**Encountering Bridal Intimacy**

***Poem 4- Transforming Love Part 4: Entering Co-Laborship***

 ***Songs 7:9b-13***

1. **Prelude**

Ken Wilbur, not a Christian, a secular philosopher

*Religion creates meaning for the separate self* ***(identifying who you are by your own standards, usually involves ego, and is accompanied by insecurities)****Religion has always offered two very important but two very different functions.*

*First of all, religion has a way of creating meaning for the separate self. It offers myths, stories, tales, narratives, rituals and revivals, that, taken together, help the separate self, to make sense of, and to endure the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune.*

***(In some ways this is a start, I will not call it a good thing, but to get rid of ego, you must have an ego. we are born with a predisposition of self because of the sinful nature we inherited. SO we must recognize this. But the issue here with Religion is that it only affirms the first to create a meaning, it doesn’t offer a platform to make sense of why things are not working.)*** *This* ***function of religion*** *does not usually, or necessarily change the level of consciousness in a person. In that sense it does not offer radical transformation. It does not move us through the paschal mystery* ***(It’s a Catholic teaching that living, dying and rising are part of the Christian experience)****. It confirms us, usually in our own culture, our first half of lives certitudes****. (Religion does not offer a challenge because there is a sense of escapism not to endure what Jesus endured. In our hearts acceptance by mortal man is valued higher than what God thinks simply because of unbelief )*** *It does not offer a shattering liberation from the separate self all together, instead it consuls the self, fortifies the self, defends the self, promotes the self.* ***(Creates a separation from the Love of God, and No humility is found. This person is easily offendable when corrected)****As long as this separate self believes the myths, performs the rituals, mouths the prayers, or embraces the dogma, then the self fervently believes it will be saved****, (which begs the question, does reciting the sinners prayer alone make your name appear in the lambs book of life****.*

***3Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God [***[***a***](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20John+2&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-30556a)***]is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. 6He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked. (1Jn 2:3-6)***

 *either now in the glory as Gods saved or favored or in the afterlife, that ensures eternal wonderment.*

*The function of radical transformation and liberation does not fortify the separate self, utterly shatters it. What is experienced is* ***not*** *first of All consultation but devastation. Not entrenchment but emptiness. Not complacency but explosion. Not comfort but revolution.*

***15For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. (Gal 6:15)***

Please do not for a second fall in love with this love journey in Song of Songs and fall in love with the words.

These words and this message should challenge you, because it is a revolution, It is an explosion, It does require you to empty yourself completely out.

Your street smarts, your degree, your pain, your suffering. The message of God , His true message says “in Me alone will you find completeness” you cannot bring anything else.

The rest is garbage, it is trash. Surrender it all for me, and what I have for you….is from Glory to Glory.

So now we are coming into

1. **His Intended Transformation of you**

Ken Wilbur probably meant this thought, idea as a negative towards the “church” because much of the world see the church as restrictive, condemning, not loving. And I would suppose his final statement about radical transformation was not with Jesus as the answer.

But we see just in these poems just how God works. Just in His Transforming Love we covered how

1. After the High of Spiritual Growth, He reveals a truth that shocks our very being.

He asks us to be “radical” and take on His Shame, His Infamy.

1. When we say Yes to that We see an aspect of His heart that many have never quite grasped. That His love for us ravishes Him when we walk in the beauty He has created for us.

This brings me to the point of “Jealously”. I recently heard a story about someone who was struggling with religion, and the saying “God is a jealous God” made them leave God and the church.

I want to make something clear. God is not jealous of you. He is not some highschool boyfriend that gets mad at you when you point your attention elsewhere. He doesn’t go beat up that person or thing that drew your attention. This jealousness is self-centered.

He is jealous for you, because He knows what He offers is the One thing that will make you complete. He is concerned about YOU here and His heart hurts with a loving pain when you choose others, not in anger and rage.

1. In Transformation HE parades you to you, and to others. Not because what HE has done, not because what you have done. But because of what WE have done. God did it all, but He couldn’t do anything without your choice. That Surrender!

So your King, Jesus just showers you with the transformation you have gone through. It’s like watching an episode of Extreme makeovers.

1. When transformation is complete in a butterfly, it joins the other butterflies. They labor together.

***“]It goes down smoothly for my beloved,
Flowing gently through the lips of those who fall asleep.***

***10“I am my beloved’s, And his desire is for me. 11“Come, my beloved, let us go out into the country, Let us spend the night in the villages. 12“Let us rise early and go to the vineyards; Let us see whether the vine has budded And its blossoms have opened,
And whether the pomegranates have bloomed. There I will give you my love. 13“The mandrakes have given forth fragrance; And over our doors are all choice fruits,
Both new and old, Which I have saved up for you, my beloved.***

1. ***10“I am my beloved’s, And his desire is for me.***

This is the highest point just before the peak of the mountain. I say that because in Chapter 8, I think you reach the summit/peak of this journey.

This verse shows pure identity. I am yours and you love me. Simply, pure, and in that realization of truth. What can come against it.

Because in Love, all things are possible. Promises are kept because of Love, a child does not worry about provision, security, food, because they operate under covering of the love of a parent.

***25 ”For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?  26Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? (Mt 6:25,26)***

I know this is challenging, because what I am saying is when we do not fully grasp the idea of His desires are for me, we worry.

But the whole purpose of this journey is to walk it. And as we walk these things become a part of us.

1. ***11“Come, my beloved, let us go out into the country, Let us spend the night in the villages. 12“Let us rise early and go to the vineyards; Let us see whether the vine has budded And its blossoms have opened,***

This a beautiful picture. As we walk into maturity and as we mature, the Father sets you on a field to go about His business.

* ***“Come, my beloved, let us go out into the country*** He is inviting us the landscape of maturing others.

I want to say something and it will be harsh, maybe not so much here, but I do believe in the Christian world at large.

The engine/business of Christianity has done a huge disservice, and I think people will be held responsible. God knows the heart and I do believe people do this with the right heart.

But the machine of evangelism that has only focused on attaining a number of souls saved vs. focusing on one, to mature them to this place, is a travesty.

***3Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God ]is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. 6He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked. (1Jn 2:3-6)***

This is not a generation issue, it’s a multi millennial issue. The church has been doing this for 2 thousand years.

Just by this process in Songs of Solomon and the life that Jesus made. We are to devout our lives to each other, and pour out of ourselves into others, say they can one day be in a place to do the same.

Evangelism brings them in, we are good at that. The church sucks at discipleship. “There is too much of a time investment”. What is this heart grounded in?

* ***Let us spend the night in the villages, 12“Let us rise early and go to the vineyards*** this is the verse that speaks to discipleship. It speaks to commitment.
* ***Let us see whether the vine has budded And its blossoms have opened,*** the same joy the He experiences He invites you now to experience with Him. You acquire His eyes and His heart and you see and take pleasure in budding spirits.
1. ***And whether the pomegranates have bloomed. There I will give you my love. 13“The mandrakes have given forth fragrance; And over our doors are all choice fruits, Both new and old, Which I have saved up for you, my beloved.***

This point to a common heart and mind between the bride and the Groom. and its Joy, Blessing, Honor to the 2nd power.