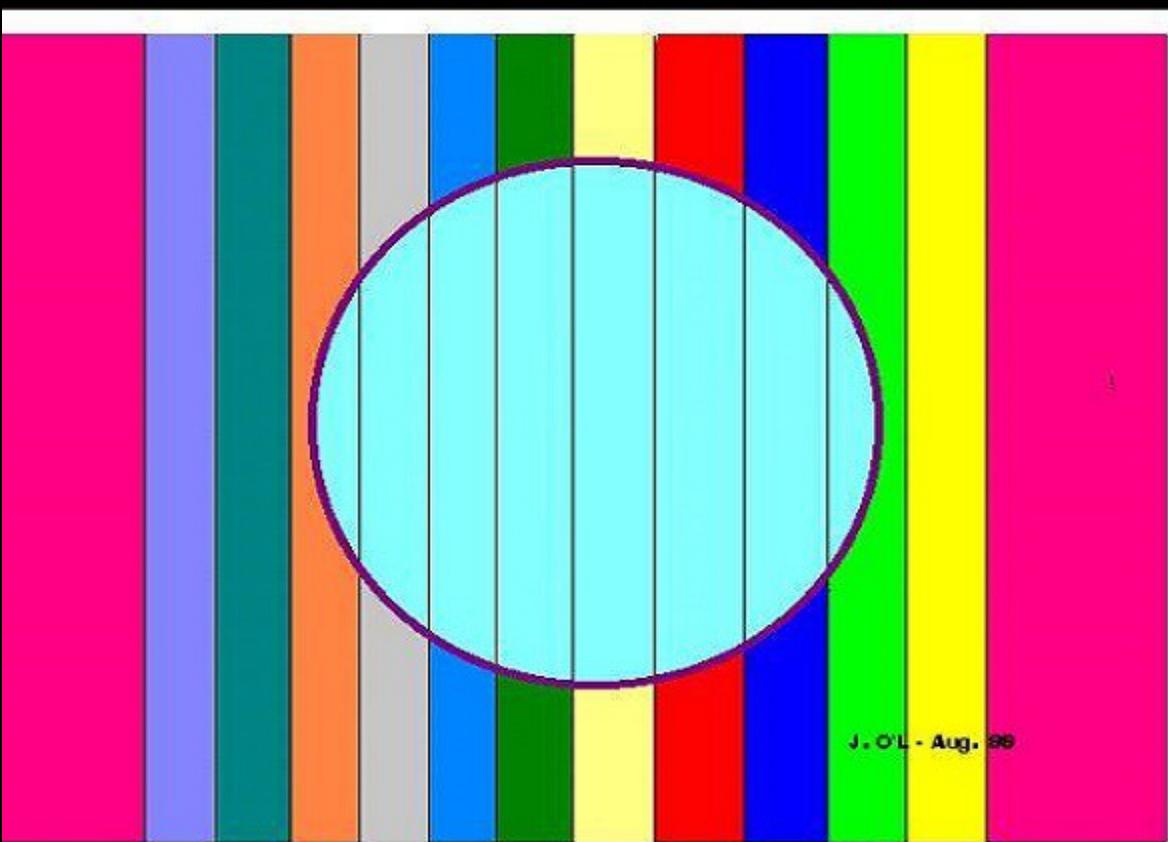


STRESSING THE ESSENTIAL



J. O'L - Aug. 98

John O'Loughlin

STRESSING THE ESSENTIAL

Free Verse Poems by
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CDM Poetry

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PREFACE

This modest collection of twenty-five mainly philosophical poems, written during 1982, should confirm, more than anything, that I had considerably deepened my approach to and concept of poetry since *Dosshouse Blues* (1973–4), and the result may not prove displeasing to anyone who would prefer to see me – as I myself do – primarily as a philosopher (albeit a self-taught one) who occasionally dabbles in other things, poetry not excepted.

Doubtless the fact that I am an Irish citizen who, brought over to England as a young boy in consequence of parental incompatibility, has spent the greater part of his life in exile from his native country ... would have something to do with this paradoxical state-of-affairs, since one is often exposed to contrary influences and predilections, both natural and artificial, neither of which greatly ingratiates one to less complex or, perhaps I should say, less paradoxically confused people?

Be that as it may, I accept that, despite being the author of the novel *Cross-Purposes*, I have, at various times in my life, been prepared to dabble in poetry, even if from a philosophic rather than strictly poetic standpoint, since the adoption of alternative genres makes for variety both in the presentation and conception of one's thought, and can be highly beneficial to the writer himself, who could otherwise bog down in one mould and grow stale or bored, as the case may be.

Stressing the Essential, the first of four collections of philosophical poems written during the first half of the nineteen eighties, precluded me from experiencing such a stultifying fate, and was thus of indirect benefit to my principal literary disposition. It was not, however, any the less easy to write!

John O'Loughlin, London, 1982 (Revised 2024)

THE TRINITY

The Trinity isn't blessed,
As traditionally believed;
The first part is cursed,
And pertains to the Devil.

The second part is a mixture
Of the Devil and God,
Since Christ isn't pure
But both cursed and blessed,

Who, as the 'Three in One',
Is a man, like us.
But the third, which has still to come,
Will be the blessed outcome of the others.

EVOLUTION

What began in the fire
Must conclude with the light.
What arose in the daytime
Must decline with the night.

The advent of man
Had its roots in the apes,
Who preceded the pagans
As a vine precedes grapes.

Yet man isn't static
But proceeds to evolve,
And from pagan to Christian
Shows greater resolve.

Now the Christian has passed
The transcendent's begun,
And man stands one stage closer
To the Nietzschean Superman.

The Superman is post-human
And towards him man will tend.
But his future successor
Is by no means the end.

For from there to the Superbeing
Is the stage on the threshold
Of eventual transcendence
And escape from the flesh-hold.

Then globes of pure spirit
Will expand into space,
Leaving planets behind them
With never a trace.

And expansion will lead
To the merging of separateness.
Where once they were many,
They'll end-up in oneness.

NO GOD

Even if more advanced civilizations
Than the Earth's had attained to transcendence
And thereby established
Spiritual Globes in the Universe,
Those globes of pure spirit wouldn't be God,
Any more than planets are the Devil,
But only what precedes God.

Even if every civilization but man's
Had attained to transcendence,
The resulting globes of pure spirit in the Universe
Still wouldn't be God,
Irrespective of whether they'd all merged
Into one another and formed an indivisible whole.
The absence of man's contribution
And its eventual expansion
Towards the larger globe of pure spirit
Would preclude the formation of Ultimate Oneness,
Which is the Omega Absolute,
In complete contrast
To the separate and manifold nature
Of the Alpha Absolutes, or stars.

Only with the eventual establishment
Of the Omega Absolute would God
Actually exist as Ultimate Oneness,
Whereas, in the meantime, such Oneness
Would be in the process of formation,
Like a foetus in the womb,
Struggling to be born.

Just as one should never confound planets
With the Alpha Absolutes,
So one should never imagine
That God is established, following transcendence.

The Spiritual Globes which emerge
From Superbeings, in various parts of the Universe,
Would be but the final stage
On the road to Ultimate Oneness,
Expanding towards one another in response
To the mutual attraction of Being.

THE LEADERS

The Leaders aren't themselves led
But supervise the evolutionary progress
Of the People. They don't live
Like the People, but in their own separate
And rather conservative worlds.
They understand evolution
But don't actively participate in it,
Since directors rather than directed.

They don't personally enter the 'Promised Land',
For such is not their fate.
They make personal sacrifices
On behalf of the People,
Standing aside while the latter move ahead.
Their main task is to ensure that the People
Are set on course for the Transcendental Beyond,
Never to deviate from it.

They aren't *of* the People
And therefore they aren't *with* the People.
They must always remain separate,
Opposed to whatever regressive tendencies
The People may display.
They're the guardians of evolutionary progress,
Who serve the People's best interests.
They lead the People towards Salvation
But can never be saved themselves.

THE PEOPLE

The People are often hard-working,
But sometimes lazy,
Often spiritual, but sometimes sensual.
They're the crude clay from which
The highest humanity can be formed,
The crucible in which
A new human type can be forged,
Superior to whatever preceded it.

They often live in the city,
But sometimes in the country,
Are often artificial, but sometimes natural.
They're more paradoxical
Than might at first appear,
For they show an aptitude for the artificial
Without desiring to suppress
What naturalness they possess.

They often bless, but sometimes curse,
Often praise, but sometimes swear.
Their choice of language
Is offensive to cultivated ears,
Since it betrays a contempt for sex
Which, in living closer to nature,
The older classes tend to reject.

They often live close together,
But sometimes far apart,
Are often quiet, but sometimes noisy.
They signify a closer approximation
To the Ultimate Oneness of God
Than do their rulers and masters,
And, if they aren't particularly considerate,
They're at least tolerant!

MAN

Man isn't static, like the animals,
But free to evolve.
His pagan beginnings, in a pre-dualistic context
Of lopsided sensuality, eventually led to
A Christian climax of dualistic balance
Between the flesh and the spirit,
In which man assumed the mantle of God.

Modern man, however, is lopsided
On the side of the spirit
In the post-dualistic context of transcendentalism,
And is accordingly drawing near his end.
The Superman will be as different
From modern man as primitive man
Differed from his ape-like ancestor,
A species towards which transcendental man aspires.
We needn't regret the passing of our own.

TRANSCENDENTAL MAN

He no longer lives in a dualistic world
And therefore isn't partial to
Sexual discrimination, which he regards
As a regrettable anachronism.

He doesn't recognize females *as women*,
But increasingly as 'lesser men',
And expects them both to behave
And dress like himself.

He isn't entirely averse to sex with women,
But prefers plastic inflatables
Or pornographic models,
Regarding marriage as 'square'.

He prefers television to books
And contemplation to meditation,
Since a cross between man and superman.

He lives in the city, and substitutes
An occasional stroll through the park
For life in the country.

He isn't averse to essence,
But can only approach it by degrees,
Availing himself of spiritualized appearance.

THE SUPERMAN

The Superman isn't the thing
That Nietzsche's 'great noontide'
Might lead one to believe,
But a life form superior to man
And inferior to the Superbeing.

The Superman won't be God, but godly,
For the Holy Spirit will be transcendent,
While the Superman
Will be partly mundane,
And therefore tied to the beastly.

But He'll be far less sensual than man,
Because freed from the natural body
And thereby elevated
To the post-human heights of
A brain artificially ran.

Having an old brain
Will keep Him inferior to the Superbeing
Of the Millennial Communes,
Which are destined to supplant Him
With the termination of all pain.

But the old brain will be
Kept under tight control,
As He expands the new brain
With the aid of such synthetic drugs
As the Leaders may extol.

And thus He'll know a superior form
Of upward self-transcendence ...

END OF PREVIEW