

Four Quartets Meditation

We have chosen a set of seminal phrases from the Four Quartets that we have put together as a way to pray.

OPENING

If all time is eternally present

All time is unredeemable

To be conscious is not to be in time

Only in time is time conquered

PRACTICE

Come this way

Leaving behind being distracted from distraction by distraction

Come to pray where prayer has been valid.

Come this way to be redeemed from fire by fire

Be still

Descend only into the world of perpetual solitude

Put off Sense and notion.

Let go of the need to verify, to instruct yourself, inform your curiosity or report back to anyone.

Allow but a little consciousness

Be still

and let the dark come upon you Which shall be the darkness of God

Be still

wait without hope, for hope would be for the wrong thing,

Wait without love, for love would be of the wrong thing

Wait without thought, for you are not ready for thought

To possess what you do not possess

You must go by a way of dispossession

What you do not know is the only thing you know

Then the darkness shall be the light and the stillness the dancing

Restored by that refining fire

Here, the intersection of the timeless moment

The impossible union

A condition of complete simplicity

Where past and future are conquered and reconciled

Here is where you are and nowhere. Never and always

Where time has been redeemed

And all shall be well and

All manner of things shall be well

TIME OF SILENCE

CLOSING

With the drawing of this Love and the voice of this calling

We shall not cease from exploration

And the end of all our exploring

Will be to arrive where we started and know it for the first time

And all shall be well and

All manner of things shall be well

And the fire and the rose are one

May it be so, Amen