

The Contradiction of Calvary

'Surely this man was the Son of God'
vere homo hic Filius Dei erat.
Mark 15: 39

'Surely this man was the Son of God.'
The words of a foreigner
At the moment of his passing
Reflect the crucial need for belief.

Surely there could be no mistake,
Surely he was the Son of God.
Yet one by failing one
His faltering friends forsook him.

Judas' kiss had sealed a double fate;
Peter's words weakened his will:
'I never knew you, Lord.'
And the others, unaccounted for,
Absent without leave;
Doubtless they too were doubting
In the deepening shadows
Of the Passiontide
Of God's love incarnate.

But surely this man was the Son of God;
Surely his living, his loving,
His Lordship was not all in vain.

Surely we would have stood up
For a man such as this;
Surely my kiss would have been an act of devotion.
Surely my words would have
Testified for the defence
Of a man such as this.

Surely this man was the Son of God.
Surely he alone, the Son of God,
Could endure man's inhumanity
So that I –
A foreigner in the sight of God –
Can say beyond the shadows of doubt,
And with love deeper than a kiss,
Vere homo hic Filius Dei erat -
Surely this man was the Son of God.

A Prayer of Commitment

Grant, Lord,

That I may stand up and be counted as Yours.

In the times of the re-discovery of Your lordship over me

Help me to acknowledge you again.

[Continues overleaf...

Help me to bear witness to

Your love [Pause]

Your forgiveness [Pause]

Your presence [Pause]

Your grace [Pause]

Your life in me [Pause].

I acknowledge you as Lord of my life.

Give me the ability to show it in action.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

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