

Poem by Hazrat Inayat Khan



Poem rewrite by Pastor Lisa Shank

I asked for strength
and God gave me difficulties to make me strong.

I asked for wisdom
and God gave me problems to solve.

I asked for prosperity
and God gave me brawn and brains to work.

I asked for courage
and God gave me dangers to overcome.

I asked for patience
and God placed me in situations where I was
forced to wait.

I asked for love
and God gave me troubled people to help.

I asked for favors
and God gave me opportunities.

I asked for everything so I could enjoy life.
Instead, He gave me life so I could enjoy
everything.

*I received nothing I wanted,
I received everything I needed.*

I expected a Messiah who would be a rich and
mighty king,
Instead, I found a poor carpenter from a tiny
Podunk town.

I expected a Messiah who would fight all our
enemies,
Instead, I found a man who willingly turned
the other cheek.

I expected a Messiah who would solve all our
problems,
Instead, I found a man who created new
problems by making us all question and
rethink everything we thought we knew.

I expected a Messiah who would give his
followers power,
Instead, I found a man who willingly served
the lowliest of people and asked us to do the
same.

I expected a Messiah who would judge our
sins,
Instead, I found a man who graciously forgave
and expected us to forgive as well, even
seventy times seven times.

I expected a Messiah who would stay ritually
pure and clean,
Instead, I found a man who crossed every
social boundary known to exist and reached
out to people no one else would.

*I expected a Messiah...and I found Him,
or shall I say...He found me.*

