

LARGO OF THE HOLEŠOVICE QUARTER

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Soon after the second world war I moved to Prague, to the quarter of Holešovice. At that time I was very busy with my work and study, putting in many hours per day, but I did all this work for God with the constant thought of Him. In the permanent awareness of Him I was surrounded by His holy presence and Grace.

Nonetheless, I used each and every moment of relaxation for even deeper concentration and contemplation, with mind pointed to Him, for unification with Him. When I was completely relaxed and turned within, my little self started to dissolve and with full and clear awareness I became one with the all-encompassing and all-pervading divine Self, creating an filling the whole universe.

What remained of my human self was only a tiny spark, the last tiny bubble on the infinite ocean of the great Self, which was on the verge of dissolving in quiet surrender into the monolithic water of the divine consciousness. Then this dying-out spark, this dissolving bubble, heard a hushed marvelous tune of Dvorak's "Largo" from his *New World Symphony*, which I loved so much. To its first notes I used to add the words of my decla-

ration of love to God, invoking His holy presence: "Great God, God boundless".

This inner most prayer expressing the elevation of a soul longing for God, this holiest Mantra, with which I used to joyfully call God so often and with which I would get even closer to Him, came to me in the most intimate moment when my soul was becoming one with God. This prayer started to infiltrate the awareness of the dying-out spark of my human self and this dying-out and surrendering self was immediately brought to life by listening to it.

The tiny spark of my human self started to praise God with this holiest mantra as it had done numerous times before. The sound intensified in volume, till it became tremendous, ravishing. It filled the universe and engulfed the subtlety and stillness of the rebirthing of the human self into the divine Self, becoming one with it.

So my human self prevailed again in this game of duality. At least it became a worshipper of the great Self; if only it could spare itself like this.

The noble "Largo", so elevating and ennobling before, the holiest mantra of mine inserted

into its tune, so exalted and effective – exactly this pulled me out from the peak moment of the highest sacrifice. It happened at the last step of surrendering myself to God. Yet this connection of soul and God, this rebirth, cannot take place in any other way than in the deepest silence, in the greatest silence of mind, without its minutest movement or quiver, in an absolute surrender of the ego in mystical death.

Since the ego does not want to surrender for a long time, it uses each opportunity, even the holiest one, to avoid its own death. At the peak moment, even the holiest mantra is an obstacle.

*Universal, Formless Being,
Nameless, Oh Being!*

Without attributes.

*How distant I am from You
When I invoke Your Grace
And receive it fully.*

*How distant I am from You
When I praise Your Grace
Which is filling me.*

*Oh my love, burn yourself,
Oh longing, drown in the last wave.*

*Abysmal Depth
Engulf that,
Which still wants to be
At least a worshipper.*

When my human self fully came to itself, I cried from regret and asked the Lord to help me overcome this intricate verge of mystical death, from which many turn back. It is the

fear of death that returned me to the sphere of “unlimited awareness”, which is not the ultimate one. So I asked God to help me die for him, assuring him that I did not want anything else.

Several days later during contemplation I again reached a deep internal state. I was submerging more and more into God’s presence. Initially I could hear beautiful music similar to the famous tune from Smetana’s opera, *Bartered Bride*, with the lyrics “Come then let us all be merry since God grants us health today”. I had heard it before quite often. Although the tune reminded me of those heard in the world, the sound was perfect. Later I heard the same ideas from an acquaintance of ours, an organist and composer: “Inner music is perfect, while outer instruments, even the best, are not that flawless”.

To the music, “Come then let us be merry”, which supposedly expressed worldly joys, I gave a clear answer within: “I do not want this”, and submerged deeper. The cheerful, merry tones changed immediately into a marvelous hymn, which always before used to elevate my mind and my feelings to God.

Since the ego does not want to surrender for a long time, it uses each opportunity, even the holiest one, to avoid its own death.

But my more deep-seated self said again: “I do not want this either”. And the deepest, divine Self said with a mute voice, still present in my consciousness:

“What do you want then?”

With all my heart, all my being, I answered: “To die for God.”

At the instant the universe swayed, dissolved,

and turned into an infinite *Void*. Initially, while I still perceived, it seemed to me as if I held an infinite shawl knit from endless single loops and had pulled the proper string. In an instant the whole shawl lessened into a single thread and even that dissolved. In the same way the universe dissolved into its primal matter – divine Being, in which my human consciousness completely disappeared.

Even this experience that lasted several days did not remain permanent, although it clearly stayed in the depth of my consciousness. Only several years later and after several submersions (*samadhi*), the trace of duality dissolved and never reappeared again.

From this experience that happened in the early morning at summer equinox many years ago, nothing was ever lost nor was added; only some dependencies were gradually dissolved. This experience of *Unity* is alluded to in my poem, “Awakening”, and several other poems.

Awakening

Awakening in the morning

To greet You

As before,

But although You are everywhere

Nowhere can You be found.

Your altar grew empty,

The rose fragrance is gone,

Everything else is empty.

And still You grow through all like a Bodhi tree.

You are not here as before, in my Heart –

Since lo! There's no heart any more

Neither am I as before.

Then I wished to die in Your embrace.

There is no You and there is no me,

And yet I have so much of You,

That my last wish to feel Your embrace,

Has withered away.

In absolute certainty,

That it's always been this way,

In the Beginning and for ever and ever.

June 21, 1958

Note

The article is an extract from the book *Beyond Time and Space*, published by Avatar in Czech under the title *Za čas a prostor*.

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About the author

RNDr. Míla Tomášová (1920–2001) was a Czech mystic and spiritual writer. In the book of essays and spiritual stories *Beyond Time and Space* the author portrays her spiritual experiences, experienced since her childhood, which gradually resulted into a permanent experience of *Unity* – God in everything. She worked professionally in the field of microbiology. After the fall of the Communist regime in Czechoslovakia in 1989 she started to act publicly together with her husband JUDr. Eduard Tomáš. At the end of her life she wrote several spiritual books, either individually or together with her husband.

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