

Connecting New

March, 2023

It hurts to see someone who we love suffer, sometimes to the point of being unbearable. Could it be that this was the experience of Peter, James and John as Jesus agonized in Gethsemane? Surely Jesus' suffering was enormous, but was their love so great that they could not bear witness to it?



Painful

Sometimes we simply can't tolerate
witnessing the pain of the ones we love.
We need to look away when the IV is inserted,
to leave the room when the breathing gets labored,
to take a break from the ICU.
Compassion is to join in the suffering of another out of love,
but there is a point too much to bear,
a point that can trigger emotional unconsciousness.

Couldn't, wouldn't this have been the case for the apostles
keeping watch in prayer during Jesus' agony?
That when faced with their beloved sweating blood,
when the predictions they tried to ignore were proving true,
the only recourse was sleep, if only for an hour?

May we have mercy on them and on ourselves,
offering love, understanding and forgiveness for being human,
for having limitations,

and then we shall become one,
knowing that God is with us still.

May the coming holy days bring us deeper into the heart of Love.

Peace and Blessings,
Clarence

If this has been forwarded to you and you would like to receive future Connecting New emails, [subscribe here](#). An archive of past emails can be found on the Connecting New page of www.clarenceheller.com. Also, if you do not already receive A Piece of Goodness, a positive and often provoking daily excerpt from one of Clarence's poems, with convenient access to the entire poem for those who wish to engage it, [subscribe here](#).

Visit A Piece of Goodness on social media.

