

WIND: Ghostly

Luci Shaw

I think often about the invisible
God—doubly covert. I mean, now and again
Father and Son made their appearances,
speaking in thunder, blood,
or salvation. But the third
Person is like a ghost. Sometimes
he silvers for a moment, a moon sliver
between moving leaves. We aren't sure.

What to make of this... How
are we meant to see him? As energy
hovering, birdlike, over chaos,
breeding it into ferns and whales?
Blessing the scalps of the righteous
with a pungency of oil? Bleeding the hard
edge of warning into all those
prophet voices? Etching
Ezekiel's view with oddities—
eyes in wheels spinning like astrolabes?



Crowding Mary's womb to seed its
dark clay? Wising up fools to
improbable truth?
Filling us like wine bottles?
Bursting from our mouths in
champagne gasps
of surprise? This for sure—he finds
enough masks to keep us guessing:
Is it really you? Is this you also?

It's a cracked, crossover world, waiting
for bridges. He chooses a shape—fire, dove,
wind, water, oil (notice—in him
oil and water mix), closes the breach
in figures that flicker within
the closed eye, tongue the brain, sting
and tutor the soul. Once incarnate
in Judaea, now he is present
(in us in the present
tense), occupying our bodies—
shapes to be reshaped—
houses for this holy ghost. In our special
flesh he thrives into something
too frequent to deny, to real to see.

LITANY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

“When I did a hermitage in the Lent of 2006 in Arizona, I had an enduring sense of the presence and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, one that I think is fully available to all of us “if we but knew the gift of God” (John 4:10). I slowly composed this prayer litany to awaken and strength this Presence within you. Recite it whenever you are losing faith in God or in yourself.”

—RICHARD ROHR (in *The Naked Now*, pp.168-9)

Pure Gift of God	Planted Law
Indwelling Presence	Truth Speaker
Promise of the Father	God’s Secret Plan
Life of Jesus	Great Bridge Builder
Pledge and Guarantee	Warmer of Hearts
Eternal Praise	Space between Everything
Defense Attorney	Flowing Stream
Inner Anointing	Wind of Change
Reminder of the Mystery	Descending Dove
Homing Device	Cloud of Unknowing
Knower of All Things	Uncreated Grace
Stable Witness	Filled Emptiness
Implanted Pacemaker	Through-Seer
Overcomer of the Gap	Deepest Level of Our Longing
Always Already Awareness	Attentive Heart
Compassionate Observer	Sacred Wounding
Magnetic Center	Holy Healing
God Compass	Softener of Our Spirit
Inner Breath	Will of God
Divine DNA	Great Compassion
Mutual Yearning Place	Generosity of the Creator
Given Glory	Inherent Victory
Hidden Love of God	The One Sadness
Choiceless Awareness	Our Shared Joy
Implanted Hope	God’s Tears
Seething Desire	God’s Happiness
Fire of Life and Love	The Welcoming Within
Sacred Peacemaker	New and Eternal Covenant
Nonviolence of God	Contract Written on Our Hearts
Seal of the Incarnation	Jealous Lover
First Fruits of Everything	Desiring of God
Father and Mother of Orphans	

*You who pray in us, through us, with us,
for us, and in spite of us. Amen. Alleluia!*
