

## TO AN ANCHORITE

written  
August, 1981

A flash of light, of energy,  
And suddenly you beheld the face of the Lord,  
Prayerfully, in your cell.

The cilia swished  
And a rhythm began in the waters of your soul,  
Whispering, "Yahweh, Yahweh."

You floated in the currents of the deep  
Until you found an anchorhold,  
A place to gaze in profound silence upon your Maker.

The prayer in you grew  
"Praise God, praise God"  
And throbbed in a one-chambered heart.

You stretched forth arms,  
Then hands in prayer  
"I am marvelously made."

The cells of your being pulsed with praise,  
Day and night, ceaselessly,  
Breathless with adoration.

With closed eyes you beheld glory,  
You dwelt in the house of the Lord,  
In the hand of the Lord, joyfully.

O my child, come not into this world,  
This unquiet world.  
Do not open your eyes to lose that sight.

Do not come to this world of appetite and hunger,  
Of striving and gaining  
That which does not satisfy.

Your birth will be death,  
And it will take many years  
To learn to pray again.

After that birth,  
You will be glad of another death.

(i.e., the death of Jesus  
on the cross  
for our sins)

Anne Eggebroten

With regards for T.S. Eliot's "The Journey of the Magi":

"I had seen birth and death,  
But had thought they were different."

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# CONTENTS

<b>Notices and Personalia</b>		5
<b>Interview with Frederick Buechner</b>		9
<b>Dialogue</b>		
NURTURING OUR NURSE: LITERARY SCHOLARS AND BIBLICAL EXEGESIS	JOHN W. SIDER	15
<b>Essays</b>		
MY FAITH IS GONE! "YOUNG GOODMAN BROWN" AND PURITAN CONVERSION	JANE DONAHUE EBERWEIN	23
INTERPRETING SCRIPTURE: LITERARY CRITICISM AND EVANGELICAL HERMENEUTICS	ROBERT K. JOHNSTON	33
<b>Reviews</b>		
William H. Shurr, <i>Rappaccini's Children: American Writers in a Calvinist World</i>	KATHLEEN VERDUIN	49
Vernard Eller, <i>The Language of Caanan and the Grammar of Feminism</i>	VIRGINIA MOLLENKOTT	51
Pat Alexander, compiler, <i>Eerdmans Book of Christian Poetry</i>	DAN DIEPHOUSE	53
Chad Walsh, <i>A Rich Feast: Encountering The Bible From Genesis to Revelation</i>	DORIS ROETHLISBERGER	55
Mark Johnson, Ed., <i>Philosophical Perspectives on Metaphor</i>	LARRY J. NYBERG	56
Frank Livingstone Huntley, <i>Bishop Joseph Hall and Protestant Meditation in Seventeenth- Century England</i>	DANIEL W. DOERKSEN	57
Anthony Low, <i>Love's Architecture: Devotional Modes in Seventeenth-Century English Poetry</i>	JAMES L. HEDGES	59
Margaret Spufford, <i>Small Books and Pleasant Histories: Popular Fiction and Its Readership in Seventeenth-Century England</i>	E. A. GREGORY	61
Michael Lieb, <i>Poetics of the Holy: A Reading of "Paradise Lost"</i>	P. J. KLEMP	63
Melanie Bandy, <i>Mind Forg'd Manacles: Evil in the Poetry of Blake and Shelley</i>	CLEMENT GOODE	65
George P. Landow, <i>Victorian Types, Victorian Shadows: Biblical Typology in Victorian Literature, Art and Thought</i>	JOHN W. CRAWFORD	66
Walter C. Daniel, <i>Images of the Preacher in Afro-American Literature</i>	HAMMETT WORTHINGTON-SMITH	67
James A. Grimshaw, Jr., <i>The Flannery O'Connor Companion</i>	LOUISE Y. GOSSETT	69
Thomas Howard, <i>The Achievement of C. S. Lewis</i>	CORBIN CARNELL	70
Thomas Merton, <i>Day of a Stranger</i>	DALE COOPER	70

Donald J. Greiner, <i>The Other John</i> <i>Updike: Poems, Short Stories, Prose, Plays</i>	MARGARET HALLISSY	71
Rodney J. Mulder and John H. Timmerman, <i>Frederick Manfred: A Bibliography and</i> <i>Publishing History</i>	NANCY OWEN NELSON	72
Larry Woiwode, <i>Poppa John</i>	JOHN H. TIMMERMAN	73
Glenn Meeter, <i>Letters to Barbara</i>	JAMES C. SCHAAP	74
Luci Shaw, <i>The Sighting</i>	CHAD WALSH	75
<b>Bibliography</b>		77
<b>Notes on Contributors</b>		
<b>Poetry</b>		

<i>The Whispered Fragrance</i>	SUSAN FICHTELBERG	2
<i>Catcher</i>	NANCY CORSON CARTER	7
<i>To An Anchorite</i>	ANNE EGGBROTEN	8
<i>The Woman Who Mends Dreams</i>	SUSAN BERGMAN	22
<i>Once: Twelve Terns</i>	ELVA MCAALLASTER	47
<i>The Chi Rho Page</i>	NANCY ESTHER JAMES	48
<i>Sunboat</i>	LIONAL BASNEY	96

*The whispered fragrance  
of wild flowers  
in a musty room.*

*Your Word  
in the silence  
of my soul.*

Susan Fichtelbert