

Betrayal

Commentary by Peter Rollins

All great teachers will seek to nurture students who will surpass them. In order for this to happen, a painful separation must take place at some point between the student and the teacher. The authentic religious teacher is one who eventually asks his students to prove their devotion by finding their own way, moving beyond the lessons that they have learned, and taking responsibility for their own path. In short, the leader will one day say to the student, “Do not follow me.”

Of course this is a strange, almost paradoxical teaching, for it is only by following the teacher that one will heed the command not to follow. Yet these words, when truly grasped, have potential to set the disciple free, allowing her the chance to apply her learning in ever new and innovative ways.

This is not a betrayal in the sense of a rejection, nor is it a blind fidelity that seeks to live by the letter of the law. Rather, this loving move beyond the teacher in response to the teacher can be described as a faithful betrayal.

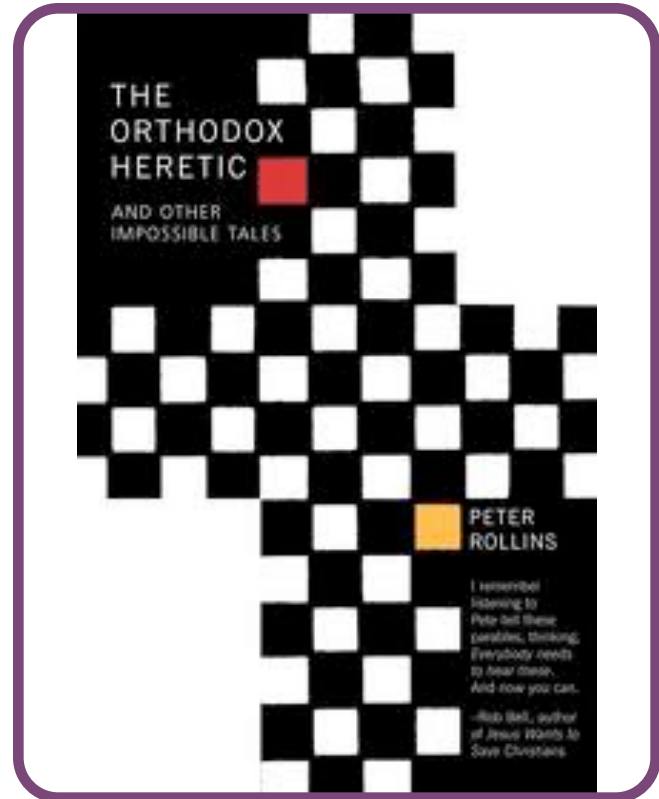
The teacher here is the one who says, “You will do greater things than I.” This teacher stays only for a season so that the words, which act as bridge to truth, do not become a blockage to it, and so that their ironic presence does not morph into an idolatrous one. Thus, we can say that a total and complete fidelity to our teacher, an unthinking devotion to her words, will always end up being nothing but betrayal.

(“The Orthodox Heretic” pages 118-9)

Lenten Evening Prayer

Ancient & Modern

PARABLES



“Religious writing is usually designed to make the truth of faith clear, concise, and palatable. Parables subvert this approach. In the parable, truth is not expressed via some dusty theological discourse that seeks to educate us, but rather it arises as a lyrical dis-course that would inspire and transform us...parables do not seek to change our minds but rather to change our hearts.” **PETER ROLLINS**

Lenten Evening Prayer Parables

“**Parables** subvert the desire to make faith simple and understandable. They do not offer the reader clarity, for they refuse to be captured in the net of a single interpretation and instead demand our eternal return to their words, our wrestling with them, and our puzzling over them.

This does not mean that the words contain no message, or that they mock us as some insoluble puzzle (and thus not rally as a puzzle at all). Parables do not substitute sense for nonsense, or order for disorder. Rather, they point beyond these distinctions, inviting us to engage in a mode of reflection that has less to do with fixing meaning than rendering meaning fluid and affective.

A parable does not primarily provide information about our world. Rather, if we allow it to do its work within us, it will change, our world--breaking it open to ever-new possibilities by refusing to be held by the categories that currently exist within that world. In this way the parable transforms the way we hold reality, and thus changes reality itself.” (Peter Rollins)

Please begin your worship in quiet contemplation.



IN A VISION

I asked for the most intimate experience with the Christ.

No one would believe what happened in a vision more true than this world:
the
sacred chord
pulsated light throughout the universe
as I nursed my own Christ at my breasts.

Benediction:

P: "Preach the Gospel at all times!
If necessary use words." **Amen**

(St. Francis of Assisi)

Peace:

*receive the peace of Christ
and share Christ's peace as you depart.*



IN ALL THINGS

It was easy to love God in all that was beautiful.

The lessons of deeper knowledge, though, instructed me to embrace God in all things.

St. Francis

**Start by doing what's necessary,
then what's possible,
and suddenly you are doing the impossible.**


St. Francis

Hymn: **#808 Lord Jesus You Shall Be My Song**

Prayers of the Body

We will begin and end our prayers by singing the canon

May be sung in canon. Kristopher E. Lindquist



My spir - it rests in You a - lone, All my whole-ness comes from You.

Music & text © 2001, 2005 KEL. www.KELmusic.com

Abba Prayer

P: As Jesus taught us, we pray:

**Heavenly Mother, Heavenly Father
Holy and blessed is your true name.
We pray for your reign of peace to come.
We pray that your good will be done.
Let heaven and earth become one.
Give us this day the bread we need.
Give it to those who have none.
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us
From each one to each one to each one.
Lead us to holy innocence
Beyond the evil of our days:
Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.
For yours is the power
And the mercy, and the glory.
Forever your name is all one. Amen.**

Hymn: **#538 The Lord Now Sends Us Out**

Invocation:

P: “If all the tenderness in this world could reflect from my eyes, would you accept that love? If all the forgiveness the heavens have known could be offered from one face, would you accept that pardon?”

C: In God’s sublime sanity--every moment God offers that to us: anything that might comfort.”

(St. Francis of Assisi)

Evening Hymn: **#561 Joyous Light**

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

P: No one lives outside the walls of this sacred place, existence. The holy water, we need it upon our eyes: it is you dear, you--each form. What mother would lose her infant--and we are that to You O God, never lost from Your gaze are we? Every cry of the heart is attended by light’s own arms. We cannot wander anywhere that will not aid You. Anything we can touch--You brought it into the classroom of our mind. We have just peeled the skin from the potato and you are still contemplating its worth, Sweetheart; indeed there are wonderful nutrients in all, for You O God made everything. With that wisdom we praise you. **C: Amen.**

(St. Francis of Assisi)

Psalmody: **#232 Let My Prayer Rise Up**
the piano side is Group 1 and the north side Group 2

Silence for reflection

Litany:

P: Dear God, please reveal to us your sublime beauty that is everywhere, everywhere, everywhere, so that we will never again feel frightened.

C: **My Divine LOVE, my LOVE, please let me touch your face.**

P: I hear you singing, Dear, inviting me to your limb.
I am coming, for all that we do is a preparation for love.

C: **We hear you singing, O God, inviting us to your throne.**

We are coming, Dear, for all the toil you have blessed us with is a preparation to know and hold the sacred.

We hear you singing, our souls, but how can it be that God's voice has now become our own?

P: Our BELOVED said, "That is just a wedding gift for our Divine Union."

(St. Francis of Assisi)

Silence for reflection

Hymn: **#699 In Deepest Night**

Scripture Reading: Mark 12: 28-34

A Reading from *The Orthodox Heretic: BETRAYAL*

BETRAYAL

ONE DAY THE TEMLE MASTER CALLED his youngest disciple to sit and eat with him in private. This disciple had been a devotee for many ears and had carefully followed the ways of his teacher, learning to emulate the life of the Master as best he could.

But the great Master was now an elderly man and knew that he was close to death. He was fond of this disciple, yet he feared that the disciple was still some way from achieving enlightenment--not despite the Master's diligence but rather precisely because of it. And so, as they sat together the Master addressed his disciple saying, "You have been a thoughtful and dedicated follower of my teachings for many years, and you may well one day become a great teacher. However, I sense that you are in danger of betraying me in your thoughts and actions."

"Never," replied the disciple in shock. "Since I was young I have followed your ways, never deviating from the path that you have ploughed. I never cease to reflect upon our words, and I never tire of engaging in the rituals and prayers that you have taught. I swear to you that I would never betray you, my great teacher."

"But you fail to understand, my young friend," replied the Master. "The fact that you have never betrayed my teachings, and the fact that you swear never to betray them: this is to betray them already."

Peter Rollins commentary on this parable is provided on the back of the bulletin.