

Memory Pieces

An Excerpt from *Confessions*

by Saint Augustine

“...Late have I loved Thee, O Beauty so ancient and so new; late have I loved Thee!

For behold Thou were within me, and I outside;

And I sought Thee outside and in my unloveliness fell upon those lovely things that Thou hast made.

Thou were with me and I was not with Thee.

I was kept from Thee by those things, yet had they not been in Thee, they would not have been at all.

Thou didst call and cry to my and break open my deafness:

and Thou didst send forth Thy beams and shine upon me and chase away my blindness:

Thou didst breathe fragrance upon me, and I drew in my breath and do not pant for Thee:

I tasted Thee, and now hunger and thirst for Thee:

Thou didst touch me, and I have burned for Thy peace...”

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

And where there is sadness, joy;

**O Divine Master, grant that I may
not so much seek to be consoled as to console,
to be understood, as to understand,
to be loved, as to love.**

**For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.**

Amen.

The Merchant of Venice, Act IV, Scene I

[The quality of mercy is not strained]
William Shakespeare - 1564-1616

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**“...The quality of mercy is not strained;
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven
Upon the place beneath. It is twice blest;
It blesseth him that gives and him that takes:
'Tis mightiest in the mightiest; it becomes
The throned monarch better than his crown:**

**His sceptre shows the force of temporal power,
The attribute to awe and majesty,
Wherein doth sit the dread and fear of kings;
But mercy is above this sceptred sway;
It is enthronèd in the hearts of kings,
It is an attribute to God himself;
And earthly power doth then show likest God's
When mercy seasons justice..."**