

## 1. Your One Shining Moment ( or, When the Curtains Part)

Into every life, the wise ones say, comes one shining moment. It is a moment of glory. The curtains part, the vision is granted, and something is changed forever. That single experience, in one way or another, stays with us always and colours the whole of our lives. It is the timeless time when the veil is drawn from the mystery of our existence, when our essence is disclosed to us, when we discover – even if only fleetingly – who we really are. It is a highly personal ‘moment of truth.’

Your one bright and shining moment may have to do with naming what or who you really love; with revealing to you the job or relationship that is slowly destroying you; with becoming aware that all your decisions and reactions spring from a deeply hidden anxiety, anger or fear; that you need no longer be afraid because you are loved unconditionally by a God who delights in you; that, without a doubt, the universe and life itself are safe places for yourself, your children and all you love; that everything that has ever happened to you is not happen-chance but part of a carefully crafted love story; that God comes to you usually disguised as your life, in all its bits and pieces; that apart from one or two cherished beliefs, nothing matters very much; that it is in our weakness and sinfulness that we are strongest of all; that we are indestructible and untouchable as long as we remain close to God . . .

The human life of Jesus in time and space was one of the brightest shining moments in the history of creation. In the fullness and totality of his very own humanity lies the secret passage to the heart of God. And, therefore, likewise with us. It is during our most desperate, ecstatic, despairing, joyful, routine, hopeless times that those luminous moments of clarity surround us with transparency. We are held in a threshold between two phases of our lives – not to do with the chronological time of years and decades but with the kairos-time of falling into mystery, of falling in love with God. These moments heal and transcend the damaging religious education of our childhood days and liberate us into the belief that we are all gods-in-the-making, that even from our murkiest and most sinful encounters with evil, God can bring light.

*Prism of Love pp 9 and 10*