

THE HEDGEHOG REVIEW

♪ Bad Hymn

Come and Dance in the Mystery

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Wide eyed wonder; signs and symbols; holy ways;
It's a miracle!

Ancient wisdom; sacred stories; gift of faith;
It's a miracle!

Come and dance in the mystery.

Step by step; hand in hand in God's story.

Come and dance in the mystery.

Heart to heart; side by side in God's story.

Simply awesome; pow'r in weakness; life in death;
It's a miracle!

Captive freedom; strangers welcome; lost are found;
It's a miracle!

Unforced rhythms; moving stillness; graceful steps;
It's a miracle!

Heart beats passion; dreamers vision; sinners loved;
It's a miracle!

Why it's bad

(What about a verse like this -)

Stumbling smoothly, boldly cautious, hopelessly hopeful.
It's a miracle!

Full of nothing, meaningful nonsense, clearly vague.
It's a miracle!

What does this mean? Practically nothing. But it's catchy.

Did you catch the biblical allusion - "hopelessly hopeful"?
Most would not. The biblical echo is too faint (Rom 4:18:
"Abraham hoped against hope").

Hymns are for proclamation, which includes celebration.
Whimsy has its place but not here. Proclamation is to be the
clear statement of the gospel, of what God has done and is
doing in Jesus Christ through the cross and resurrection, the
dialectic of holiness and sin.

Yes, the hymn, "Come Dance in the Mystery," has biblical
echoes, such as "pow'r in weakness" (2 Cor 12:9), "life in
death" (John 11:25), "lost are found" (Luke 15:9) - but
almost everyone will puzzle along, not knowing just what is
meant and surely not knowing the sources.

"Miracle"? For the Christian miracle faith is replaced by
cross-centered faith.

"Mystery"? For those who are in Christ Jesus the mystery
has been revealed (Eph 1:9 and 3:3-5).

In short: There's a problem with this kind of "hymn," i.e.,
with free association filtered through haiku dialectic. Know
what that means? No one else does either.

Good Hymn ♪

Crown Him With Many Crowns

Text: Matthew Bridges 1800-1894

Tune: George Elvey 1816-1893

Verse 1:

Crown him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon the throne;
Hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns
All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless king
Through all eternity.

Verse 3.

Crown him the Lord of love -
Behold his hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bend their burning eyes
At mysteries so bright.

Verse 6:

Crown him the Lord of years,
The potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
Ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou hast died for me;
Thy praise and glory shall not fail
Throughout eternity.

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Why it's good

This could be a confirmation hymn. Know this hymn and
you have a good grasp of the message of salvation by faith
alone through the cross alone in Christ alone.

For that matter, this hymn could be used at any season of
the church year.

Note the "mysteries" in verse 3, the last line. Here the
"mysteries so bright" are revealed in the "rich wounds" of the
cross - as in Eph 1:9 and 3:3-5. Very different from the mystic
"mystery" of "Come and Dance in the Mystery."

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