

## TRINITY

There was a king who at the end of his life was beset by melancholy. He said, "During my life I have experienced everything mortal man can experience with his senses. But there is still one thing I haven't seen. I haven't seen God. I would die happy if I could get just one glimpse of God."

He consulted his wise men, and offered them all kinds of rewards if they could make his dream a reality, but they were unable to do so.

Then a shepherd heard of the king's plight. He came to him and said, "Perhaps I can help your majesty". The king was delighted and followed the shepherd into the hills. When he saw how poor the shepherd was he pitied him. As he went along he rubbed his eyes in anticipation of what he hoped to see. But the shepherd said to him, "Your majesty, if you wish to see God, it's not your eyes you have to purify but your heart."

They stopped on a hilltop. Then, pointing towards the sun, the shepherd said, "Look up !" The king raised his eyes and tried to look directly at the sun, but the glare dazzled him. "Do you want to blind me ?" he said. And the shepherd answered, "But, my king, this is only a part of creation, only a small reflection of the glory of God. How then can you expect to look at God with your weak and imperfect eyes ? You must begin to search for him with eyes other than your physical ones."

The king liked the idea and said "I thank you for having opened the eyes of my mind. Now answer another question: Where does God live ?" The shepherd pointed once more to the sky. Above them birds were flying about. "Look at these birds," he said. "See how they live surrounded by the air. In the same way we live surrounded by God. Stop searching. Open your eyes and look. Open your ears and listen. You can't miss him. Heaven is under our feet as well as over our heads."

The king stopped and looked and listened. As he did so a peaceful expression came over his sad face. Then the shepherd added, "There is one other thing, your majesty." With that he led him to a well. He stood there looking into its calm deep water in silence. "But who lives down there ?" asked the king. "God does," the shepherd answered. "Can I see him?" "Sure. Just take a look."

The king gazed intently down into the well. But all he saw was his own reflection in the water. Then he raised his head and said “But all I see is me.” “Now your majesty knows where God lives. He lives in you.”

The king realized that this simple shepherd was wiser and richer than he was. He thanked him and returned to his palace. No one knew if he had seen God, but all could tell that something had happened to his heart. This was evident from the kindly way he dealt with even the least of his servants.

God is all around us. But until we discover him within us, he will always be remote from us, and appear unfriendly and uncaring. When we have experienced God within us, loneliness will never be a big problem for us, because we will know that we are never alone. And we will see creation as the work of an Artist who is a friend of ours.

One God in three persons, a God who is within us and yet utterly beyond us. This is a great mystery, but it is a mystery of love.