

## 離開自我的範圍

「祭物和禮物你不喜悅，你已經開通我的耳朵，燔祭和贖罪祭非你所要。<sup>7</sup>那時我說：「看哪，我來了，我的事在經卷上已經記載了。<sup>8</sup>我的神啊，我樂意照你的旨意行，你的律法在我心裡。」詩 40：6-8

我們很容易把與神相交，特別是將禱告關係變成為一種方法或是一種自我改進的技巧。但神的規定是進入親密關係的門唯有從愛裡進入，並沒有其他方法進入。神的愛能揭開自我的面紗，只有這愛能叫我們從自我中解脫那捆綁著我們，又同時像地心引力般的拉力。

亞略巴古的丟尼修提出「飛鏢般的愛」是將我們自己投擲出去給神，它好像一個鉤爪，會把我們從自我的限制中拉出來，丟入神的懷抱中。沒有任何辦法可以把我們從自我關閉的系統中延伸出愛來愛這位神聖者。

父啊！我們感謝你因耶穌的愛澆奠我們成為愛的奉獻；請接受我們，讓我們被聖靈的感動吸引，提升我們進入這大愛中，就是主你自己。

### 反省問題：

1. 你怎樣理解自我中心的萬有引力？這自然的傾向怎樣導致與神相交有問題？以至與他人和與自己產生問題？
2. 除了神的愛，我們有沒有其他的方法與神接觸？
3. 神是怎樣在你裡面作工，使你從自我中心的焦點中引導你到神那裡？

禱告：注意在這默想尾段的禱文，神愛的拉力，拉你到祂那裡。

在禱告裡，讓你被提升至這愛，就是聖靈賜給你與主基督結合的愛。

## 5. "Leaving the Orbit of Self"

Burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require. Then I said, "Here I am, I have come.... I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart." Ps 40:6-8

It is easy to turn our relationship with God, especially our prayer relationship, into a method or a technique for self-improvement. But God has ordained that the door to intimacy remain closed to anyone who would try to enter by any other means than love. Our love for God reaches beyond the veil that encloses us. It alone can release us from the force of gravity that binds us to ourselves.

Dionysius the Areopagite spoke of a "dart of love" that we must throw outwards from ourselves towards God. Like a grappling hook it will pull us out of the confines of our self-orientation into the arms of God. There is no other way out of the closed system of self than to reach out, in love, to the Divine Other.

O Father, we thank You for relationship with Jesus Christ in whom we are poured out as a love offering. Receive us that we would be caught up in the movement of Your Spirit. Pull us upwards, towards the Love that is You.

Questions:

How do you relate to the "pull of gravity" of the self? How does this natural inclination become a problem in your relationship with God? With others? With yourself?

- What other means, besides love, might we be using to approach God with?
- How does God work in you, to draw your focus away from self-orientation and towards God?

Prayer: Consider the prayer at the closing of this meditation and God's "pull" towards His love. In prayer, let yourself be "lifted up" in the love that the Holy Spirit gives you for Christ.