

by way of introduction to

the beggar poems

The Beggar Poems were written when I begin to perceive a new relationship to God and the world. They reflect my belief in a way of living.

We are both beggar and king.

We are both children and creators of gods.

We are very small.

Bhikshuka

beggar of God

i come to God as a beggar
i cannot move from Her door

i come to God as a lover
i cannot move from Her door

O Mother
My heart is an empty open basket
with even your smallest blessing will this basket be filled a thousand-fold

O Mother
My heart is a lake of burning tears
with even your slightest glance will these tears become pure nectar

In your temple Mother You are cast in gold
i will wash your feet with the nectar of love

In your temple Mother even your dust is gold
i shall wipe each flake with tears of joy

O Mother i will sing to You your infinity of names
may i be purified to come to You
O Mother i will sign to You who is beyond all names
may i be purified to come to you

i sing. i sing
"a king banquets on plates of gold
and fills his tank with nectar"

"O Mother, such gold and nectar you have given me.
i need not be a king, so blessed am i to be a beggar."

so blessed am i to be a beggar

THE SONG OF SILENCE

In the market place

God's song is lost amid the shouts of hucksters and the
braying of burros penned against the red stone wall of the West Gate

where

in the blowing dust this beggar sits
deaf to the world

Only God's song
does he hear

He throws a rock to call to anyone who seems as hungry as he is to hear
this Song of Silence

With joy he will share his scavenged food
Together they will know God's banquet

A boy shouts

"Look there is that old deaf fool"
"He threw a rock. Lets stone him"

The beggar sings

" O God. There is nothing that is not Thee"