

AN INVOCATION TO CREATOR OF CREATIONⁱ

25. O Lord, my God, behind your work, your wisdom is the architect of all.
The plenitude of life is yours.
26. I turn and look and see the sea aglint so full of life and overflowing,
27. Through which our ships of commerce move, but deeper still those
mighty ships are yours, your whales, your secret creatures of the
deep, your joy, your sport, your praise.
28. And everything that lives and moves on land or sea or air turns eyes
to look at you the source of everything. Alone, you give it all as gift;
you feed a world made hungry by your hand.
29. You give and give, we gather in. Your arms you open even wider still
and we are filled to overflowing with generosity of every kind.
30. If you for one small moment would ever hide your face from us, all
creation would shrink in terror and in fear. If you even briefly held
your breath we would die and pass to dust.
31. You breathe and we spring forth to life, your breath and beauty fills
the face of earth.
32. So may this beauty and the glory that is you and yours remain and
may all that you have done bring highest joy.
33. For in your presence we are made to tremble and out of awe and fear,
and we are set aflame by your bright burning blaze.
34. So while I live and have my breath, all this shall be my song,
35. And may the poetry of heart and word I speak rise up as joy to bless
the Lord.
36. And may the taint of every evil, and all the poisons that we know as
sin be finally cast aside.
37. For we would ever bless you, God, our hearts remembering all you are
to us, Both now and ever more . . . Amen and Hallelujah.

ⁱ NOTES:

1. This picture is grand and powerful. Within the scope of the universe God has taken the chaos of the watery planet and turned it into a dwelling place for humankind and the creatures of the earth.
2. Water is of deep significance in this poetic hymn. Through the breath of God it is made, to obey the divine will and to serve a positive rather than a destructive purpose. According to the vision of this hymn, all creatures earthly and heavenly are brought into harmonious relationship within the created order.
3. There is reference made in this Psalm to a sea dragon (leviathan in verse 26), and compared to human ships. What this creature actually is remains unclear. It may refer to a large aquatic creature that we know, or one that has ceased now to be or it may refer to creature in the mythologies of the Middle East. In any case it signified the watery chaos of the world over which God has competence and control.

MEDITATION:

- A. The experience of the natural order as our home and dwelling place is perfectly expressed in this Psalm. In this vision of unitive existence, nothing is excluded, and we are meant to dwell in oneness with the creation. In modern western civilization often we are made to feel alienated from creation, but this is not the ancient vision of the Hebrew people. If we are to recover ecological balance, then we must regain something of this perception once again. How do you relate to the natural world: as an "other" (an alien to be feared) or as a home in which you are comfortable? Why would the latter be a more biblical perspective?
- B. The universe we inhabit is not dead, according to this Psalm. It is alive and in some kind of dynamic relation. Again, we may have lost this sense of aliveness, and abandoned our natural relationship to the created order. In this Psalm what speaks to you speaks of this dynamic, living quality. What parts of it are especially beautiful?
- C. We can, if we choose, pray through and with the creation. It can inspire in us a deep sense of belonging in which we are the creatures with voice who serve god, giving back creation's praise and song. For a period of day make part of this hymn a daily recitation (or song). See what effects it has upon you. Take this Psalm out of doors into some naturally secluded spot and read it prayerfully

THIS TRANSLATION, THE NOTES AND THE MEDITATIONS are taken from "[Ancient Songs Sung Anew: the psalms as poetry](#)" by Lynn C. Bauman