

SPEAK TO ME OF GOD!

*Adapted from a poem of Maria Luisa Brey
by P. Ribes, sj.*

Intent of the poem

- ✓ *God manifest Himself to us through his creation.*
- ✓ *All beauty, love and happiness come from God.*
- ✓ *Where do we find God most??*
- ✓ *We can convincingly speak of God to others – without speaking –*
- ✓ *How do we come to know what love, forgiveness,
Tenderness and caring is?*

THE POEM

I begged the almond-tree: "Speak to me-of God!"
And the almond-tree showed itself in full bloom.

I was a poor man and asked some one "Please, speak to me, of God!"
And that man gave me his cloak.

I besought my dreams: "Speak to me of God!"
And my dreams came true.

I entreated the house: "Speak to me of God!"
And the door opened welcoming me.

I asked a child: "Speak to me of God!"
And the child smiled at me!

I told a farmer: "Speak to me of God!"
And the farmer showed me the standing crops.

I begged nature: "Speak to me of God!"
And nature decked herself with luscious beauty.

I asked my friend: "Speak to me of God!"
And my friend caressed me warmly.

I asked a nightingale: "Speak to me of God!"
And she filled the air with silvery tunes.

I asked a soldier: "Speak to me of God!"
And in shame, he threw away his weaponry.

I besought a suffering man: "Speak to me ' of God!"
And I saw in his eyes a quivering tear of accepting joy.

I asked a fountain: "Speak to me of God!"
And the fountain merrily spilled out its crystal water.

I begged my mother: "Please, speak to me of God!"
And she stamped a loving kiss on my forehead.

I entreated my enemy: "Speak to me of God!"
And he, in forgiveness, stretched out his hand to me.

I asked the voice: "Speak to me of God!"
And the voice could not find words enough to answer. It remained silent.

At last, I asked the setting sun: "Speak to me of God!"
And the sun, mysteriously, set down and left me in darkness..
Next day, at dawn, when I opened the window of my room,
Mischievously, the sun stamped a warm kiss on both my cheeks!

Points for Reflection and Prayer

- Who and what speak to you most about God? How? When?
- How can you convincingly, speak of God to others?
- Where did all the love, beauty, peace and wonder you experienced in life come from?
- Who is a true religious man, the godly man? Describe him.
- Where and when did you experience God most?
- How do we come to know what love, forgiveness, tenderness and caring is?
- Do you speak – without speaking – of God to others? How?

Reflect on these sentences:

- We are the Walking Bibles for the world to read.
- Most men and women will never know a different God than the one you incarnated
- In today's world, God has no other heart to love others but yours;
no other hands to serve the needy but ours;
no other tongue to speak to them but ours!