

A LENTEN MANUAL
FOR 1968

INTIMATIONS
OF
GRANDEUR

Meditations by Jacob Trapp



THE LINDSEY PRESS

Howard Hays
Dec 1983
(Loyd & F.O.C.)



www.unitarian.org.uk/docs

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Jacob Trapp

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The Lindsey Press, 1-6 Essex Street, London WC2

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Agents for the USA and Canada:
The Department of Publications,
Unitarian/Universalist Association,
25 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.

Designed by Grenville Needham

Cover by Annette Percy

Set in Monotype Blado and Poliphilus

Printed by J C Culpin in Leicester

ACCEPTANCE

*Let me be inwardly
Attuned to thy harmony,
Great Universe.*

*Let nothing be early
And nothing late to me,
That is in season for thee.*

*Let all be fruit for me
Which thy seasons bear.*

(AFTER MARCUS AURELIUS)

CONFESSION

*I have marched after
The pillar of cloud by day
And the pillar of fire by night,*

*And I have cursed the desert and the dark
Into which they have led me.*

*I have followed thee in body
Toward the Promised Land,
But remained in Egypt
In my heart's desire.*

PATIENCE

*Let me not stray foolishly
Into the land of vision.
Let me bide my time,
Which has not yet come.*

*Teach me in patience to wait
And in waiting to be patient;
For after winter comes summer,
After the night the day,
And after the storm a great calm.*

*When and how thou wilt act,
May I leave wholly to thee.*

LONGING

*O thou who hast given me much,
I stand in need
Of a grace yet greater:
Deepen my longing.*

*And when I have no longing
May there yet be, mysteriously
Astir in the depths of my inmost being,
A longing to have a longing.*

ADVERSITY

*Give me to see
That grace immanent
May yet seem grace withdrawn,*

*As when comforting things
Are taken from me
For my own good.*

SELF-TRANSCENDENCE

*Let me listen to the music
Of daybreak within me.*

*Let me march to a strain
Unheard by mortal ear.*

*Let that in me which surpasses me
Have glimpse of the unsurpassable.*

THE GLORY OF THY PRESENCE

*We praise thee for human love,
Where, in true caring one for another,
The divine shines through the human.*

*We praise thee for love's power
To transfigure and to heal,
Wherein we know the grace of thy coming.*

*We praise thee for life's enrichment
In work well done for love's sake,
For so thy blessing is given and received.*

*We praise thee for the love of truth
And for the truth of love,
Through which is enhanced our courage to be.*

*We praise thee for beauty
Wherein we may see and feel
Thy radiance within and around us.*

*Give us to seek and to find
Everywhere and in all things
The glory of thy presence.*

WE PAUSE IN REVERENCE

*We pause in reverence before the gift of self:
Before the mystery of being quietly alone
Each in the chamber of his own thoughts,
Yet conscious of others who are with us.*

*We pause in reverence before the mystery of a
presence:
In whom we live and move and have our being,
Wherein, although we are separate, we are together,
Wherein, although we are many, we are one.*

*We pause in reverence before the wonder of
awareness:
Before the unseen Seer within our seeing,
The unheard Hearer within our hearing,
The unthought Thinker within our thinking.*

*May we find the world to be sometimes so beautiful
And life so richly and meaningfully shared,
That we shall want this to be true
More often, for more people, everywhere.*

FOR INTIMATIONS OF GRANDEUR

*For intimations of grandeur in the infinitely great
and the infinitely small,
In the measureless round of the stars and the
invisible solar system of the atom;*

*For the oneness that spans the aeons between
stardust and man;
For the known diversity that spells but an
infinitesimal part of thy riches;*

*For knowledge of thee in our seeking and in the
reality that answers to our quest;
For thy spirit at work in us as we endeavour to
establish among men thy kingdom;*

*For the sense of thy presence in the heart and
hand of human compassion,
And wherever among men there are honour and
truth, heroism, and intimations of holiness;*

*We stand in awe and adoration before thee, our
source and our true life,
Who thyself seekest in us and art always ready to
be found.*

HOW DOES IT HAPPEN:

*How does it happen in this poor world
that thou art so near,
yet nobody finds thee?
That in all things thou speakest,
yet nobody hears thee?*

*That thy signature everywhere is
the beauty of things,
yet nobody knows thy name?*

*Men close their eyes,
and say they cannot see thee.
They stop their ears,
and say they cannot hear.
They flee from thee,
and say they cannot find thee.*

(AFTER HANS DENCK)

IT IS YOU I FIND

*In the life which wells up in me
And in the matter which sustains me,
I find much more than your gifts.
It is you yourself whom I find:
You who gave me to participate in your being,
You who mould me.*

*Your two marvellous hands—
The one which holds us so firmly
That it is merged, in us, with the sources of life;
And the other whose embrace is so wide
That, at its slightest pressure,
All the springs of the universe respond
harmoniously together.*

*Grant me the desire, O God, to desire being,
That, by means of this divine thirst
which is your gift,
The access to the great waters may open
wide within me.*

(AFTER PIERRE TEILHARD DE CHARDIN)

PRAYER TO THE GREAT SPIRIT

*Great Spirit, whose voice is heard in the stillness,
Whose breath gives life to all,
We come before thee as children
Needing the help of thy strength and thy wisdom.*

*Grant us to walk in beauty,
Seeing the uncommon in the common,
Aware of the great stream of wonder
In which we and all things move.*

*Give us to see more deeply
Into the great things of our heritage,
And the simple yet sublime truths
Hidden in every leaf and every rock.*

*May our hands treat with respect
The things which thou hast created.
May we walk with our fellow creatures
As sharers with them in the one life that
flows from thee.*

(AFTER A SIOUX INDIAN PRAYER)

FOR THE NEEDS OF THIS HOUR

*For the beauty that awaits us at the turning of the
road
May there be within us the wonder and the
welcome of the living soul.*

*For the trials that await us may there be calm
strength,
Courage to trust when mists obscure the way,
Faith to venture when the issue seems uncertain.*

*For the call to helpfulness may there be quick
sympathy and ready response.
May we find gladness on our way,
And the reassuring presence of helpers and friends.*

*May humour and the gift of laughter be ours.
May we find grace generously to forgive,
And to seek or to work out our own forgiveness.*

*May our desires be tempered to our needs.
May we value and praise the simple and the lowly
As well as the difficult and the unusual.*

*Above all, may we be understanding, appreciative,
Reverent in our relations one to another,
Seeking to elicit another's best and thereby our own.*

STRINGS IN THE CONCERT OF HIS JOY

*Let Paradise be in us.
Let all whatever God has and is,
All colours, powers, virtues of his eternal wisdom,
Appear and be manifest in us,
As in his likeness.*

*Let us be instruments of God's spirit,
Wherein he makes melody with himself
With these voices which we ourselves are.
May we be fellow-members in the glorious
choir and instrument of God,
Strings in the concert of his joy.*

(AFTER JACOB BOEHME)

AS WONDER AND WELCOME

*Spirit of beauty, whose revelations
Come to us in sun, rain, dawn and dark,
In all flowing, circling, shining and living things,
And in the quiet at the heart of all motion,*

*Be within us this day
As the wonder and welcome of the living soul.
Awaken our senses and quicken our minds
That we may partake, and be inwardly fed and
renewed.*

*May we give our hearts to beauty,
As the harp gives itself to the hand.
May we turn toward the true and the good,
As buds and flowers are uplifted to the sun.*

BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT

*Give us to be so stricken with spiritual need
That we are washed clean of complacency and pride.
Save us from self-content.*

*May the knowledge that of ourselves we have
nothing
Be our first step in becoming rich toward thee.
Quicken within us the grace of new and childlike
beginnings.*

*In thirst for the living waters that spring
From the ground of our being in thee,
In hunger for bread of mutuality and communion,*

*May the passion of the true seeker deepen within us;
And may this longing itself
Be the first rung of our beatitude.*

BLESSED ARE THEY THAT MOURN

*May we not be spared those sufferings
That come to all who care.
May we never be indifferent to another's pain.*

*Give us to choose suffering rather than insensitivity,
The riches of sharing and of bearing one another's
burdens
Rather than the poverty of remaining with self.*

*Lead us through the door of our common sorrows
Into the many-mansioned house of understanding.
May we be of those whose solace is to give solace
to others,*

*Who, having sown in tears,
Bearing precious seed, return rejoicing,
Bringing their sheaves with them.*

BLESSED ARE THE MEEK

*Give us to be numbered among the meek, the
considerate,
Lowly enough to enjoy the earth and its fruits,
Grateful enough to partake of these only with others.*

*Weed out arrogance and conceit from our nature.
Give us to be kindly, unobtrusive,
With strength and courage to be gentle.*

*May we walk humbly with thee,
And with our neighbours peaceably,
In the dignity of mutual respect.*

BLESSED ARE THEY THAT HUNGER
AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

*Save us from the satisfactions
Of accounting ourselves righteous.
May we cast our lot among the poor.*

*Give us to hunger and thirst
As those who have eaten husks in a strange land
And would turn again home.*

*Bring us face to face with ancient sins
And old cruelties still latent within.
Draw us down into the darkness of non-realization.*

*Call us back to beginnings.
Visit us again and again in the pain
And the beatitude of hungering and thirsting for thee.*

BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL

*Give us to love the stranger;
For we too were strangers in Egypt.*

*Give us to be compassionate toward the unfree;
For we too have been in bondage.*

*May we carry a lamp into dark places;
For we too have been lonely and without a light.*

*Teach us to see in all men our brothers,
And in all children our own,*

*None so far away as not to be our neighbour,
None so unlike us as not to be our kin.*

BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART

*Give us to be single-hearted in purpose and desire.
May the staying power of a greater love
Set and hold our direction.*

*Give us the grace, as often as may be,
Of a childlike directness
That trusts more simply and sees more clearly,*

*May the stirrings of an awakened divine life,
Within us and in response to like beginnings in others,
Be our turning again as whole persons toward thee.*

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

*In acceptance and in being accepted,
In forgiving and in being forgiven,
In overcoming inward divisions of self against
self,
May we have peace within.*

*In according the respect which elicits respect,
In being trustful and worthy of trust,
In fostering mutually confirming and enriching
relations,
May we help build creative peace among men.*

*As we join with others to do his work
Who would gather and unite all persons
And all nations of men into one family,
May his blessing be our peace.*

BLESSED ARE THEY
THAT HAVE BEEN PERSECUTED
FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS' SAKE

*May this be our prayer:
To be oppressed rather than to oppress,
To suffer injuries rather than inflict them.*

*As we look back over the road we have come
We see that the Present often persecutes
Those who are sent to it from the Future.*

*Give us not to seek persecution, nor court opposition,
But humbly to measure our own thoughts and deeds,
Whether they are indeed of the Future.*

*Give us some portion in the love that becomes
saviour to the one who crucifies.
And may we know that the Father of all beings
Only listens to us when we speak as brother of all
beings.*

A LITANY OF DIVINE ATTRIBUTES

*In the colours and scents and sounds of thy world,
in all growing things,
in all creatures and their joy,
in the chorus of suns and planets and stars,
in the sacrament of expression of the human
heart and mind,*

We would see thy signature as the beauty of things.

*In the tenderness of all creatures toward their young,
in all manly and womanly affection,
in the friendship of those who serve together,
in the hands that reach out to one another across
barriers,*

*in the cup of communion passed from person to
person in thy name,*

We would worship thee as love.

*In the glorious company of thy Christs and Buddhas,
in the concern for others of thy bodhisattvas and
saints,*

*in the Good Samaritans of all ages who bring
help and healing,*

*in the compassion of all who are brothers to their
brothers,*

We would bless and adore thee as goodness.

*In the revelations of thyself through countless ages,
in curiosity and wonder and the hunger to know,
in the research which is akin to adoration,
in the profounder simplicities that come to all
who walk humbly with thee,*

*We would come to know thee and serve thee as
wisdom.*

Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of thy glory.

NATIVITY

*May the most beautiful of all legends
Speak to our hearts this day
Of something holy, ineffable,
Suffusing a human birth
With the wonder and the glory of the divine.*

*May we too, with the shepherds and magi of old,
Draw near with adoration.*

*May the babe, wrapped in swaddling clothes
And laid in a manger, be a sign to us
Of thy kingdom in the hearts of men.*

*May the skies of wonder open above us;
And may the angel song
Sing in our hearts this day:
Glory to God in the highest!
And on earth peace, good will.*

THE STING OF TRANSCIENCY

*We pray for wisdom not to be embittered by loss,
Not to be made hopeless by frustration,
Nor withdrawn and lonely in our sorrow,
But to be more out-going, more heedful, more
active and loving through all our days.*

*May our lives be enriched by the fleeting joys,
the momentary glimpses of beauty,
The things of the moment and of the hour which
we may treasure
And weave into a richer tapestry of memories and
meanings.*

*Give us to see that only a few things bear the
mark of the eternal:
The beauty that lives with loving kindness;
The transmutation of suffering into an understanding
love;
The divine impulse given and received.*

*May we so pass through the things that are fleeting
As to be richer in the things that abide.
And may we so cherish the perishable beauties of life
That they may be imperishably present with us.*

RENASCENCE

*Maker of the stars, striving through this dust
Toward new and greater mansions of the spirit,
We lift up hearts of praise this day
For the bright shining of the immortal light;*

*For joys that break like sunlight through clouds
And overarch the storm with a rainbow of promise;
For transmutation of suffering into compassion
And the crown of thorns into a crown of glory.*

*We are conscious this day of more than we can
express.*

*Unseen guests are with us, like the music of an
invisible choir.*

*They deepen our awareness, enrich our communion,
And make this hallowed place of our worship more
beautiful.*

*O thou who art seen in the glory of springtime
resurrection,*

*In sunlight, star and snowy crystal,
In human love and hope, and deep answering to deep,
Grant that we too may rise this day to newness
of life.*

THY KINGDOM COME

*O thou whose kingdom is within,
May all thy names be hallowed.
May no one of them be turned against the others
To divide those who address thee.*

*May thy presence be made known to us
In mercy, beauty, brotherhood and justice.
May thy kingdom come to be in the life
of all mankind.*

*May it come with peace, with sharing,
And in a near time.*

*Give us this day our daily bread,
To be broken and blessed,
Free from all envy and alienation.*

*Keep us from trespass against others,
And from the feeling that others are
trespassing against us.
Forgive us our slow, slow forgiving.
Forgive us (for our need is great)
Infinitely more than we have forgiven.*

*Deliver us from being tempted by lesser things
To be heedless of the one great thing:
The gift of thyself in us.*

SHALOM

*Holy is the true light
and passing wonderful
which is the radiance within
of reverent love.*

*May it shine forth in our darkness
ever stronger and brighter,
and lead us and all men
into the way of peace.*

* * * *

*Most High and Most Wonderful,
enable us to see
in the things and persons around us
the way that leads to thee.*

* * * *

*May the love that makes life beautiful,
the reverence that makes life holy,
and the truth that makes men free,
lead us onward together into a deepening
and growing brotherhood of life.*

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