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The Cross

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The Cross

John Murray

Born into a life of suffering and pain
This is the lot that I was given
But not just me, don't get me wrong
For each of you receives the same.

This isn't from some prejudice
Where God looks down and says,
"This one is funny."
Nor is it just because there is no God
To give good to few and evil to many.

No, sin is evil and ever-present,
Starting with Adam and ending in
Heaven.
Its talons take hold from the instant you're
made
From that first second the evil is placed.

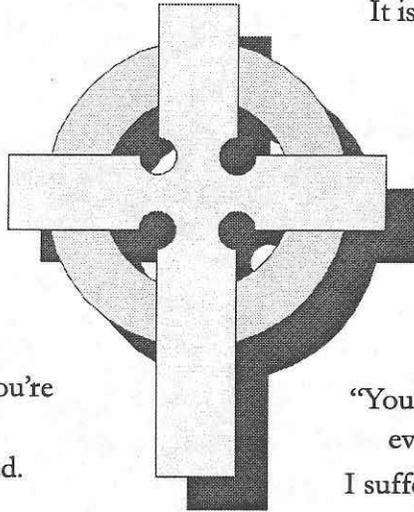
"So, where is God?" is the question you pose
As little kids die before they are ten years old.
"How can you presume to say there's a God
When evil is ruling, and victory is against the odds?"

It is easy to overlook the presence of God
And even easier to throw in the towel.
What's the point of trying to fight
When there seems to be no end in sight?

Day to day I face these questions
Whether in my mind or from some other direction.
I sit and ponder, think and pray.
Hoping beyond hope to have the answer some day.

And yet I overlook the simple fact
That Jesus faced this question in his life's task.
He came not only to salvage the sinner,
But also to show us the presence of God when
we suffer.

We always, as people, tend to look at the sky
And say God I'm suffering, why oh why
Haven't you saved me and made my life easier,
Taken away the pain, made my work much simpler.



It is then that He looks at us, not
from on high
But nailed to the cross,
sentenced to die.
"Look at me now, I suffer
while you do,
But more importantly, I suffer
for you.

"You suffer pain and death in
everyday life
I suffer pain and die today that you
might have life.

The price I pay is the one you cannot,
The debt I claim is the one you must not.

"For you see suffering, and you see pain,
Why you have no hope, I cannot explain.
I hang on the cross to bring you life
But also to suffer with you through your life."

So now when I suffer what seems in vain
Or go through seemingly unnecessary pain.
I know that Christ did much more in one day
That I could ever understand or explain.

All I know is the love that is expressed
Through the actions of a God, who knew my
distress.
And decided in mercy, grace and love
To sacrifice himself, God descended from above.