

What If?

No prizes for guessing that this is a re-writing of Benjamin Zephaniah's poem "What If" which is itself a reworking of Rudyard Kipling's famous poem "If".

If you can give your money when those about you
Demand you think only of yours truly,
If you can welcome the stranger when dissonant from you
And they speak not your language fully;
If you can smile through the cold and grey of winter
And bring the warmth of the hearth fire,
or malicious lies and bullying you can filter
Raising yourself above the mire...

If you can cross religious and ethnic boundaries,
and see theology is to blame,
If you can demand justice by protesting loudly,
And treat king and leper just the same;
If you learn from those who've gone before,
And watch politicians twist the truth
Then dream a better world for generations long ignored,
sowing peace amidst turbulent youth...

If you can come to Christ's table empty handed,
And risk association with those others have branded,
Then sit back and watch as bread is ripped to shreds,
And wine is poured as Christ's blood shed;
If you can take with thanks and share your portion,
Do this to remember me;
And give of your life to others without ration
So that others may be truly free....

[share bread and wine]

If you can speak the truth when those around you deal in lies,
And live your faith sincerely even with the whys?
If you can love a God who's undefined,
And walks in pain with those others have defiled;
If you can resist pinning God or others down
and with cheeky grin ask the difficult questions
If you can withhold the judging frown
Then like a whirling dervish you will dance across the heavens.

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