavorable deeds I have  
not struggled this week as  
I know is necessary for the  
journey. Help me to constantly  
be in the struggle. Amen.

## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

### Glacier

The glacier stands tall  
Reverent, a thing of beauty  
Yet moving - death comes!

## PRAYER

Dear God, I know not from  
whence I come or where  
I am going and yet I am  
responsible for my direction  
here on earth, help me, like  
a glacier not to sever from  
this path. Amen.



## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

Trees  
In storm the old trees  
Gnarled from years of  
living  
Suddenly expire!

## PRAYER

O Lord, whose patience with  
thy people is overwhelming,  
help me to know that all  
things do not move as rapid-  
ly as I would wish. I am  
not in control - give me patience  
Amen!

## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

Glacier  
The glacier stands here  
Monument of iciness  
Honor it or die.

## PRAYER

Dear God help me keep  
the global ever before me  
as I so want to stay  
parochial.  
Amen.



## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

### Desert

In the far distance  
I vision a restful oasis  
Is it a mirage?

## PRAYER

Dear God, today I saw  
possibility from our years  
of struggle & it was but  
one and yet that one will  
keep me on my course.  
Thank you. Amen.

## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

### Ice

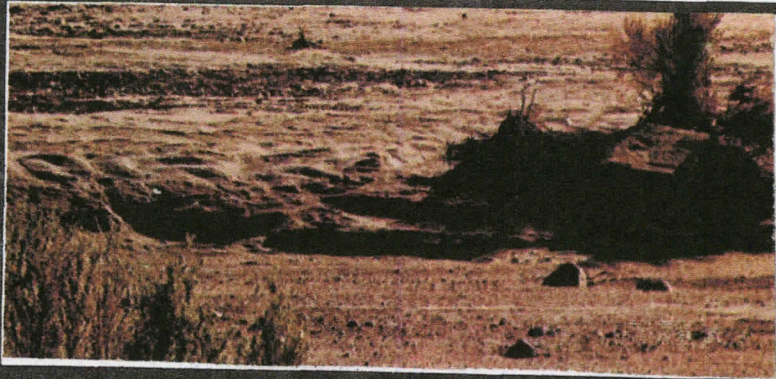
Ice comes forth rolling  
Rolling over all in its  
path.  
Lift me upward, Lord.

## PRAYER

O Lord, one who sustains  
us in our decisions help  
me to be that sign that  
I refuse to be - help me  
to see my greatness  
Amen.



## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

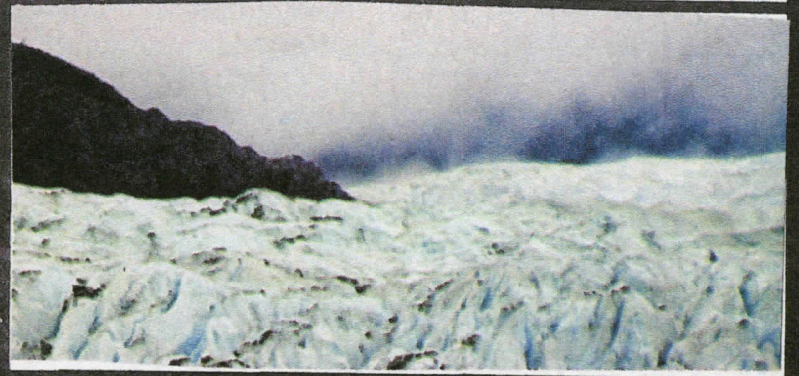
### Desert

The flower blooms fair  
out in the arid wasteland  
I, too, can bloom there.

## PRAYER

Dear God - we are truly grate-  
ful for all thy blessings  
for our study time together  
that brings us new insights.  
Make us aware of all the  
subtle ways of showing thyself  
Amen.

## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

### Glacier

Many-sized glaciers come  
in the midst of our own lives  
To love them is life.

## PRAYER

Dear God, comforter of us all  
sometimes I am too selfish  
to act as a comforter to  
others I love most deeply.  
Help me to be more sensitive  
Amen.



## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

### Rain

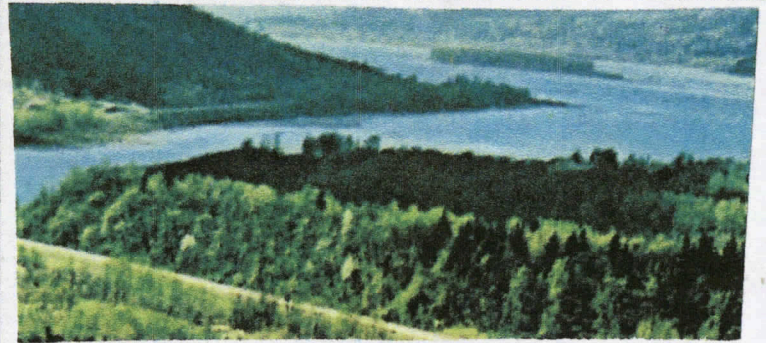
Rain washes things clean  
Words from thee wash over me  
and I am made new.

## PRAYER

Dear God, help me to know  
what I am able to do —  
don't let me shrink from all  
I can be — let there be  
a calmness within me.

Amen

## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

### air

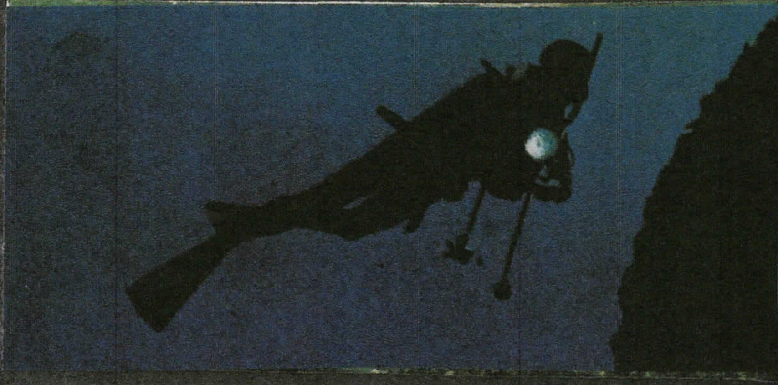
We breathe without thought  
It is taken from us there  
We understand life.

## PRAYER

O God, we have that sinking  
feeling again. There is so  
much we want to do — we  
burden ourselves so heavily  
help us to keep a cool head  
and see this light. Amen.



## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

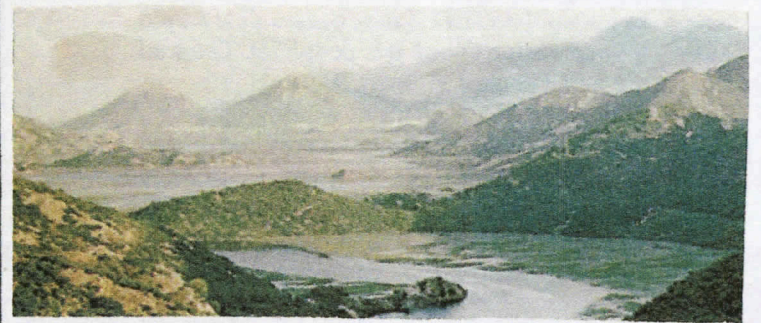
Sea

Go beneath the sea  
New worlds open up to you.  
Yet I am afraid.

## PRAYER

Dear God, who knows my petitions  
even before I ask, don't let  
me go to sleep - keep me ever  
aware to new challenges  
and possibilities in the name  
of the one who seizes every  
opportunity. Amen.

## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

Water

The water is deep  
And I do not swim too  
well.  
Begin by jumping!

## PRAYER

Dear God - I do have some splendid  
ideas - those that I nurture  
periodically - keep me constantly  
aware of them and command  
me through Thy servants to  
creatively deal with them. Amen.



## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

### Trees

Each tree is different  
as it stands among the others  
Irreplaceable!

## PRAYER

O God, who knowest my needs  
even before I ask, grant me  
a peace and steadfastness  
in the midst of the battle  
knowing that the final  
outcome will be acceptable in  
thy sight. Amen.

## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

### Volcano

The volcano erupts  
Run quickly for safety  
There is no escape!

## PRAYER

Lord help me to hold on - help  
me to see my gifts so I am  
not paralysed by my un-  
gifts - let me be something  
for Thee. Amen.



## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

Jungle

Dark and thick it is -  
and it beckons me to come!  
Sheer fascination!

## PRAYER

Dear God, the one who is sustainer  
of us all, I come as one of your  
children asking for help in  
the utter chaos in which I  
exist - knowing that to create  
order I must be in constant prayer  
in the name of the one who taught  
us to pray. Amen.

## MEDITATION

## CONTEMPLATION

Fire

And as the ashes  
Return to the earth once  
more  
new fires will soon burn!

## PRAYER



## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

### Water

Now the water flows,  
At other times it stands firm  
The time determines.

## PRAYER

O God, my vices are truly splendid, I have so many and they are so entrenched. Help me to deal with them so I might move on to more important things—in the name of the greatest illusion popper of them all, Jesus Christ Amen.

## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

### Earth

The earth is transformed  
By caring, loving people  
When will that day come?

## PRAYER

O God, comforter and sustainer of us all, console us in our grief that we might truly understand that death, too, is a necessary part of thy plan in the name of the One who went to his death as a free man. Amen.



## MEDITATION

"The water that I shall give him will be an inner spring always swelling up for eternal life."

## CONTEMPLATION

### Water

Last night a man drowned  
air was given by another  
still life was taken.

## PRAYER

Oh, mysterious one, who has granted us life for yet another year I ask that I might live that year creative. In the name of the one whose life was creativity  
Amen.

## MEDITATION

## CONTEMPLATION

### Air

The air is muggy  
far can be felt everywhere  
mystery is there.

## PRAYER

O God I acknowledge the sin of this past week - the separation has been almost more than I could bear - help me in my unbelief to know that you have called us to struggle in this struggle. Amen.



## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

### Rocks

Rocks are corporate forms  
standing together as one  
on this rock - the church.

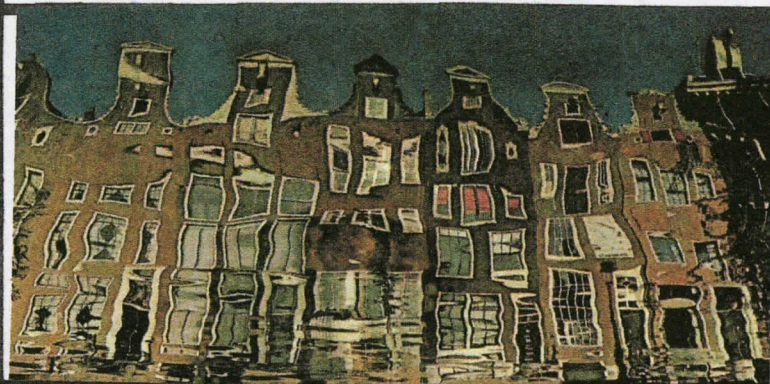
## PRAYER

Gracious God help ease my  
sorrow for this thy church  
help her to see a corporate body  
with a common vision is the  
only way she can be a thrust  
in life. Amen.

2-22-79

## MEDITATION

5:30 AM.



## CONTEMPLATION

Terror or calmness  
one must decide at each  
turn  
Her state of being

## PRAYER

Though I have experienced  
both, O God, I thank Thee  
that the gift of calmness  
came at the precise time I  
needed it the most. Amen.



## MEDITATION

2-25-79



## CONTEMPLATION

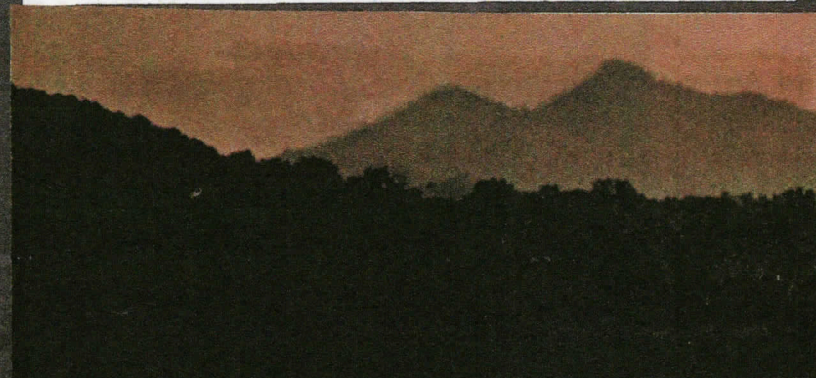
The top of the ridge  
I see it within my grasp.  
Many helped with the climb.

## PRAYER

Oh, God, you knew that  
man was not made to  
be alone. I give thanks for  
all who helped me  
with the climb back  
to wholeness. We truly are  
brothers & sisters in the faith. Amen.

2-23-79

## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

Among the shadows  
I travel inward-outward  
Soon the bright day comes.

## PRAYER

How much we take those  
bright days for granted.  
O Lord, until we fall  
into the shadows. Help me  
to be thankful for both. Amen.



4-14-79  
Saturday

## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

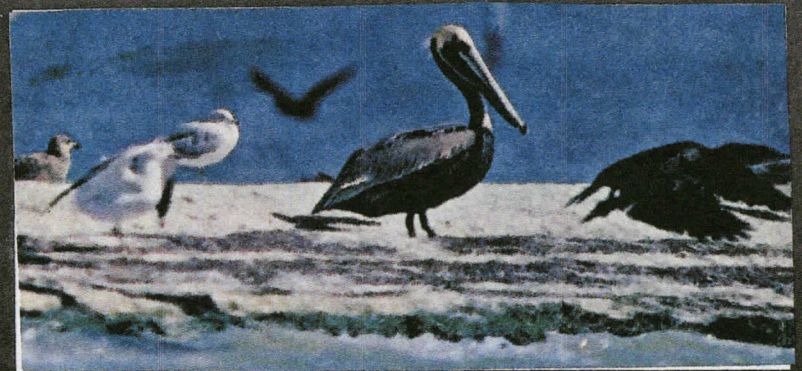
If a bright star falls  
Disappears from the heavens  
Is it gone forever?

## PRAYER

And they buried Jesus in  
a borrowed tomb - I know  
it was not the end - his  
power reached beyond the  
grave - disciples then & now  
continue his teachings - Lord  
help me to brightly shine. Amen

4-13-79  
Good Friday

## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

Unique is his life  
As he stands among others  
A fisher of men

## PRAYER

I thank thee, God, on  
This Good Friday, for Jesus'  
humanness. "Let this cup  
pass from me." I can identify  
with that - teach me now  
to say "Thy will be done." Amen



10-24-81

## MEDITATION



## CONTEMPLATION

*The mountain of care  
steep is its climb, but  
I must  
Because it is there.*

## PRAYER

*Lord, let me be free of the  
emotional tiredness that  
I feel - it bog me down,  
It interferes with my care  
It's been a long climb but  
a journey I chose. Amen*