

When Worlds Collide

This prayer was written following the opening of the Cern Large Hadron Collider which was a major event in 2008 within the scientific community and hit the international press due to unfounded fears, largely stirred up by the media that this might be the end of the world!

My understanding of physics is limited but I think the idea of the Hadron Collider is to find out what happened when beams of protons are accelerated and smashed in to one another over a great distance and at great speed. Needless to say when the end of the world did not happen the press lost interest though the BBC website did run a brief article in March 2010 celebrating that the Cern scientists had finally been successful in colliding the beams together.

This prayer though is not confined to a single scientific event but rather looks at collisions within our world.

When Worlds Collide

is fiction

torn from the darkness of our deepest fears

planets hurtling through outer space

bringing destruction

and death.

When Protons Collide

science tells us

matter is born

a universe whirling into being

expanding beyond our imagining

beyond the frontiers of our minds.

When Cars Collide

memorials speak

of families torn apart

and lives cut short

transport

going nowhere.

When Cells Collide

they fuse together

sharing tiny secrets

dividing and multiplying

smaller than the eye can see:

living.

When Continents Collide

majestic mountain ranges

are squeezed out

zit-like

from the jagged face

of the beautiful planet

When Currents Collide
life finds shelter
in glorious warmth
far from the light of the sun
tiny creatures
blossom

When Weather Fronts Collide
storms and cyclones
smash out their warning
of nature's power
battering
earth's cry.

When Waves Collide
eddies swirl
and vortices whirl
splashing, smashing
pulling and dragging
turbulence.

When Cultures Collide
fear meets pride
greed meets ambition
threat meets promise
bullet meets flesh
death meets life.

When Worlds Collide
a man murdered
is God
bread broken is love
and blood spilled
is the origin of life.

© Clare McBeath and Tim Presswood 2008