

The Voice of Justiceⁱ

1. God comes as judge of all to heaven's court, and stands among the counselors of eternity;
2. Now listen to the verdict as God speaks: "How long, O earth, will all your judgments be unjust" How long will all advantage go to those most powerful and corrupt?"
3. Hear this, I say: "Save lowly ones, rescue orphans, defend the humble and all the destitute of earth.
4. Reach out to liberate the weak and poor, deliver them before they fall as evil's pray.
5. You do not know, nor do you understand, you grope so blindly in the dark while all around your world is torn from limb to limb.
6. Hear this and listen carefully to what I'm about to say, You yourselves are gods, all of you are children born from deity.
7. However, I have made you live and die as mortal beings, but live and die as kings and queens, I say,
8. Who rise and wisely rule the earth, for it is yours to govern as you will."

ⁱ NOTES:

1. Across the earth in the course of human history there has been a developing sense of justice. Human awareness of fairness, justice, and human rights has grown through the centuries, and though we are not perfect, it is as if a seed of what is right and good has been planted in human culture and as we nourish it, it continues to grow.
2. To pray such a prayer as this in some sense is to see from the divine perspective, for this Psalm offers us a viewpoint that is centered in God's role of bringing justice to the world. Remember that is what a judge seeks to do – to administer justice and not simply bring judgment.
3. Strangely, the last three verses of this Psalm offer us a vision of what and who humanity actually is that goes well beyond our imaginings. Jesus, in fact, quotes verse 6 in reference to human beings to suggest

that we are indeed divine creatures (John 10:34). Human dignity, in this sense, is based on our divine origination. Anything originating from the divine has the right of deep respect.

MEDITATION

- A. The voice of justice is not simply a human voice crying out for reprieve and redress. It is a divine voice addressing us, asking us to learn to live justly and to align the world with justice. Have you heard this voice, God's voice crying out from beyond you and from within? Perhaps you have been treated unjustly and felt indignation. That is good for us, because it means that we can begin to feel the ire of the Creator when the creation suffers indignity.
- B. In addition, in this Psalm we hear of our own divine origination . . . that God is willing to call us "gods" and "divine" because of our source from within deity itself. Meditate upon these verses (6-8), especially on the words, "you are children born from deity." How do they define your purpose and destiny, and the meaning of your life upon the earth?
- C. The last verse (8) speaks of wisely ruling the earth. It is certainly true that human beings have the capacity for this; The question is, do they have the wisdom? Part of the Christian tradition's understanding of the Christian tradition's understanding of this possibility is that to rule rightly is to serve the earth. Rule without servant-hood turns into arrogance. Reflect upon the relationship between ruling, governing and serving.

This translation, the notes and the meditation are taken from ***"ANCIENT SONGS SUNG ANEW: The psalms as poetry"*** by Lynn C. Bauman