

Hope: A Trail of Light in the Night

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In the sunken trough of the abyss, on the path of despair
I moan, I am out of breath
I am troubled and my mind questions

God, will I see your kindnesses in the land of the living?
Do you forget to have pity?
Why do you remain deaf to my call?

Absent God, Hidden God, I persevere in hoping
From the depths of darkness, your silence becomes presence
I believe. My Defender is alive

In the struggle of faith, overcoming doubt
Advancing with you, completely raw Hope
Being silent, hoping against hope

The darkness crushes me
But darkness is changing into light
And night is illuminated like day

Suffering extends over my entire being
And although suffering continues to envelop me, within me arises a song of praise
The Lord has given, the Lord has taken away. Blessed be his name

Hope in suffering
Getting out of oneself, allowing oneself to be pruned, hurt
Opening oneself up to the other's suffering, having compassion, suffering for love

Suffering shared, awakens hope
Makes *being-with* in solitude
Way of humanity where love attains the beyond

Hope, you make a promise to yourself
Whoever hopes in the Lord, will never be disappointed
His Word never returns to him without having achieved what it was sent to do

Hope of all hope
In faith, you make me walk farther than fear
Towards the light at the end of the darkness

Redemptive hope
I recognize you in the face of Jesus-made-man
Where the Spirit of the Father has revealed Himself Love

Whoever hopes is touched by Love

Burning with an inner flame
That nothing can separate from the love of God in Jesus Christ

In my flesh, I complete what is lacking in the trials of Christ
Let your will be done and not mine
Father, into your hands I commit my life

With the strength of the Spirit, my will leaves itself
With a free and poor heart, charity expands and purifies itself
In communion with the All Other and with others

Hope of God, loving and faithful
Conduit of the eternal covenant in Jesus Saviour
This is my blood, the blood of the new and eternal covenant spread wide for you

With you Hope, death is dead in the sepulcher. Love has killed it forever
The light passes through the shroud, the sun radiates in the night¹
Certitude of eternity in the love of the risen Christ!

For further reflection....

Biblical texts: Psalm 26; 76:4-10; 138:11; Job 1:21; 19:5; Isaiah 49:23; 55:10-11; Luke 22:42; 23:46; Romans 8:39; Colossians 1:24; Matthew 26:28.

Pope Benedict XVI, Encyclical Letter *Spe Salvi*, (on Christian Hope), November 30, 2007.

¹ Jacques Gauthier, « Jusqu'à l'extrême de l'amour », dans *Les croix du chemin*, éd. Du Passage, 2007, p. 62.