

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Psalm 29 (New Revised Standard Version)

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendor. The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty. The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon. He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox. The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire. The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, "Glory!" The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever. May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!

From Thomas Merton, ***Bread in the Wilderness***

Indeed the Psalms not only show us the way back to Paradise, they are themselves a Paradise. In them the truth and love of God are not only shown to us but communicate to us in the Mystery of Christ, if we can only receive them. The Mystery of the Psalter is above all the Mystery of God's will: the history of Israel is a history of trial and suffering not so much because of the enemies of God's people, still less because Israel was forsaken by God, but because, of all things, Israel kept forsaking God by disobeying His will and mistrusting His providence. The prevarication of the Chosen People is answered and the problems it causes are solved by the obedience of the Redeemer who comes to do God's will.