

LIFE, LOVE AND GOD

MY LIFETIME OF POETRY

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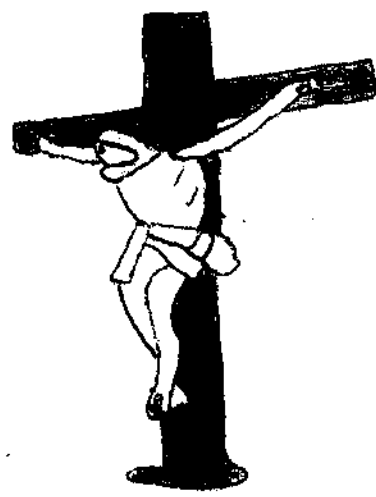
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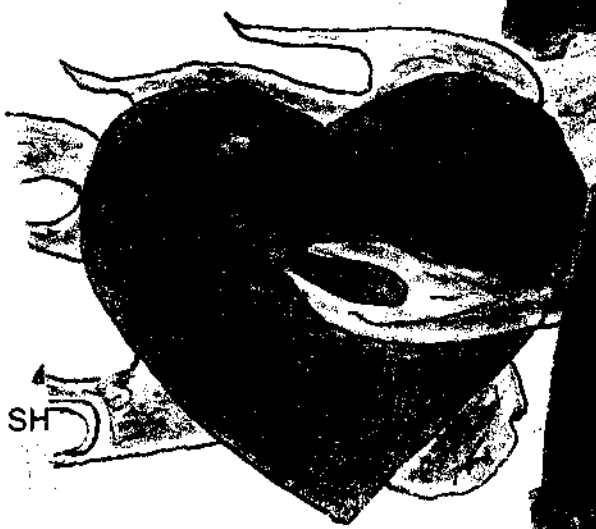
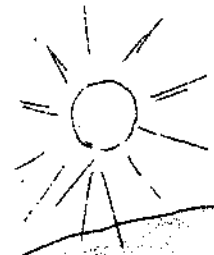
BOULDER CITY, NV 89005

name LIFE, LOVE AND GOD

grade My LIFE TIME OF BETRY



BY JERARD OLSEN



SH

J. OLSEN #04437

INTRODUCTION

WHEN I WAS 18, I WAS LIVING IN A CRAPPY APARTMENT FOR FREE. (I

TOOK CARE OF IT FOR TWO STRIPPERS.) THIS WAS NOT ENJOYABLE AS ONE

WOULD HAVE IMAGINED IT. THEY WERE HARDLY EVER THERE AND THEY NEVER

HAD FOOD. THE LITTLE MONEY THEY PAID ME WENT FOR CIGARETTES AND WEED.

MY DIET CONSISTED OF, MAINLY, SUNFLOWER SEEDS. ONE DAY, ONE OF THEIR BROTHERS

CAME OVER AND TOLD ME I HAD TO GO. I WAS DEAD BROKE AND HAD TO

WALK SEVERAL MILES TO GET TO MY MOTHER'S HOUSE. ALONG THE WAY, I HAD

CAME UP WITH THE POEM, "WHY OH WHY?" THE SECOND REAL ADULT-LIKE POEM,

THE FIRST CAME TO ME THE DAY AFTER JOHN LENNON HAD BEEN KILLED.

I WAS STANDING AT A BUS STOP AFTER SCHOOL WAITING TO GO HOME. IN

MY GRIEF, THE SONG "GOLDEN SLUMBERS" KEPT RUNNING THROUGH MY MIND.

"ONCE THERE WAS A WAY TO GET BACK HOMEMARD." TURNED INTO "ONCE THERE

WAS A MAN". THUS, STARTED, "MY LIFETIME OF POETRY"

DEDICATIONS

AS ALWAYS, THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED FIRST AND FOREMOST, TO MY PAPA YANWEH

MY FATHER, CREATOR, AND THE GIVER OF GIFTS. ALSO, TO MY SISTER JACKIE, WHO

HAS NEVER GIVEN UP HOPE FOR ME AND MY BIGGEST SUPPORTER, LAST, BUT CERTAINLY

NOT LEAST, TO DENNIS SOBIN AND HIS WONDERFUL FOUNDATION; WHOM WITHOUT HIM A

HUGE MAJORITY OF THESE SPIRIT-INSPIRED WORK WOULD NEVER BE SEEN BY MORE

THAN A SMALL HANDFUL OF PEOPLE. MY GRATITUDE TO THEM CANNOT BE DESCRIBED

IN WORDS.

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J. W. B. # 11111

CHAPTER

1

LIFE: PEOPLE,
PLACES,
AND
THINGS

J. OLSEN #80477

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN LENNON

ONCE THERE WAS A MAN,
WHO WROTE THE SONGS,
EVERYTIME HE SANG ONE,
HE NEVER WENT WROTE.
BUT NOW THE MAN IS GONE,
SO, I WROTE THIS TRIBUTE POEM.
JOHN LENNON, WHEREVER YOU ARE,
YOU KNOW YOU REACHED THE HIGHEST STAR,
SOARING ABOVE
YOU WENT ~~HIGH~~ THE BEST,
AND WE KNOW YOU WERE THE BEST,
GONE
JOHN EVEN THOUGH YOUR ~~WIFE~~,
THOSE SONGS
AND MEMORIES WILL LIVE ON.
YOU WERE ONE OF A KIND,
SO, I WROTE THIS TRIBUTE POEM.
YOU WERE JUST "STARTING OVER",
MAKING A NEW LIFE,
WITH YOUR LITTLE BOY,
AND LOVING WIFE.
NOW! YOUR GONE AND THE WORLD IS BLUE.
THERE
BECAUSE, ~~THERE~~ WILL NEVER BE,
ANOTHER, SUPERSTAR, LIKE YOU.

WHY, OH WHY!

WHY, OH WHY, DO YOU LIE?

WHY, OH WHY, DO YOU STEAL?

TELL ME, TELL ME, WHAT DO YOU FEEL?

DO YOU FEEL ANGER, A NEED TO BLAME?

WHEN YOU SHOULD FEEL SHAME,

SHAME FOR CAUSING PEOPLE,

GRIEF AND PAIN,

TELL ME, TELL ME, ARE YOU GOING INSANE?

YOU THINK YOUR SO SLICK,

YOU FOOLED THEM ALL,

YET, YOU CAN'T FOOL YOURSELF,

NOW YOU FEEL SO SMALL

CAN YOU LAUGH NOW,

THAT THE JOKE IS ON

LAUGH AWAY, LAUGH AWAY,

YOUR THE FOOL.

J. OLSEN #94457

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WHERE DO WE GO?

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

~~WE WAIT AND SIT.~~

WE WAIT AND SIT.

THE LONGER WE'RE AWAY,

OUR LOVED ONES TEND TO FORGET.

LIKE WE'RE BECOME A DISTANT MEMORY,

WE CANNOT GET OUT; WE CANNOT LEAVE.

PASSING THE TIME,

IS A PERMANENT OBSESSION.

DOING THE SAME THINGS OVER EACH DAY,

LEADS TO SEVERE DEPRESSION.

FOR THEM WE PRETEND,

THAT WE ARE OKAY.

BUT THE REALITY IS,

WE ARE WASTING AWAY.

THOSE IN THE FREE WORLD,

WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND.

THE LONLINESS WE FEEL,

CAN LITERALLY KILL A MAN.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

IS A MYSTERY UNKNOWN.

WHILE WE STILL ASK OUR CREATOR,

HOW MUCH MORE TIME WE HAVE TO DO,

BEFORE OUR SINS ARE ATONED?

WHEN THE FUTURE LOOKS SO UNCLEAR,
ON RECEIVING LETTERS,

TRAGEDY

IT'S A TRAGEDY TO KNOW,

EVERYONE CAN HAVE ENOUGH RAGE.

TO GO KILL INNOCENT PEOPLE,

IN A SHOOTING FURRY.

IT IS TRAGIC WHEN A CHILD DIES.

EVEN IF THEY WERE NOT YOURS,

IT STILL SHOULD MAKE YOU CRY.

WHAT WORDS OF COMFORT CAN BE GIVEN,

WHEN A MAN WHO IS INSANE

WITHIN A MATTER OF MINUTES,

CROSSES ALL THAT PAIN.

SENSELESS ACTS OF VIOLENCE,

HAPPENING ALL THE TIME.

SEEMINGLY, WITHOUT ANY REASON OR RHYTHM

PLANES BEING HI-JACKED,

BUILDINGS BEING BOMBED.

MAKES YOU STOP AND THINK,

WHEN IT ALL WENT WRONG.

TRAGEDY IS EVERYWHERE,

IT'S SAD BUT TRUE,

AND THE MOST TRAGIC THING,

IS NOT KNOWING IF THE NEXT VICTIM IS YOU.

J. V. OLSEN # 84467

HAPPY CHAP

I'M A HAPPY CHAP,
ON MOST ANY GIVEN DAY.
USUALLY, IT'S AT TIMES,
WHEN THINGS ARE GOING MY WAY.
JOLLY AND JOVIAL, IS WHAT,
I APPEAR TO BE.
BECAUSE UNLIKE MOST FOLKS,
I REFUSE TO LET SITUATIONS,
GET THE BEST OF ME.
SINGING, LAUGHING, AND JOKING,
THAT'S THE KIND OF CHAP I AM.
IT MAY EVEN APPEAR TO SOME,
THAT I AM A BIT OF A HAM.
OH, HOW I ENJOY,
BEING A HAPPY CHAP.
NOT WASTING PRECIOUS TIME,
DEALING WITH OTHER PEOPLES CRAP.
WHEN THE MOMENTS ARRIVE,
THAT I START FEELING BLUE.
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY,
FOR I KNOW JUST WHAT TO DO.
I STAY IN ROOM AND POUT,
UNTIL THOSE EMOTIONS FADE.
THEN DAYDREAM ABOUT THE TIMES,
WHEN I CAN ONCE AGAIN GET LAID.

HAPPY CHAP, HAPPY CHAP,
THAT IS, VERY LIKELY WHAT YOU'LL SEE.
IT IS THE WAY I WANT THOSE I LOVE
TO ALWAYS REMEMBER ME.
BUT IF YOU PISS ME OFF,
YOU'LL HAVE NO TIME TO CHUCKLE.
BECAUSE I WILL KNOCK YOU ON,
YOUR BUTT,
WITH MY SET OF SHINY, BRASS,
KNUCKLES.

LET US HAVE PEACE AGAIN

PEACE, GIVE US PEACE.
 NO WARS, NO KILLING, NO PAIN.
 I AM BEGGING THE LEADERS,
 OF THIS WORLD.
 PLEASE, LET US HAVE PEACE AGAIN.
 YOU SEND YOUR YOUNG OFF TO FIGHT,
 YET MANY, NEVER RETURN.
 YOU LEAVE INNOCENT CHILDREN,
 IN THE STREETS,
 WATCHING, AS THEIR HOMES BURN.
 YOU'VE TAKEN SONS AND DAUGHTERS,
 AWAY FROM THEIR FAMILIES REACH,
 TO DESTROY THIS WORLD,
 IS WHAT YOU CHOOSE TO TEACH.
 IT IS THE DOWNFALL OF MAN,
 TO ALWAYS WANT MORE.
 SO, EITHER GIVE IT TO US FREELY,
 OR WE'LL TAKE WHAT IS YOURS.
 ALL THAT DESTRUCTION,
 FOR ABSOLUTELY NO GAIN.
 YOU NEED TO STOP THIS MADNESS,
 AND LET US ... HAVE PEACE AGAIN.

J. OLSEN # 84457

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MY SISTER, MY FRIEND

MY SISTER, MY FRIEND.

I HOPE YOU CAN SEE,

HOW VERY SPECIAL YOU ARE TO ME.

WE CELEBRATED THE GOOD TIMES, BROUGHT COMFORT, WHEN SAD.

YOU EVEN SCOLDED ME,

WHEN I WAS BAD.

MY SISTER, MY FRIEND,

YOU ARE SO DEAR TO ME.

EVEN, IF YOU WERE A MILLION MILES AWAY,

IN MY HEART YOU'LL ALWAYS BE.

MY SISTER, MY FRIEND,

I APPRECIATE EVERYTHING YOU DO.

MY WORDS CANNOT EVER DESCRIBE,

THE LOVE I FEEL FOR YOU.

INNER SANCTUARY

LYING HERE QUIETLY,
SNUG IN MY BED.

LISTENING TO THE THOUGHTS,
FORMING IN MY HEAD.

FROM DEEP INSIDE MYSELF,
A VOICE SAID, "DON'T YOU WORRY."

COME ON NOW AND ENTER,
YOUR INNER SANCTUARY.

CLOSE YOUR EYES AND IMAGINE
WHERE YOU'D LIKE TO BE.

IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE WHERE YOU CHOOSE,
YOU CAN GO THERE FOR FREE.

IT COULD BE A FIELD OF FLOWERS,
OR ON A SANDY BEACH.

NO MATTER WHERE IT IS,
IT'S RIGHT WITHIN YOUR REACH.

YOU CAN GO THERE ANYTIME YOU WANT,
THE LOCATION NEVER VARIES.

JUST FREE YOUR MIND AND ESCAPE
INTO YOUR INNER SANCTUARY.

J. OSEAN HAZST

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COMPASSIONATE MAN

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU NEED MY FRIEND?

IT'S OKAY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO PAY ME BACK.

IF I DIDN'T WANT TO OFFER IT,

I WOULD NOT HAVE EVEN ASKED.

I'VE BEEN BLESSED IN ABUNDANCE,

TO HELP WHOEVER I CAN.

SELFISHNESS HAS SLIPPED AWAY,

I'VE BECOME A COMPASSIONATE MAN.

MANY YEARS HAD PAST,

THAT I WAS FULL OF GREED.

UNTIL, I CAME TO REALIZE,

IT'S NOT ALL ABOUT ME.

TO GIVE TO OTHERS IS A JOY,

THAT I HAVE COME TO UNDERSTAND.

I AM GRATEFUL THE OLD ME IS GONE,

NOW THAT I'VE BECOME A COMPASSIONATE MAN.

TO HURT, WHILE ANOTHER IS GRIEVING,

OR MOURN WHEN A STRANGER GETS KILLED.

TO CELEBRATE A PERSON'S VICTORY,

OR FEEL SAD FOR ^{THEM} THAT ARE ILL.

TO REACH OUT TO THE ELDERLY,

AND LEND A HELPING HAND.

THESE ARE THE GIFTS I RECEIVE.

SINCE, I'VE BECOME A COMPASSIONATE MAN.

DOING TIME

THE DARKNESS SURROUNDS ME,
THERE'S A LOOK OF DESPAIR ON MY FACE.
WHILE I AM STANDING IN A CORNER,
STARING OFF INTO SPACE.
ALL MY HOPES ARE FADING,
OF EVER LEAVING THIS PLACE.
THE WORLD OUTSIDE KEEPS CHANGING,
WHILE INSIDE HERE, STAYS THE SAME.
DOING EVERYTHING I CAN,
TRYING HARD TO SURVIVE.
DEALING WITH PHONY ASS PEOPLE,
WHO LIVE A LIFE OF LIES.
LOOKING OUT, FROM MY CELL,
SEEING, ONLY METAL AND CONCRETE.
KNOWING NO MORE OF VICTORY,
FEELING ONLY THE AGONY OF DEFEAT.

J. OLSEN #82157

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THERAPY

YOU NEED TO GO TO THERAPY,
THAT'S WHAT THE DOCTOR SAID.
HOW LONG SHALL I GO DOC?
"PROBABLY UNTIL YOUR DEAD."
YOU HAVE A LOT OF ISSUES,
YOUR MIND IS REALLY SICK.
MAYBE AFTER YEARS OF COUNSELING,
YOU'LL HAVE YOUR PROBLEMS LICKED.
JUST GO AND SEE A THERAPIST,
TWICE EVERY WEEK.
PAY HIM A HUNDRED DOLLARS AN HOUR,
BECAUSE THERAPY'S NOT CHEAP.
THERE'S NOT A PILL THAT'S STRONG ENOUGH,
TO CURE WHAT YOU HAVE GOT.
SO LAY DOWN ON THE COUCH,
OPEN YOUR MOUTH AND TALK.
AFTER TWENTY YEARS,
IT CAME TO A SUDDEN HALT.
I HAD A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH.
IT TURNS OUT THAT,
IT WAS ALL MY MOTHERS FAULT.

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A POEM FOR YOU, MOM

MOM, I WANT YOU TO KNOW,
I CANNOT MAKE IT ON MY OWN.
YOU ARE MY STRENGTH AND MY ROCK,
MY SPIRIT SOARS EVERYTIME WE TALK.
WHEN I FEEL LIKE, I CAN'T GO ON,
I THINK OF YOU TO KEEP ~~ME~~^{ME} STRONG.
NO GREATER LOVE, HAVE I EVER KNOWN,
THAN THAT WHICH YOU'VE SHOWN,
YOU'VE STUCK BY ME,
THROUGH GOOD AND BAD.
YOUR THE KIND OF MOTHER,
OTHER SONS WISHED THEY HAD.
MY GRATITUDE TO YOU, MOM,
FROM THE ONE WHO,
HIS ENTIRE LIFETIME,
WAS SPENT LOVING YOU.

J. OLSEN # 61151

16

MY FRIENDS

MY FRIENDS ARE KIND OF GOOFY,
THEY LIKE TO JOKE AROUND.
THEY'RE ALWAYS THERE TO CHEER ME UP,
WHEN I AM FEELING DOWN.
MY FRIENDS ARE DIFFERENT RACES,
THEY COME IN VARIOUS SHAPE AND SIZES.
THEY'RE ALWAYS NICE TO ME,
AND THEY DO NOT CRITICIZE.
WHEN I START TO GET CRANKY,
THEY ARE SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW,
THE BEST WAY TO HANDLE IT,
IS JUST LEAVE ME ALONE.
WE TALK ABOUT HAPPY THINGS,
OR THE STUFF THAT BOTHERS US.
I CAN TELL THEM PRIVATE THOUGHTS,
KNOWING IT'S THEIR CONFIDENCE I TRUST.
AS THE YEARS QUICKLY FADE AWAY,
MANY THINGS IN LIFE WILL CHANGE.
YET, IT BRINGS ME JOY TO KNOW,
MY FRIENDS ARE STILL THE SAME.

THE COLORS OF CHRISTMAS

THE COLORS OF CHRISTMAS,
ARE MORE THAN RED AND GREEN,
THEY ARE SEVERAL DIFFERENT COLORS,
MEANING MANY DIFFERENT THINGS,
RED IS FOR THE WARMTH AND COMFORT,
WHEN WE CAN BE IN THE SAME SPOT.
BLUE IS COLD AND ~~DRIVING~~, SADNESS,
IF FOR SOME REASON WE CANNOT.
YELLOW AND PINK, ARE FOR GOOD MEMORIES,
WHICH I AM GRATEFUL TO HAVE A LOT.
GREEN IS FOR THE GIFTS YOU'VE GIVEN,
THROUGHOUT THOSE MANY YEARS.
AND, I BELIEVE YOU CAN GUESS THAT BLACK,
IS FOR ALL THE SHED TEARS.
SILVER AND GOLD, IS FOR THE JOY,
WE HAVE HAD, SINCE WE WERE YOUNG.
ORANGE, PURPLE, AND BROWN, COMBINED
ACCOUNT FOR ALL THE FUN.
THOUGH WHEN THEIR MIXED TOGETHER,
AND JOINED WITH THE BEST,
THAT THE COLORS OF CHRISTMAS,
TRULY ARE THE BEST.

SEASONS

THE SUN BREAKS THROUGH THE CLOUDS,

MELTING ALL THE SNOW.

THE WEATHERS GETTING WARMER,

^{OPENING OUTSIDE}
SO, ~~WHERE~~ WE WILL GO.

SPRINGTIME ^{IS} UPON US,

THE FLOWERS ARE IN BLOOM,

EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK,

NEW LIFE STARTS TO BLOOM.

BASEBALL SEASONS STARTS,

FOOTBALL SEASONS ENDS.

IT'S THE PERFECT TIME, TO GO,

^{ALL}
FISHING WITH MY FRIENDS,

WOW! IT'S GETTING HOT,

SUMMERTIME IS HERE.

FIRE UP THE GRILL, BUDDY,

WE'LL EAT STEAK AND DRINK SOME BEERS.

CLOUDS ARE BUILDING UP,

IT'S SNOWING ONCE AGAIN.

TIME SEEMS TO BE MOVING FAST,

AS ONE SEASON ENDS AND ANOTHER BEGINS!

16

NOTHING LEFT TO SAY

I'VE WRITTEN SEVERAL POEMS,
OVER THESE LONG, LONELY DAYS.
SO MANY IDEAS EXPRESSED, NOW,
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO SAY.
I POURED OUT MY HEART AND SOUL,
WITH STYLE AND WITH FLARE.
LETTING THOSE WHOM I LOVE,
KNOW JUST HOW MUCH I CARED.
I TOLD OF THINGS, YOU MAY HAVE KNOWN,
OR PERHAPS, YOU TRIED TO GUESS.
IF I FELT THE TIME WAS RIGHT,
MY SECRETS, I CONFESSED.
I WROTE ABOUT TOPICS,
IN WHICH YOU COULD RELATE.
EVEN IF THEY WERE CONTROVERSIAL,
I DID NOT HESITATE.
AT TIMES I WROTE FOR HOURS,
IF I FELT OKAY.
BUT THEN I HAVE TO STOP,
BECAUSE I HAD, NOTHING LEFT TO SAY.

J. OLSEN ~~W/AAST~~

17

TIME OUT

I'M TAKING A TIME OUT,
SINCE, I AM STARTING TO GET MAD.
I DON'T LIKE HURTING PEOPLE'S FEELINGS,
JUST BECAUSE I FEEL BAD.
I NEED A MOMENT TO CALM DOWN,
SO I CAN THINK RATIONALLY.
BEFORE FLYING OFF THE HANDLE,
AND BEGIN TO YELL AND SCREAM.
I NEED A TIME OUT TO RELAX,
WHEN IM GETTING STRESSED.
TIME TO CHEER MYSELF UP,
IF I AM GETTING DEPRESSED.
I NEED TIME OUT TO REFLECT,
WHEN NO ONE IS AROUND.
TIME OUT TO BE THANKFULL
WHEN JOYFUL TIMES ABOUND.
TIME TO TELL A FRIEND,
THAT EVERYTHINGS GOING TO BE OKAY.
BUT MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL,
IS TAKING TIME OUT ~~AND~~ ^{TO} ENJOY THE DAY.

18

ABUSED

WHEN I WAS YOUNGER,
I WAS ABUSED.

BY THE TIME I WAS EIGHT,
I WAS REALLY CONFUSED.

I HAD ALREADY LEARNED,
HOW TO LIE, CHEAT, AND STEAL.

I STARTED DRINKING ALCOHOL,
SO I WOULDN'T HAVE TO FEEL.

MY INNOCENCE WAS TAKEN AWAY,
AND I DIDN'T KNOW,

IF I WAS STRAIGHT OR GAY.

I WAS ALWAYS ANGRY,
AND COULD NOT FORGIVE.

THAT'S NOT THE WAY,
A CHILD SHOULD LIVE.

THE GUILT AND SHAME
WAS ALWAYS THERE.

AT TIMES IT BECAME,

ALMOST TOO MUCH TO BEAR.

SO MANY NIGHTS,

I'D CRY AND CRY.

NOT WANTING TO LIVE,

BUT TOO SCARED TO DIE.

MAYBE THESE THINGS

ALSO HAPPENED TO YOU.

THE CHANCES ARE LIKELY,
IF YOU WERE ABUSED.

J. OLSEN #19407

19

THE LONELIEST PLACE

I'M IN HERE,
IN THIS BLEAK AND LONELY PLACE.
WHAT MAKES IT EVEN WORSE,
IS NOT BEING ABLE TO SEE YOUR FACE.
I REMEMBER BEFORE THEY TOOK ME AWAY,
SEEING THE SADNESS IN YOUR EYES,
HOW IT BROKE MY HEART,
THAT I MADE YOU CRY.
THE LONELINESS IN THIS PLACE,
SLOWLY EATS AWAY AT ME,
WHILE THE CLOUDS OF DARKNESS,
WAIT EVER SO PATIENTLY,
TELLING ME ~~DEATH~~ ~~POISONOUS~~ ~~THINGS~~, DECEITFUL
FILLING MY MIND WITH POISONOUS LIES.
TRYING HARD TO CONVINC ME,
IT WOULD BE BETTER JUST TO DIE,
BUT I MUST CONTINUE TO FIGHT,
FOR IF THE ~~TRUTH~~ BE TOLD,
I'D RATHER SPEND A WEEK WITH YOU,
THAN A LIFETIME IN THIS HOLE.
THERE IS NO PLACE AS LONELY,
IN THIS ENTIRE WORLD.
THEN LIVING WITHOUT YOU,
MY ONE AND ONLY BEAUTIFUL GIRL.

CHAPTER

2

LOVE: GOOD,

BAD,

AND

INDIFFERENT

J. DISEN #10457

20

LOVE IS

LOVE IS A WORD,
THAT IS USED QUITE A LOT.
YES, MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW WHAT IT MEANS.
LOVE IS AN ACTION,
AND IF THAT MAKES YOU CONFUSED,

I WILL TRY MY BEST,
TO EXPLAIN TO YOU.

LOVE IS COMPASSION,
WHEN SOMEONE IS HURT.

CARING, WHEN SOMEBODY'S FEELING DOWN.

LOVE IS LAUGHTER,
TO WASH AWAY TEARS.

A SMILE, TO REMOVE A FROWN.

LOVE IS POWER,
EVER SO GREAT.

IT IS THE ONLY THING,
THAT CAN GET RID OF HATE.

LOVE IS AFFECTION,
A HUG OR TOUCH.

IT'S THE BEST WAY TO TELL A FRIEND,
I NEED YOU SO VERY MUCH.

LOVE IS GENTLE, PURE, AND TRUE.

IT IS THE GIFT WE SHARE,
BETWEEN ME AND YOU.

LOVE IS THE HOPE,

WE SHARE ALONG THE WAY.
SO I HOPE NOW YOU'LL SEE,
THAT LOVE, IS MUCH MORE,
THAN JUST A WORD WE SAY.

21

I HAD A DREAM

I HAD A DREAM,
IT SEEMED SO REAL.
WITH THE TIPS OF MY FINGERS,
YOUR FACE I COULD FEEL.
YOU WERE AN ANGEL,
WITH WINGS OF WHITE.
YOU TOOK MY HAND,
AND WE FLEW THROUGH THE NIGHT.
WE LANDED ON A DISTANT STAR,
THE WORLD BELOW US,
APPEARED SO FAR.
I OPENED MY MOUTH,
TO TRY TO SPEAK.
SHE JUST SMILED AND KISSED MY CHEEK.
WE HELD EACH OTHER,
EVER SO TIGHT.
AND WE STAYED THAT WAY,
THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT.
UPON AWAKENING,
THERE WAS A FEATHER ON MY BROW.
IT WAS THEN I REALIZED,
A MIRACLE OCCURED SOMEHOW.

J. OLSEN #14451

22

WITH OUR FAMILY

LOOKING BACK OVER THE YEARS,
REFLECTING ON THE CHANGES IN OUR LIVES.
WAS SMILING GENTLY THROUGH A TEAR,
THAT CAME ROLLING OUT THE CORNER OF MY EYE.
GLANCING THROUGH SOME PICTURES,
OF SOME OF OUR HAPPIEST TIMES.
THERE'S YOU AND ME READING BEDTIME STORIES,
AND SINGING LULLABIES.
WATCHING AS THEY DRIFT OFF,
SO PEACEFULLY TO SLEEP,
KNOWING EVERYTHING'S ALRIGHT,
WITH OUR FAMILY.
LOOKING ON WHILE THEY PLAY,
LEARNING MORE AND MORE TO HAVE FUN.
THANKING GOD THAT I'VE BEEN BLESSED,
TO BE ONE OF THE LUCKIER ONES.
TO HAVE THREE BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN,
AND A LOVING WIFE.
MAKES IT ALL WORTHWHILE,
AND GIVES MEANING TO MY LIFE.
I'M NOW MORE CONTENT,
THAN I EVER THOUGHT I'D BE.
BECAUSE I KNOW THAT EVERYTHING'S ALRIGHT,
WITH OUR FAMILY.

23

J. OLSEN #84457

FOR YOUR EYES ONLY

FOR YOUR EYES ONLY,
I PRAY THAT YOU WILL SEE.
DARLING, YOU ARE THE ONLY TRUE LOVE FOR ME.
ONLY FOR YOU,
THAT LOVE I GIVE,
WILL ALWAYS BE YOURS,
AS LONG AS I LIVE.
OUR HEARTS WILL BEAT AS ONE,
AS IT WAS MEANT TO BE.
AND LOVE WILL BE LIKE AN OCEAN,
FLOWING ENDLESSLY.
FOR YOUR EYES ONLY,
WHEN I AM RELEASED.
OUR LIVES, SHALL BE FILLED,
WITH JOY AND PEACE.
ONLY FOR YOU,
THESE VOWS I MAKE.
I PROMISE TO UPHOLD,
AND NEVER FORSAKE.
IT MATTERS NOT,
WHAT LIFE PUTS US THROUGH.
THESE WORDS I WRITE,
ARE ONLY FOR YOU.

J. OLSEN #84457

24

PUT AWAY THOSE MEMORIES

I REMEMBER THE DAY,
YOU SAID, "I DO".
THEN I REMEMBER THE TIME,
YOU SAID, "WE'RE THROUGH."
I WISH I JUST THOUGHT,
ABOUT THE HAPPY ONES.
YET, ALWAYS WITH THE GOOD,
THE BAD ONES WANT TO COME.
I JUST CAN'T SEEM,
TO PUT AWAY THOSE MEMORIES.
EVERYTIME I TRY,
THEY COME BACK TO HAUNT ME.
YOU USED TO TELL ME,
THAT I WAS THE ONLY ONE.
BUT THE LOVE WE ONCE HAD,
IS OVER AND DONE.
STILL, I CAN'T SEEM,
TO PUT AWAY THOSE MEMORIES.
MY HEART BREAKS A LITTLE MORE,
WHEN THEY COME BACK TO ME.
TIME IS MOVING FORWARD,
MUCH TOO FAST.
AND IT'S NOT RIGHT,
TO LIVE IN THE PAST.

WHEN, I THINK I'VE FORGOTTEN,
THEY COME BACK WITH A BLAST.
HOW I WISH I COULD,
PUT AWAY THOSE MEMORIES
AT LAST.

25

THE WAY I USED TO LOVE YOU

I WAS VERY LONELY,
 WHEN YOU CAME INTO MY LIFE.
 THERE WAS AN INSTANT ATTRACTION,
 AND I KNEW YOU'D BE MY WIFE.
 YOU WERE YOUNG AND JUST WANTED,
 THE AMERICAN DREAM.
 SO I GAVE YOU WHAT YOU WANTED.
 I'M JUST SORRY
 I COULDN'T GIVE YOU WHAT YOU NEED.
 AS WE PROGRESSED IN LIFE,
 THE BILLS BEGAN STACKING UP.
 THEN I GOT A SECOND JOB,
 TO KEEP FOOD ON THE TABLE,
 AND MILK IN THEIR CUPS.
 BUT THERE WERE TOO MANY NIGHTS,
 YOU WERE LEFT ALONE.
 THAT THE HOUSE WAS SO EMPTY,
 IT NO LONGER FELT LIKE A HOME.
 EVERYTIME I SEE YOU NOW,
 I WANT TO TELL YOU I WAS WRONG.
 ONLY YOU FOUND SOMEONE TO DO FOR YOU,
 THINGS I COULDN'T DO.
 I'M SUCH A FOOL,
 BUT I'LL KEEP SEARCHING FOR,
 SOMEBODY TO LOVE THE WAY,

THAT I USED TO LOVE YOU.
 I'M A LITTLE OLDER NOW,
 AND A BIT MORE MATURE.
 THEY SAY HINDSIGHT 20-20,
 AND I KNOW IT IS SO TRUE.
 BUT IT'S TOO LATE TO CHANGE,
 THE MISTAKES THAT I HAD
 MADE.
 SO I ACCEPT THE FACT IT'S
 OVER, AND I'M THE ONE
 THAT PAID.

J. OSEN #22467

26

LOVE ISN'T (A SEQUEL TO LOVE IS)

LOVE ISN'T HITTING OR THROWING THINGS,
YELLING AND ARGUING WITH YOUR MATE.

LOVE ISN'T CURSING OR PUTTING THEM DOWN,
WHEN LOVE IS TRUE THERE IS NO DEBATE.

LOVE ISN'T TO BE DEMANDED,
AND SHALL NOT BE STRAINED.

LOVE SHOULD NEVER BREAK A HEART,
OR CAUSE ANY KIND OF PAIN.

LOVE MUST BE RESPECTED,
NOT TO TAKE AND BURN.

LOVE IS A QUALITY NOT EASILY TAUGHT,
BUT DEFINITELY CAN BE EARNED.

LOVE ISN'T TO BE CONDITIONAL,
TO FLUCTUATE ACCORDING TO ONE'S MOOD.

LOVE ISN'T PERVERTED LUST,
VULGAR, OR CRUDE.

LOVE ISN'T SOMETHING THAT CAN BE BROUGHT,
OR BE ATTAINED BY OFFERING A BRIBE.

LOVE HOWEVER, CAN SUSTAIN THE WEAKEST BEING,
AND KEEP YOU FIGHTING TO SURVIVE.

LOVE ISN'T TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY,
BUT CAN HANDLE ALL KINDS OF WEATHER.

AND LOVE IN IT'S PUREST FORM,
CAN BRING THE WHOLE WORLD TOGETHER.

BUT WHEN IT COMES TO US,

BELIEVE WHAT I SAY IS TRUE.

I WOULD NOT EVEN KNOW WHAT
LOVE WAS, IF I HAD NEVER MET
YOU.

27

LOVE AND FORGIVENESS

MY BEAUTIFUL LADY,
IT SHOULD COME AS NO SURPRISE.
THAT EVERYTIME I THINK OF YOU,
BRING TEARS OF JOY TO MY EYES.
AND THE LOVE I FEEL,
CANNOT EVER BE DENIED.
THE LONGER I'M AWAY,
THE CLOSER YOU'RE IN MY HEART.
WHAT WE HAVE BETWEEN US,
NOTHING CAN TEAR APART.
I REALIZED ALONG THE WAY,
I'VE BROUGHT HURT INTO OUR LIVES.
SO I PRAY YOU FORGIVE ME,
ALLOW LOVE TO HEAL THE SCARS.
TIME IS WAY TOO SHORT,
TO DWELL IN GRIEF AND PAIN.
DO NOT ALLOW THE ANGER TO STOP US,
FROM BEING TOGETHER AGAIN.
I REALIZED YOUR HAPPINESS,
IS WHAT I HAVE TO BRING.
IT IS FOR YOUR PRECIOUS LOVE,
THAT I WOULD GIVE ANYTHING.
WILLING^{LY} I'LL GIVE YOU MORE LOVE,
THAN I EVER HAVE BEFORE.
PLEASE AGREE, TO BE THE KEY,
AND I WILL BE THE DOOR.

J. OLSEN #10457

28

A TALE ABOUT ABUSE

WELL IT'S THE SAME OLD STORY
YOU'VE HEARD A MILLION TIMES BEFORE
BUT IN THE END THERE WAS NO GLORY
WHEN THEY FOUND HIM DEAD ON THE FLOOR
THAT MAN THEY SAID HAD BEEN SHOT IN THE HEAD
AND WHAT A MESS IT MADE
HE COULD HAVE SAVED HIS OWN LIFE
IF ONLY HE HAD CHANGED HIS WAYS

SHE WAS TORTURED AND ABUSED
BY THE BOY SHE MET IN HIGH SCHOOL
BACK THEN SHE WANTED HIM SO BADLY
THAT SHE WOULD TREMBLE AT HIS TOUCH
YET AS THE YEARS WENT BY
SHE WOULD TREMBLE WHILE SHE'D CRIED
AND PRAYED TO GOD THAT HE WOULD LET HER DIE

BUT WHEN ALL WAS SAID AND DONE
WHEN DEATH FOR HER DID NOT COME
ON A DAY THAT HE HAD PASSED OUT
SHE SLIPPED OUT OF THE HOUSE
AND WENT AND BOUGHT A GUN

WHEN SHE HAD FINALLY COME HOME
HE WAS PASSED OUT NO MORE

J. OLSEN #44457

29

A LETTER FROM YOU

MY LIFE WAS FALLING APART,
IT FELT LIKE THE END.
UNTIL I GOT A LETTER FROM YOU,
AND I KNEW I'D FOUND A FRIEND.
OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS,
MY FEELINGS FOR YOU GREW.
AND I SENSED BY THE WORDS YOU WROTE,
YOU FELT THE SAME WAY TOO.
YOU ARE A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN,
WHO IS KIND AND SWEET.
IT WAS A MAGICAL MOMENT,
WHEN WE DID FINALLY MEET.
WE KNEW WITHOUT A DOUBT,
THAT OUR LIVES WERE SO MUCH BETTER.
ON THE DAY WE MADE THE CHOICE,
FOR US TO STAY TOGETHER.

CHAPTER

3

GOD: PRAISING

THE FATHER,

SON

AND

HOLY

SPIRIT

JO OUSEN #BAAB7

30

A FACE IN THE CROWD

THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE THAT JESUS,
WILL DESCEND FROM THE CLOUDS.

WHILE OTHERS THINK HE IS STILL IN A TOMB,
WRAPPED UP IN A SHROUD.

I THINK WE SHOULD MAKE IT A PRIORITY,
^{BE KIND TO}
TO EVERYONE WE MEET NOW.

BECAUSE YOU NEVER KNOW IF JESUS,
IS JUST ANOTHER FACE IN THE CROWD.

HE HAD SAID, "IF WE WERE HIS FRIENDS,"
HE WILL BE AS ONE WITH YOU AND ME.

SO, WHEN WE HELP A PERSON OUT,
IT MIGHT BE HIM, THAT WE SEE.

MOST OF US HOPE,

THAT WE WILL GET TO HEAVEN SOMEDAY.

SO WE CONTINUE TO SEARCH FOR,

THE ONE TRUE FACE, THAT CAN SHOW US THE WAY.

THROUGHOUT, OUR DAILY ROUTINE,

WE MAY SEE MORE THAN A HUNDRED FACES.

ALL AT DIFFERENT TIMES,
AND IN VARIOUS ^{PLACES} ~~PLACES~~.

BUT IT IS ONLY UPON HIS TRIUMPHANT RETURN,
WHEN HE APPEARS AMONG THE CLOUDS.

WE WILL AT LAST BE ABLE TO SEE,

THE MOST IMPORTANT FACE IN THE CROWD.

MANY TITLES

I HAVE MANY TITLES;
 SOME BETTER THAN THE FIRST.
 BUT THERE IS ONE ABOVE THEM ALL,
 IT'S THE ONE THAT I LIVE BEST.
 I'VE BEEN CALLED, A FATHER, A BROTHER, A FRIEND,
 A DOCTOR, A LEADER, AND EVEN A FREAK.
 YET, THIS PARTICULAR TITLE,
 I CONSTANTLY SEEK.
 SOME MAY NOT UNDERSTAND,
 TO THEM IT MIGHT SEEM ODD.
 IT WAS GIVEN TO ME BY JESUS,
 HE CALLS ME A CHILD OF GOD.
 SO MANY TITLES HAVE BEEN
 GIVEN TO ME, SOME GOOD, SOME BAD.
 ONES THAT HAVE GIVEN ME JOY,
 AND OTHERS THAT MADE ME SAD.
 I'VE BEEN CALLED A WISE MAN,
 A DREAMER, A FOOL.
 SOME HAVE BEEN FALSE,
 AND OTHERS HAVE BEEN TRUE.
 SOME I DID NOT WORK FOR,
 OTHERS, I HAD TO EARN.
 BUT WHEN MY LIFE IS OVER,
 AND IT HAS ALL BEEN SAID AND DONE.

BEING A CHILD OF GOD,
 IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE.

PEARL NECKLACE

I AM MAKING A NECKLACE,
ONE PEARL AT A TIME.
THEY ARE MADE FROM UNDERSTANDING,
THAT COME FROM GOD DIVINE.
AS IT GET BIGGER,
OH HOW IT SHINES.
FOR WHEN I GET CONFUSED,
AND DON'T COMPREHEND.
I ASK FOR KNOWLEDGE FROM HIM,
NOT FROM ANY MAN.
THEY SHED A LIGHT,
FOR ALL TO SEE.
THAT THE SPIRIT OF GOD,
IS WORKING THROUGH ME.
WHEN A PERSON IS LOST,
FOR WHATEVER REASON IT MAY BE.
I TELL THEM, "I HAVE A PEARL,"
THAT THEY JUST MIGHT NEED.
EACH DAY I SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES,
HUNTING FOR EVEN MORE.
SINCE, I'M NOT ENTIRELY SURE,
WHICH PEARL WILL OPEN THE DOOR.
THAT WILL TEACH A NEW BELIEVER,
THE ABILITY TO SEE.

THE LOVE THE FATHER GIVES,
HE GIVES TO US FOR FREE.

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GOD'S ANSWER

I HAD A BIG PROBLEM,
 ONE I COULD NOT SOLVE.
 SO, I BOWED MY HEAD IN REVERENCE,
 AND ASKED GOD TO GET INVOLVED.
 HE GRACIOUSLY ANSWERED,
 AND TOOK MY PROBLEMS AWAY.
 NOW I DEDICATE MY LIFE TO HIM,
 WHEN I AWAKE TO A NEW DAY.

WORRIES ARE DIMINISHING,
 THERES NOTHING HE CANNOT DO.
 IT DOES NOT MATTER,
 IF THE PROBLEM IS BIG OR SMALL.
 GOD HAS THE POWER,
 TO HANDLE THEM ALL.

I SAID TO HIM, "I'M SAD."
 HE TOLD ME, "IT'S OKAY."
 FOR I SHALL BRING YOU HAPPINESS,
 THROUGHOUT ETERNITY.
 I TOLD HIM, I WAS TIRED.
 MY THOUGHTS WILL NOT CEASE.
 JUST PRAY TO ME MY SON,
 AND I WILL GIVE YOU PEACE.

I GAVE INTO TEMPTATION,
 WHICH CAUSED ME TO ~~BE~~ SIN.
 REPENT FROM THEM, HE SAID,
 FOR I AM QUICK TO FORGIVE.
 MY BURDENS ARE LIGHTER,
 MY TROUBLES ARE FEW.

All I Ever Need

TO BEGIN MY DAY, I LIKE TO PRAY,
AND THANK HIM FOR THE BLESSINGS TO COME.
I MAY NOT KNOW WHAT THEY ARE,
BUT I KNOW THERE WILL BE SOME.
THROUGH THE WRITTEN WORD,
GOD PLANTED WITHIN ME A SEED.
THAT BY THE SACRIFICE OF HIS SON,
HE, IS ALL I EVER NEED.
WHAT A GLORIOUS THING JESUS DID,
WITH JUST A SINGLE DEED.
HE MADE A WAY TO BE FORGIVEN,
BY HIS WILLINGNESS TO BLEED.
HE CAME TO EARTH,
TO TEACH THE THINGS WE SHOULD HEED.
THE WORDS GIVEN BY HIS FATHER,
WITH AUTHORITY, THAT WAS HIS CREED.
BEFORE HE ASCENDED TO HEAVEN,
HE COMMANDED HIS DISCIPLES TO LEAD.
THOSE WHO ARE IN BONDAGE TO SIN,
THAT THEY CAN NOW BE FREED.
THIS, I HAD COME TO BELIEVE,
FROM ALL HE'S SHOWN ME.
THAT MY MESSIAH AND SAVIOR, JESUS,
IS ALL I EVER NEED.

35

Send Praises Up

WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE YOU CANNOT SMILE,
 IF YOU'RE WALKING AROUND WITH A FROWN,
 JUST SEND PRAISES UP,
 AND BLESSINGS WILL COME DOWN.
 WHEN YOU NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE,
 BUT THERE IS NO ONE AROUND,
 GO AHEAD AND TALK TO GOD,
 HE ALWAYS CAN BE FOUND.
 LET HIM KNOW YOUR GRATEFUL,
 FOR GIVING YOU ANOTHER DAY,
 EVEN IF IT WASN'T GREAT,
 THANK HIM ANYWAY.
 WHETHER YOU FEEL IT OR NOT,
 YOU ARE BEING BLESSED EVEN NOW.
 SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION TO HIM,
 EITHER SILENTLY OR OUT LOUD.
 WHO BETTER TO GIVE GLORY TO,
 THEN HE WHO WEARS THE CROWN.
 IT IS AS SIMPLE AS SENDING PRAISES UP,
 THEN WATCH, AS THOSE BLESSINGS KEEP
 COMING DOWN.

J. OLSON #100457

IN TIME IT'S GONNA CHANGE

WHEN THINGS ARE GOING BAD,
AND YOUR FEELING A LITTLE STRANGE.
THERE IS NO CAUSE TO WORRY,
BECAUSE IN TIME IT'S GONNA CHANGE.
IF YOUR CONFUSED AND ANGRY,
WITH ONLY YOURSELF TO BLAME.
REMEMBER THIS MY FRIEND,
IN TIME IT'S GONNA CHANGE.
IF YOUR FEELING DOWN AND OUT,
LIKE YOUR EMOTIONALLY DRAINED.
TURN IT OVER TO GOD,
FOR IN TIME IT'S GONNA CHANGE.
AT TIMES IT SEEMS LIKE,
IT'S THE SAME OLD BORING THING.
TAKE A MOMENT TO RELAX,
AND IN TIME IT'S GONNA CHANGE.
WHEN YOUR ENTIRE WORLD IS FALLING APART,
AND NEEDS TO BE REARRANGED.
TAKE A LEAP OF FAITH MY BROTHER,
YOU KNOW, IN TIME IT'S GONNA CHANGE.

Lost Souls

I LOOKED DOWN AT THE GROUND,
 AND THERE WAS HORROR TO BE SEEN.
 HUNDREDS OF LOST SOULS,
 WERE STARING UP AT ME.
 THEY BEGAN TO SCREECH AND MOAN,
 CALLING OUT MY NAME.
 I HEARD THEM SAY, "JOIN US."
 THE DARKNESS IS MY FRIEND.
 IT HAD SCARED ME SO BAD,
 TO THINK THIS WAS THE END.
 THEN, SUDDENLY CAME A BRILLIANT LIGHT,
 SHINING IN MY EYES.
 I HEARD A VOICE SO BEAUTIFUL,
 IT SOUNDED LIKE A SONG.
 IT SAID TO ME, "YOU DON'T NEED TO GO THERE,"
 UP HERE, IS WHERE YOU BELONG.
 HERE YOU'LL BE CARED FOR,
 NO LONGER GET SICK, OR DIE."
 I WAS OVERCOME WITH GLADNESS,
 THAT I BEGAN TO CRY.
 "COME NOW MY DEAR CHILD,
 THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT."
 THEN HIS ARM STRETCHED DOWN FROM HEAVEN,
 NOW I'M AT HOME AT LAST.

A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THANK YOU LORD JESUS,
FOR THE PAIN YOU WENT THROUGH.
I TOO HAVE KNOWN PAIN,
BUT NEVER AS MUCH AS YOU.
THANK YOU FOR ALL THE SUFFERING,
THAT YOU HAVE ENDURED.
FOR NO OTHER HUMAN BEING SUFFERED AS MUCH,
FROM WHAT I HEARD.
OUR TIME SHOULD BE SPENT COUNTING BLESSINGS,
INSTEAD OF VOICING OUR COMPLAINTS.
LIVING THE WAY HE TAUGHT,
JUST LIKE HIS CHOSEN SAINTS.
THANK YOU, FOR YOUR COMPASSION LORD,
WHEN WE KNOCKED UPON YOUR DOOR.
GIVING US LIFE ABUNDANTLY,
NOW AND FOREVERMORE.
THANK YOU FOR COMING TO SAVE US,
WHEN WE HAD NOWHERE LEFT TO TURN.
SNATCHING US AWAY FROM THE FIERY PIT,
WHERE ETERNALLY, WE WOULD HAD BURNED.
THANKS BE TO YOUR FATHER,
AND THE HOLY SPIRIT TOO.
WHO GAVE US BACK OUR LIVES,
THE DAY HE LED US TO YOU.

I AM AN O.G. (ORIGINAL GANGSTER)

HELLO BROTHERS I AM AN O.G.,
 AND IM HERE TO TELL YOU WHAT I DON'T NEED.
 I DON'T NEED NO YOUNG THUGS,
 TELLING ME NO BUNK JUNK.
 I'VE SEEN IT, I'VE DONE IT,
 I'VE LOST IT, I'VE WON IT,
 I SURVIVED, I'M ALIVE,
 AND NOW I STRIVE.
 TO WALK WITH THE LORD JESUS,
 BY MY SIDE.
 I'VE REPENTED FROM MY SINS,
 AND I'VE BEEN FORGIVING,
 BECAUSE MY SAVIOR DIED,
 THEN HE HAD RISEN.
 EVEN THOUGH IM LOCKED UP,
 I DON'T HAVE TO CRY.
 FOR YOU SEE, I KNOW,
 I'M GOING TO HEAVEN, WHEN I DIE.
 SO, IF YOU YOUNGESTER,
 WANT TO BE AN O.G.,
 START LIVING THE WORD,
 SO YOU CAN SEE,
 THAT EVEN YOU CAN BE SAVED,
 AND HOPEFULLY, WON'T END UP
 IN AN EARLY GRAVE.

J. OLSEN #82457

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I'M NOT GOING HUNGRY ANYMORE

I'M NOT, GOING HUNGRY, ANYMORE.

GOD'S SWEET LOVE,

IS WHAT I'VE BEEN HUNGRY FOR.

SINCE HE CAME INTO MY LIFE,

HE TOOK CONTROL, NOW I'M ALRIGHT.

I'M NOT, GOING HUNGRY, ANYMORE.

HAPPINESS IS EVERYWHERE HE IS,

AND THAT'S ALL I NEED TO KNOW.

HE HAS PLANTED A SEED OF LOVE,

AND WATCHES, AS IT GROWS.

I'M GIVING HIM EVERYTHING,

I GOT. THANK YOU LORD,

FOR CALLING THE STONES.

I'M NOT, GOING HUNGRY, ANYMORE.

JESUS SAID, IF WE HUNGER AND

THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS,

THEN WE WILL BE FILLED.

NOW MY PLATE IS OVERFLOWING,

MY SALVATION HAS BEEN SEALED.

I'VE BEEN GIVEN A BRAND NEW WAY,

CHANGING INTO A BETTER MAN EACH DAY.

I'M NOT, GOING HUNGRY, ANYMORE.

God Is My Only Drug

MY GOD IS MY ONLY DRUG,
HE TAKES ME HIGHER THAN I CAN DREAM.
WHEN I'M AT MY LOWEST,
FEELING LIKE I NEED TO SCREAM.

I TAKE A DOSE OF HIM,
THEN THINGS GET BETTER THAN THEY SEEM.
WITH HIM THERE IS NO CRASHING,
OR BURNING YOURSELF OUT.
NO FEAR, OR PARANOIA,
NO ANGER, NO REGRET.

HE IS STRONG ENOUGH TO KEEP YOU CALM,
WHEN PEOPLE ARE TOO MEAN.
A LITTLE BIT OF HIM,
BRINGS YOU PEACE TO THE EXTREME.

WITH GOD AS MY ONLY DRUG, I NEVER GET SAD.
HIS INTOXICATING POWER MAKES ME DO GOOD,
WHEN I REALLY WANT TO BE BAD.

MOST DRUGS YOU DO
CAUSE ONLY GRIEF AND STRIFE,
BUT MY ONLY DRUG MY GOD,
GIVES ME EVERLASTING LIFE.

J. OLSEN #94457

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I'M SO GLAD

I'M SO GLAD JESUS, SET ME FREE.
HE COMES TO ME, IN MY TIME OF NEED.
HE COMFORTS ME, WHEN I AM AFRAID,
THEN HIS SPIRIT REMINDS ME, I HAVE BEEN SAVED.

LOOK TOWARDS HEAVEN, SINGING SONGS OF PRAISE.
AND JOYFULLY CLAP YOUR HANDS,
WHEN YOU HEAR THE MUSIC PLAY.

YES I'M SO GLAD, JESUS SET ME FREE,
MAKING ME INTO THE MAN,
I HAD ALWAYS LONGED TO BE.

WELL TROUBLES COME, AND THEN THEY GO,
BUT I DON'T PANIC, FOR THIS I KNOW.
HE WALKS WITH ME, ALL THE DAY THROUGH,
THEN WHEN I GET TOO WEARY HE WILL CARRY ME TOO.

YES, I AM SO GLAD,
THAT JESUS SET ME FREE.
HE DOES IT WITH LOVE,
BECAUSE HE CARES FOR ME.

STARS SO BRIGHT

THERE ARE A MILLION STARS, THAT SHINE SO BRIGHT.
I AM NOT TALKING ABOUT THOSE IN THE SKY,
THAT YOU CAN SEE AT NIGHT.
I AM SPEAKING OF A PERSON,
WHO IS AROUND TO LEAD AND GIVE.
WHEN WE THINK THAT WE HAVE NO MORE REASON TO LIVE.
TAKE TIME TO OBSERVE, WHICH ONES HAVE THE LIGHT,
THAT SHINES EVER SO BRIGHT.
THAT ILLUMINATES EVEN THE DARKEST OF NIGHTS,
THESE PEOPLE GET THIS ABILITY BY CARING THEIR OWN CROSS.
THEY MAKE IT THEIR MISSION TO BRING THAT LIGHT,
TO THE LONELY AND THE LOST.
OH PLEASE, I BEG OF YOU,
IF YOU SAY YOU BELONG TO CHRIST,
MAKE IT YOUR DECISION,
TO BE ONE OF THESE STARS SO BRIGHT!

J. OLSEN #84437

THE POWER OF HIS LOVE

IT IS ONLY BY JESUS POWER,
 THAT A HUMAN BEING CAN BE SAVED.
 YOU CAN NOT WORK OR BUY IT,
 BELIEF IN HIM IS THE ONLY WAY.

HIS LOVE IS SO POWERFUL,
 IT IS SPREAD OUT EVERYWHERE.
 AND TO THOSE HE HAS CHOSEN,
 TO BECOME HIS HEIRS.

IF IT WAS NOT FOR OUR CREATOR'S LOVE,
 WE COULD NOT BE RECONCILED.
 FOR THE VERY FIRST PEOPLE WERE DECEIVED,
 AND PARADISE BECAME DEFILED.

TO BE A CHILD OF THE MOST HIGH,
 IS SUCH A WONDERFUL GIFT.
 NO MATTER HOW FAR YOU'VE GONE,
 HIS LOVE IS WITH YOU TO UPLIFT.

WITH THE POWER OF HIS LOVE,
 WE CAN BE CLEANSED FROM WITHIN.
 TO STOP THE FORCE OF THE EVIL ONE,
 WHO TEMPTS US TO SIN.

FROM THE HILLS AND VALLEYS BELOW,
 TO THE STARS UP ABOVE.
 THERE IS NOTHING THAT COMPARES,
 TO THE POWER OF HIS LOVE.

IT HELPS US TO STAY STRONG,
 THROUGHOUT THE TRIAL OF LIFE.
 IT BRINGS PEACE OF MIND TO THE BELIEVER,
 IN THE MIST OF CONFUSION AND STRIFE.

THE POWER OF LOVE IS PRECIOUS,
 IT CAN BELONG TO ANYONE.
 THOSE WHO KNOW GOD GAVE TO THIS WORLD,
 HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON.

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By His GRACE

TEMPORARILY I DWELL,
ON THIS PLANET CALLED EARTH.
IT HAS BEEN ALMOST FIFTY YEARS,
SINCE THE DAY OF MY BIRTH.

HEADING DOWN THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,
DETERMINED TO WIN THE RACE.
ARMED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT HE PROVIDES,
SERVED SOLELY BY HIS GRACE.

STRUGGLING WITH HARDSHIPS,
AND PHYSICAL DISTRESS,
EVEN THROUGH THE BEST OF TIMES,
GOD HAS PUT ME THROUGH THE TEST.

IT HAS TAKEN MUCH OF MY EXISTENCE,
TO LEARN HOW TO COMPLETELY TRUST.
ALL THE WONDERS THAT OUR LORD GOD,
HAS TO OFFER US.

KNOWING NOW I CAN ENDURE,
IN THIS NOT SO PLEASANT PLACE.
IT'S JUST ONE OF THE MANY BLESSINGS,
I RECEIVE BY HIS GRACE.

ENJOYING EACH MOMENT, THROUGHOUT,
THE DAY, AS MUCH AS I POSSIBLY CAN.
MATURING AND GROWING...
BECOMING A CHRIST-LIKE MAN.

J. DISEN #84437

I Used To Be - I Am

46

I USED TO BE A SIMPLE MAN,
WHO WOULD COMPLICATE EVERY LITTLE THING.
FORTUNATELY I DISCOVERED THE HURT AND HEARTBREAK,
THAT IT WOULD ALWAYS BRING.

I WOULD CONTINUALLY ASK FOR THE TRUTH,
FOR I LIVED IN CONSTANT DOUBT.
THEN MOST OF THE TIME I WOULD REGRET,
EVER FINDING OUT.

I BELIEVE I DESERVED RESPECT,
FROM EVERYONE I KNOW,
AND IF I DIDN'T GET IT,
I WOULD SHOW THEM WHO WAS IN CONTROL.

OH, WHAT A WRETCHED MAN, HAD I BECOME.
LOSING THE LOVE OF MY FAMILY,
MY WIFE, DAUGHTER, AND SONS.

I HAVE COME TO TRUST,
THAT THERE IS A BETTER PLAN.
THANK GOD I'VE LEARNED TO KEEP IT SIMPLE,
FOR THAT'S THE KIND OF MAN I AM.

THE GIVER

THE GIVER IS THE ONE,
 WHO IS THERE WHEN OTHERS ARE NOT.
 THEY WILL NOT REFUSE TO GIVE,
 OF THE THINGS THEY HAVE EAT.
 WHETHER THEY LIKE OR DISLIKE SOMEONE,
 IS TO THEM OF NO CONCERN.
 IT ONLY MATTERS TO THEM,
 THAT THEY GIVE OF WHAT THEY EARNED.
 THEY WILL ONLY TAKE IT IF NECESSARY,
 THEN GIVE BACK EVEN MORE.
 TO BUILD UP TREASURES IN HEAVEN,
 IS WHAT THEY ARE LONGING FOR.
 LOOK NOT PAST THE DAY,
 FOR TOMORROW MAY NOT BE,
 ALL THINGS COME TO PASS,
 EVEN YOU AND ME.
 ALWAYS DO GOOD EACH DAY,
 WHILE YOU HAVE THE TIME,
 GIVE TO THOSE IN NEED,
 LET YOUR LOVE FOR OTHERS SHINE.
 FOR IT IS IN GIVING THAT WE RECEIVE,
 AND IN GIVING THAT WE LIVE.
 TO EYE WITHIN ONESELF IS EASY,
 ALL ONE HAS TO DO IS GIVE.

J. OLSEN #64157

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SPEAKING IN THE SPIRIT

SPEAKING IN THE SPIRIT,
MEANS TO TALK TO EACH OTHER IN LOVE.
WHATEVER LANGUAGE YOU SPEAK,
YOU CAN MAKE ALL PEOPLE UNDERSTAND.
WE ARE MADE OF FLESH AND BLOOD,
THE SAME AS EVERY MAN.

LET'S LOOK PAST OUR DIFFERENCES,
AND FIND HOW WE ARE THE SAME,
SPEAK TO YOUR BROTHERS IN THE SPIRIT,
STOP FINDING WAYS TO BLAME.

THERE IS SO MUCH JOY,
WHEN YOU HELP SOMEONE,
ESPECIALLY SOMEBODY YOU DON'T KNOW,
YOU NOT ONLY BRING HAPPINESS TO THEM,
BUT YOU ALSO HELP YOUR SPIRIT GROW.

TO SPEAK IN THE SPIRIT,
DOES NOT ALWAYS INVOLVE WORDS,
IT CAN ALSO BE BY FOLLOWING
JESUS' LESSON YOU'VE HEARD.

WE DO THINGS ONCE IN A WHILE,
THAT WE WILL REGRET.
WHEN OTHERS SPEAK THE SPIRIT,
THEY WILL FORGIVE AND FORGET.

Who You Are

THANK YOU LORD JESUS,
FOR EASING ALL MY CARES,
WITH YOU I KNOW TRUE PEACE,
NO LONGER AM I SCARED.

YOU ARE MY PROFESSOR, MY HEALER,
MY FORGIVENESS, MY FRIEND,
LEADING ME ON A JOURNEY,
ONE THAT WILL NEVER END.

YOU'VE HUMBLERED ME TO THE POINT,
TO DEPEND SOLELY ON YOU.
TO LIVE THE LIFE YOU'VE TAUGHT,
TO DO THE THINGS YOU DO.

NOW THAT I KNOW,
I CAN COME BOLDLY TO THE THRONE.
I AM NO LONGER LOST,
OR EVER ALONE.

FOR YOU GIVE ME FAITH,
YOU'RE THE PATH THAT IS MY DESTINY.
YOU'RE ALL I EVER WANTED,
EVERYTHING I COULD EVER NEED.
THE ONE AND ONLY SON OF GOD,
IS WHO YOU ARE TO ME.

J. OLSEN #94437

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CONVICTION

ARE YOU WORSHIP,
OF OUR LORD?
DO YOU LIVE BY YOUR WORDS,
OR BY THE THINGS YOU DO?
I WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND,
THE IGNORANCE OF SOME,
WHO'VE BEEN CALLED BY CHRIST,
BUT REFUSE TO COME,
SOME SAY THEY BELIEVE,
YET, BECAUSE OF HYPocrisy THEY CANNOT SEE,
THEY'RE ONLY HARMING THEMSELVES,
BUT DEFINITELY NOT ME.
THESE ARE THE TYPE OF PEOPLE,
WHO MAKES GOOD CHRISTIANS, LOOK BAD,
WHOSE NUMBERS ARE INCREASING RAPIDLY,
WHICH IS INCREDIBLY SAD.
FOR THOSE PEOPLE I WILL PRAY,
THAT OUR LORD,
WILL OPEN THEIR EYES SOON,
AND THEY WILL SEE THE TRUTH,
OR LIVE... FOREVERMORE, IN DESPAIR AND DEEM.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A. THE POEM "TRAGEDY", WAS ORIGINALLY WRITTEN AS A DEDICATION TO THOSE IN THE VIRGINIA TECH SHOOTINGS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES AND THEIR FAMILY.

B. "MY SISTER, MY FRIEND", IS DEDICATED TO MY SISTER JACKIE.

C. THE POEM "ABUSED", IS AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL.

PLUS, SPECIAL THANKS TO MY ASSISTANT AND FRIEND CHAD, WHO DOES MAGNIFICENT JOB COPYING AND EDITING ALL MY MATERIALS.

THE COVER ART

THE PICTURE OF CHRIST ON THE CROSS AND THE MAN ON THE BENCH IS FROM CHRISTIAN LITERATURE AND WAS ORIGINALLY BLACK AND WHITE. THE COLOR ADDED WAS BY THE AUTHOR, AS WELL AS THE OTHER TWO PICTURES.

PREVIOUSLY
RELEASED
MATERIALS...

* INSIDE THE JOINT AND MY MIND :
A COLLECTION OF 3 SHORT STORIES

ALSO...

* BRINGING COLOR TO A BLACK EXISTENCE