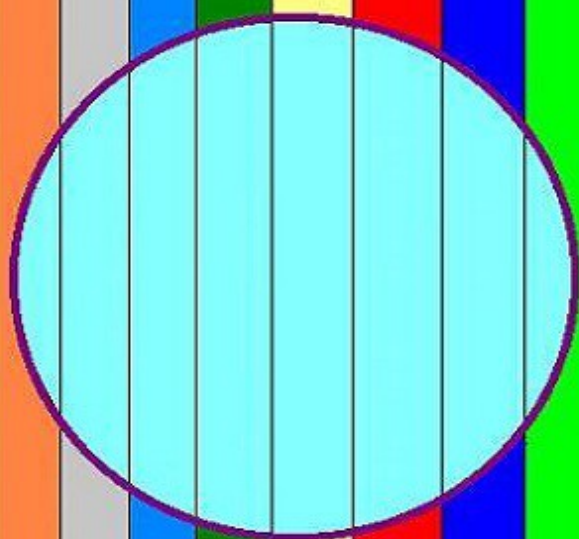


STRESSING THE ESSENTIAL



J. O'L - Aug. 98

John O'Loughlin

STRESSING THE ESSENTIAL

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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, 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 2022)

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 has begun,
And man stands a 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 will 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 had all merged
Into one another and formed an indivisible whole.
The absence of man's contribution
And its eventual expansion ...