



Advent meditation 27 by Father Robbie Low

ADVENT XXVII

When the father of the atomic bomb, Robert Oppenheimer, witnessed his handiwork in the desert of the experiment, he is reported to have quoted this line from the Bhagavad Gita:

‘If the radiance of a thousand suns were to burst at once into the sky, that would be like the splendour of the mighty one.’

The scientific team, charged with beating the enemy to the killer punch, waited in their bunker unsure of the outcome and whether it would be limited or set in train a chain reaction that would justify the further quote from Hindu scripture: ‘I am become death, the destroyer of worlds.’ In a perverse nod to Christianity’s understanding of the Divine, the determinative test was labelled ‘Trinity’.

And in a further twist the unleashing of the terrible weapon of total incineration took place on the great Christian feast of the Transfiguration, the revelation to the inner circle of the disciples of the blinding light of the Presence unveiled and a glimpse of the divine and the eternal.

O Oriens reminds us of that glory. Christ’s title here is translated poetically as ‘The Daystar’. But the literal translation from the Latin is ‘The Sun’. In this miraculous moment we are invited to the mountaintop

to witness the human bear the weight of the divine and the divine transform the human into the light wherein is no shadow of turning.

When we process into the Resurrection Mass of the Easter Dawn, this is the light whom we proclaim. This is the light behind the original 'fiat lux' of creation. This is the light which old Simeon sees flickering around the holy family and the child in the arms of Mary. This is the light which Christ claims when He tells all who will listen, 'I am the Light of the World'.

Throughout her history the Church has oriented her altars eastward to face Jerusalem and to face the rising sun, the Risen Christ, orienting herself to Him.

O Morning Star, splendour of light eternal and sun of righteousness:

Come and enlighten those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

Spiritual exercise: Close your eyes and imagine living in a world without light. Pray for continuing enlightenment and for those who shun the Light of Christ.