

Radiant Love

By Lou Ann Mokwa

Six decades of life have permitted me to witness many weddings. At times they have been grand weddings in big cathedrals. Yet others have been small, quaint, backyard weddings on a beautiful summer day. Despite the surrounding, there is one thing I cherish the most on those days of celebration: seeing the bride's radiant face as she walks down the aisle. Descending the long or short path to her waiting groom, the bride's face is resplendent with the glorious feeling of love. Radiant love.

*Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory!
For the wedding of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready.
Fine linen, bright and clean was given her to wear.
Then the angel said to me,
"Write: Blessed are those who are
invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb." (Rev 19:7-9)*

At the end of his earthly ministry, the Bible tells us that Jesus took Peter, James and John up to the top of a high mountain where he was transfigured before them.

"His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light." (Matt 17:1-2)

As the bride glowingly walks down the aisle to commit her life to one man, she is transformed into a wife by saying "I do." Jesus climbs the mountain and is transfigured, displaying the manifestation of God made man. As Moses and Elijah meet Jesus on the mountain in his transfigured state, the three disciples behold the intimate conversation which included knowledge to prepare them for Jesus' death and crucifixion. Luke tells us:

"They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem." (Luke 9:31)

This transformation was evidence of the "true nature" of Jesus¹, for the apostles to see, literally. There was now, no denying what they had been taught and what was to come. This man who had been their earthly master and teacher was

"the only begotten Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)

Not long after, Peter, James and John witness the most horrific event of their lives as Jesus is wrongfully condemned, crucified, and dies upon a cross. The confines of their frail, human minds have already forgotten Jesus' radiance displayed on the mountain; grief stuns them. Three days later, His radiant love would become evident for all.

¹ Franzmann, Werner H. Bible History Commentary: New Testament vol 1. (Milwaukee, WI: Northwestern Publishing, 1989) 344

“At dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, he has risen, just as he said.” (Matt 28: 1-6)

Radiant love in the faces of earthly brides will fade, soon after the wedding is over. But oh, dear sisters, radiant love that was brought to earth for all who believe in the one true Savior, Jesus Christ will last unto eternity. Praise God we will be radiant with him in heaven one day!

“Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes-- who are they, and where did they come from?” I answered, “Sir, you know.” And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the lamb. Therefore, “they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not be beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” (Rev 7:13-17)