

maranatha

Reflections

The Innocents

*What on earth are We
doing to our Children?*



*Jesus says "anyone who welcomes one
little child like this in my name,
welcomes me". (Matt. 18.5)*

They come
as gift
beyond all price
small, weak
defenceless
and alone.
They come
each known
and named
and loved
by You.
They come,
each special,
into the place
of safety
to be nurtured
protected
and prepared
for the next stage
of their journey
when, though separate
they still remain
dependent,
vulnerable,
crying out
for care
support and
love.
You,
who made them
entrust them
to us
in all
our human frailty
placing them
directly
into our hands.
You hold us
accountable
for each
precious life,
responsible
for these
Your little ones
made carefully
in Your image,
reflecting
Your beauty
Your divinity
Your glory.
And in their coming
into our midst
they feel and know
the warmth
or coldness
of our welcome,
the peace
or tension

of our response,
embracing
the joy and love
and tenderness
or are repelled
by the strange
chilling insecurity
rejection
and neglect.
And in those
early days
and years
a high drama
is being
played out.
The imprinted
images and sounds
and words
will remain
deeply held
in memory
over all
the coming years,
the happiness, the pain
the trauma and delight.
And we -
are we aware
of the blessings
we can give
and injuries
inflict?
Do we see
the fierce battle
which soon rages
for the heart
and mind
and soul
of each of these
Your little ones?
Are we blind
to the dark wild jungle
through which
they will walk,
surrounding them
ever ready
to corrupt
abuse,
exploit,
consume?
Do we know
the seeds
now sown
in fertile
minds and hearts
will bring forth fruits
of blessing
or destruction?

Do we care
that the marks
now being imprinted
in the soft clay
of innocent lives
may in truth
be the vicious wounds
of a cruel, godless world
inflicted before
our very eyes?
Is it nothing
to us
that soon or late
a wild, ferocious harvest
will be reaped
and that
its agony, violence,
corruption and rottenness
will be placed at our door?
- attributed to us?
Do we imagine
that we will not
be held responsible
for the trail
of misery and suffering
of the innocents?
Can we deceive ourselves
that a loving God
stands by uncaring?
Can we turn away
from the truth
that ultimately,
inevitably
we will each have
to give account
of ourselves
and each face
the judgement of
almighty God?
And then the question
will surely be put:
'Why
as I came to you
in these
my little ones,
crying out
for food
and nourishment,
why
did you feed me
poison?
Why?'

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