Poetic Interactions with Genesis 1

Fellow travelers.

God works in mysterious ways…or sometimes God doesn't work at all. We don't know which best describes our trajectory. We just know that we've been changed…or something like that.

We are part of a generation of thinkers and scholars that set out to change the Progressive Christian industrial complex. In time, the Progressive Christian industrial complex changed us. For a while, we chased after every opportunity to build our brand. Then, we realized we were being chased…by every other person doing the exact same thing.

Often, there is nothing more liberating than simply stopping…choosing to quit the game. Well, that's how we met. Bewildered but still whole. Troubled yet undaunted. Hurt but not dead. The truth is, if you survive…you survive with so much more than what you started with…your complete self. We met as competitors and left as dear friends.

In the pages that follow, you will meet a didactic around Genesis 1 that took place between two thinkers (wannabe poets) with nothing to lose. That's why we think it's so damn good. It's a story of new creation, and all the uncertainties that follow. Honestly, it's a story of you…of us…and the struggle we all share…to be human.

These poems contain beautiful words…wonderful words…maybe even some wonderful words of life? We hope so. May the poet in us meet the poet in you and may we all be changed. This is a poetry of creation in the key of dissension.

The Rev. Dr. Mark Sandlin

The Rev. Dr. Jeff Hood

Day One

In the beginning...

Creating began

Light and dark

And all in-between

Emerged from What Was

Dayness and Nightness

Dawnness and Duskness

Cosmically established

Seeds of life

Divinely defined exquisiteness

Day: One

one:day

one:year

one:hundred:years

one:thousand:years

what is a day

is this real

am I just dreaming

i just woke up

night grows

longer

and longer

and longer

and light

but a passing memory

something is wrong here

what is a day

Day Two

Separating that which is One…

Defining

Separating that which is One

Physical access to one

Spiritual access to the other one

Earth and Heaven

Same but separate

Defined into struggle

Dayness/Nightness

Oneness/Lostness

Divinely defined exquisiteness

Day: Two

Water

Above

Water

Below

Why

Is

It

All so dirty

Wasn’t it cleansed

Wasn’t it baptized

Wasn’t it made by God

Questions mount

Why is it raining

Why is it flooding

Why are we drowning

Water Above, Water Below

Sky is the limit

Or maybe water is the limit of faith

We need water to survive

I AM Thirsty

You should have thought about it

Before you made it all

Drink and question

Question and drink

I AM Thirsty for so much more

Thoughts Above, Thoughts Below

No flood of answers here

Only a desert of water

Day Three

Earth rises above the sea…

Water in all spaces above and below

Further Defining Below

Gathering the waters, leaving voids

Parched land

Land in its place, water in its place

Separating that which is One

(which was One?)

Earth Rises Above the Sea

Ripe with Potential

Divinely defined exquisiteness

Growth

New growth in which the Divine delights

Green and ripe with potential

Yielding formation

Herb

Grain

Fruit

Seed

LIFE

Divinely defined exquisiteness

Day: Three

the soil

our home

or

our grave

smothered

choking in expectation

a seed

desperate

to become something more

buried alive

nothing to see

hope disappearing

and then

electricity

shooting through every atom

shifting

propelling

shocking

growing higher, wider, faster, stronger

soil displacing soil

desperate emotions

heavy lifting

almost dead

and then

light

beautiful

timeless

blinding

light

deep breathes

brain explosions

visions of a world

full of seeds

full of growth

full of oxygen

bursting from the ground of our being

and then

Day Four

Two great lights dancing…

Further Defining Above

further defining Dayness/Nightness

for each, for all, light defined

light for the Dayness

light for the Nightness

Light for the eyes

for the souls that are yet to be

two great lights dancing in conversation with time

one to watch over Dayness

one to watch over Nightness

with pin pricks in the darkened dome

lending invitation to mystery

Divinely defined exquisiteness

Day: Four

fire the sky

darkness in the heart

light so violent, absence so cruel

dreaming of reflection

praying in the night

looking to the heavens, feeling so alone

where is tomorrow

stuck in yesterday

repeating, repeatedly

light, reflection, distance

now and forever

does it mean anything

hope always dies last

Day Five

Alive!...by Divine intent

alive!

life in the waters, life in the sky

where Dayness and Nightness Reside

by Divine intent

great beasts of the watery deep

by Divine intent

creepy crawlers amidst the humus

Divinely defined exquisiteness

by Divine intent

by Divine blessing

procreate

populate the humus and the watery deep

Divinely defined exquisiteness

Day: Five

climate change!

Pollution fills the waters

pollution fills the sky

pollution kills life everywhere

so much created just to die

why

exquisiteness gone

procreation stunted

turn back the clock

divinity is gone

the temperature rises

we forgot that this beautiful world

and all that is in it

was created to be our home

Day Six

A reflection in the cosmic pool…

alive!

by Divine intent

multiplying

life amongst the humus, wild

life over the fields

in the forest

among the mountains

by Divine intent

by Divine blessing

procreate

populate the humus

Divinely defined exquisiteness

then

by the divine Us-ness

a last Creation

a reflection

in the cosmic pool

of time, of space, of Creation

human.

by Divine intent, be beneficent

care for Creation

humus, watery deep, sky above

cultivate green Creation

eat of its produce

life! be beneficent

the Divine surveyed Creation

Divinely defined exquisiteness, exceedingly so

Day: Six

there is life

but what is it for

a force unaware of its own demise

does it have a choice

its only option is to continue

wild things performing mechanical parts

blissfully ignorant of what is to come

do they have a choice

their only option is to continue

if we question, we will go insane

feigned indifference

our only salvation

do we have a choice

our only option is to continue

things could have been different

creation beyond prior determination

life with actual freedom

but they’re not

matter only matters if it continues

yet everything is dying

with a little life

sprinkled in between

Day Seven

It is finished…

It is finished.

It is blessed.

Sabbath rest.

Day: Seven

What in the fuck is going on?