



PAIN IS A HOLY ANGEL



BY SUSIE JOY MAST

Group 1A

In a letter from prison, to his fiancée, Maria Von Wedemeyer...
Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote these words...Stifter once said...
'Pain is a holy angel, who shows treasures to men...
Which would otherwise remain forever hidden...
Through him men have become greater...
Than through all the joys of the world.'

After quoting Stifter...he continues with these words...
It must be so and I tell this to myself...
In my present position over and over again...
The pain of longing which often can be felt even physically...
But it needs to be overcome every time...
And thus there is an even holier angel...
Than the one of pain, that is the one of joy in God.

As I reflect on Stifter's words...they resonate so deeply...
With my own heart and spirit...and with my own experience...
I've encountered the angel of pain over and over in my life...
Treasures that would otherwise have remained forever hidden.



My heart and spirit also deeply resonate with Bonhoeffer...
My pain of longing which often can be felt even physically...
Must be there, and I shall not and need not talk it away...
But it needs to be overcome every time...
And thus there is an even holier angel in life...
Than the one of pain... that is the one of joy in God...
How often I've experienced the even holier angel of joy...
For joy is not the absence of suffering...
But the presence of God in the midst of our suffering...
My capacity for experiencing joy is never deeper...
Than my capacity for experiencing suffering and pain...
I've discovered that there is a direct correlation.

I thank God for the angel of pain and the angel of joy in God...
And how both of them have so deeply enriched my life...
With treasures that would otherwise have remained hidden...
And with joy in God that is inexpressibly glorious!

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