

Connecting New

February, 2016

This month I share two poems that may fit with celebrating Lent.

Replacement

It's tempting to think that if a particular person were removed,
the situation would be better,
the problem would be eliminated,
but this is a fantasy, because with people come challenges
(opportunities to love I like to say).
So yes, with a different person,
that problem may be gone, but only to be replaced by another.
As long as we are alive,
these invitations to grow in love will never cease,
and for some, that precisely is the problem.

Possessed

There's a little devil that takes up residence inside me,
sometimes,
jumps around and pokes me with sharp stick
just in the most painful spots, to set me off,
releasing unkindness into the atmosphere,
impatience, selfishness, inconsideration,
like a little steam spouting from a tea kettle,
it stings,
and so I pray for mercy...
from my God, but even more,
from those people who love me,
the ones I can trust enough to get singed
and not run away.
I may at least consider taking a nap
or lightening my schedule, but mostly,
I am counting on the strength, kindness,
perseverance and forgiveness of the victims.

May we exit the Lenten Season freer than we entered, for the greater glory of God and that we may love the world more fully.

Peace and Blessings,
Clarence

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