

Stories From Distant Places

This poem draws on phrases from David Bowie's version (from the film Moulin Rouge) of Eden Abez's 1947 song, Nature Boy to tell the Christian story as a story which comes to us from a distant land, a story that is above all, about love...

"The greatest thing you'll ever learn
is just to love and be loved in return"

God who wanders very far
over land and sea
and then one day
one strange enchanted day
you pass our way
stories from distant places
where our narrative traces
tales from afar
mundane to bizarre
the strangest of things
of shepherds and kings
of people scattered
and armies battered
of economic failure
and a people captured
an upheaval in power
a pivotal hour
a new beginning
new government innings
does our tale bring promised change?

Well here it is strange
a familiar scene
from what we can glean
of hopes dashed
and dreams smashed
but then one day
one magic day
a prophecy foretold
a wonder to behold
a king without a crown
now the world's renown
a king on a cross
treated as dross
a shepherd defeated
and death cheated
the birthing of hope
offers new scope
of love outpoured
and community restored.

God who wanders very far

over land and sea
and then one day
one strange enchanted day
you pass our way
to speak of many things
of shepherds and kings
of love outpoured
and community restored.

“The greatest thing you’ll ever learn
is just to love and be loved in return”.

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