

A READING FROM THE APOCRYPHAL BOOK OF WISDOM

I called on God, and the spirit of wisdom came to me.

I preferred her to scepters and thrones, and I accounted wealth as nothing in comparison to her.

Neither did I liken her to any priceless gems, because all gold is but a little sand in her sight, and silver will be accounted as clay before her.

I loved her more than health and beauty, and I chose to have her because her radiance never ceases. All good things came to me along with her, and in her hands was uncounted wealth.

I learned both what is secret and what is manifest, for wisdom, the fashioner of all things, taught me.

There is in her a spirit that is intelligent, holy, unique, manifold, subtle, mobile, clear, unpolluted, distinct, invulnerable, loving the good, keen, irresistible, beneficent, humane, steadfast, sure, free from anxiety, all-powerful, overseeing all and penetrating through all spirits that are intelligent, pure and altogether subtle.

For wisdom is more mobile than any motion; because of her pureness she pervades and penetrates all things. For she is a breath of the power of God, and pure emanation of the glory of the Almighty, therefore nothing defiled gains entrance to her.

For she is the reflection of eternal Light, a spotless mirror of the working of God and an image of His goodness.

Although she is but one, she can do all things, and while remaining in herself, she renews all things, in every generation she passes into holy souls and makes them friends of God and prophets; for God loves nothing so much as the person who lives with wisdom.

She is more beautiful than the sun, and excels every constellation of the stars.