

God as 'That Tremendous Lover'

from *The Hound of Heaven*
by Francis Thompson

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ST. STEPHEN MARTYR MYSTAGOGY





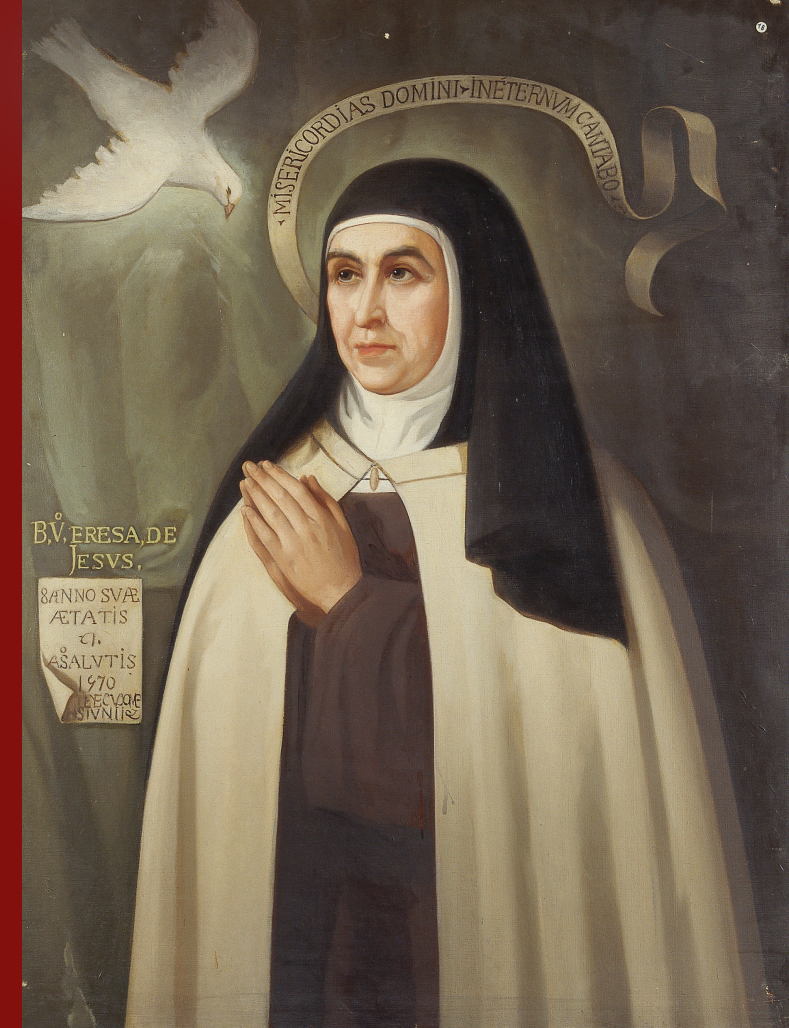
Teresa of Ávila

28 March 1515 – 4 or 15 October 1582

- Founded Discalced Carmelites (Discalced means “without shoes.”)
 - Part of the Counter Reformation. Lived during Council of Trent.
 - Among others wrote “Interior Castle” and “The Way of Perfection.”
 - Like Bernard of Clairvaux, she reformed a wayward order.
 - She and her brother ran away when she was 7 to be martyrs!
 - She was attractive, wordly and addicted to approval before change.
 - Was criticized for being a stubborn “*femina*,” – a feminist!
-
- Doctor of the Church. Recruited John of the cross. Both came from Jewish ancestry.
 - One confessor so sure it was of the devil he told her to “flip off the vision.”
 - She was persecuted by the Carmelite Order and the Inquisition. They didn’t want reform.
 - It’s beyond this topic, but the Carmelite Order was horribly reprobate.
 - This Part is Weird
 - Exhumed 9 months after death. Incorrupt. Exhumed again 1585. Incorrupt.
 - Everyone wanted a relic so at various times her arm was cut off, her fingers cut off, and an eyeball removed.
 - See Mystagogy.net weeks IV V and VI for presentations on St. Teresa’s writings.

Prayer of St. Teresa of Ávila

Lord, grant that I may always allow myself to be guided by You,
always follow Your plans,
so as to perfectly accomplish Your Holy Will.
Grant that in all things, great and small,
today and all the days of my life,
I may do whatever You require of me.
Help me respond to the slightest prompting of Your Grace,
so that I may be Your trustworthy instrument for Your honor.
May Your Will be done in time and in eternity by me, in me, and through me. AMEN.



Inspired 23 Panel paintings by R. Ives Gammell

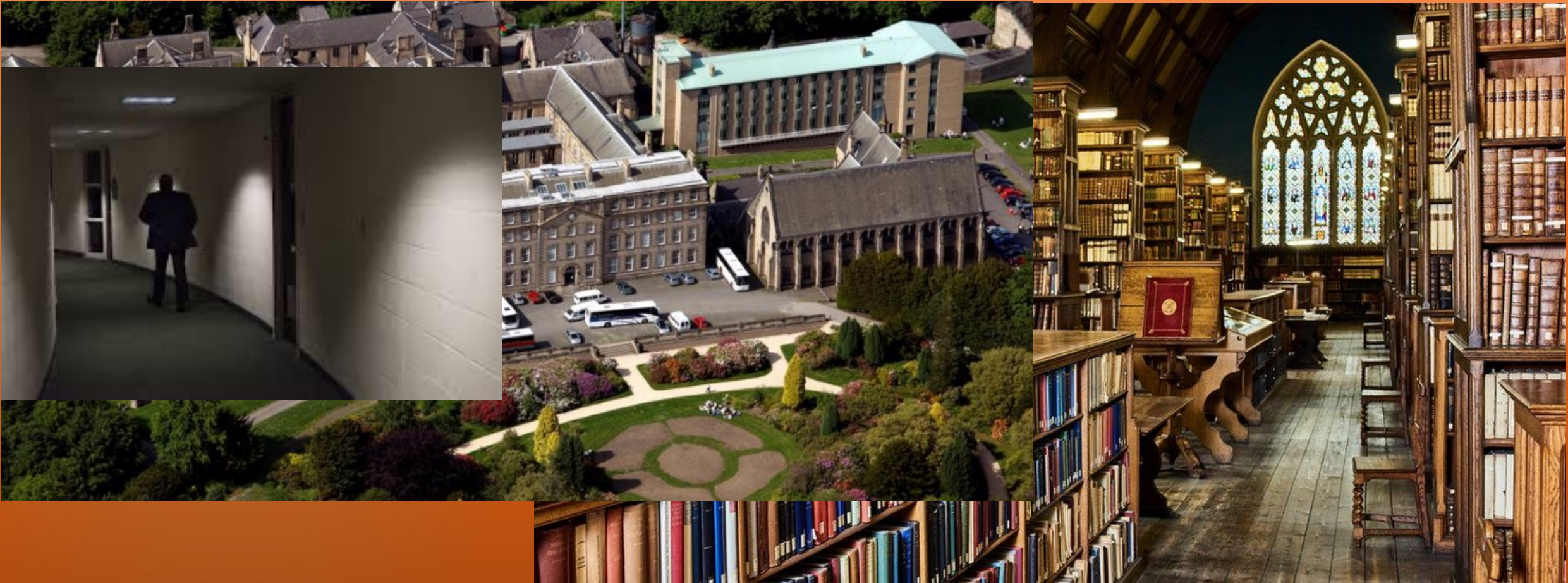


Inspired 3 paintings by William Kurelek



Francis Thompson Biography

16 December 1859 – 13 November 1907



At the age of 11 was sent to the minor seminary Ushaw College.



1877-1885 Studies medicine at Owens College. He ends up having a nervous breakdown.





In 1885, he spends one day in the army and is kicked out. Then, he flees to London to be a poet. **He ends up homeless sleeping under a bridge on the Thames River.**

**(He was) “a waif
of a man, more
ragged and
unkempt than the
average beggar,
his feet without
stockings,
showing through
his boots, his coat
torn and no shirt.”**



“I am orthodox, it is my only consolation.”

A “ringer house” of prostitution



Pentassaph Friary, North Wales

Dies in 1907
at the age of 47





Look for me in
the nurseries of
Heaven.

Francis Thompson



An atheist is a man who believes
himself an accident.

— *Francis Thompson* —



**I fled Him, down the nights and down the days;
I fled Him, down the arches of the years;
I fled Him, down the labyrinthine ways
Of my own mind;**

**and in the midst of tears, I hid from Him,
and under running laughter.**

**Up vistaed hopes I sped;
And shot, precipitated,
Adown Titanic glooms of chasmed fears,
From those strong Feet that followed, followed after.
But with unhurrying chase,
And unperturbed pace,
Deliberate speed, majestic instancy,
They beat and a Voice beat
More instant than the Feet**

'All things betray thee, who betrayest Me.'

The Hound of Heaven

By Francis Thompson



The Main Metaphor: God as the Hound



Man as the Hare



How does the hare feel about the hound?

How is
the hare
feeling
during
the hunt?



Cain fleeing God....

¹⁰ The Lord said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground. ¹¹ Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground...¹² When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. **You will be a restless wanderer on the earth.**”



Jonah fleeing God...



“The word of the Lord came to **Jonah** son of Amittai: “Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.” **But Jonah ran away from the Lord** and headed for Tarshish.”

Jeremiah fleeing God...



God said to Jeremiah,
"I have appointed you
as a prophet to the
nations."

"Ah, Sovereign Lord, I
do not know how to
speak; I am only a
child."

Depart from me, for I am
a sinful man, O Lord.

Luke 5:8

Peter fleeing God...





God is
hounding
us not to
death, but
to life.

A black and white photograph of a person running away from the camera down a long, dimly lit tunnel. The person is in the center of the frame, running towards a bright light at the end of the tunnel. The walls of the tunnel are made of concrete or stone, and there are some pipes and lights visible on the ceiling. The overall mood is one of urgency and escape.

I fled him...

"He that will save his life, shall lose it: and he that shall lose his life for My sake shall find it." (St. Matthew xvi, 25)

I. “All things
betray thee,
who
betrayest
Me.”



= All the ways he has tried to hide from God.

All of them “betray him” by revealing his voids and need for God.



I fled him

Down the nights...

- To run when bad things happen;
- To be confused and run in panic.

A photograph of a dirt path winding through a forest at sunset. The sun is low on the right, creating a strong orange glow and lens flare. Tall trees line the path, and the ground is covered in fallen leaves.

I fled Him Down the days...

- **To flee God in good times;**
- **To run from the clear and known good.**



I fled him,
Down the arches of the years...

Dodging behind “columns” while time passed.

An aerial photograph of a large, circular hedge maze. The maze is constructed from green hedges and light-colored gravel paths. The design is a complex spiral that winds inward from the outer edge towards a central point. The overall shape is roughly circular, with some irregularities in the outer boundary. The text is overlaid on the upper left portion of the maze.

I fled Him

**Down the Labrynthine ways of
my own mind...**

**Dodging God through
questioning and head
games.**

**“It was the soul’s
endeavor to hide
behind such hopeless,
stubborn grief that
hung between God and
itself like a cloud.”**

Francis Lebuffe, SJ

Mist (n) – 1) condensation that
arises from a wet terrain; not as
obscuring as fog.

2) something that obscures
understanding. “mists of antiquity.”

3) a film before the eyes.

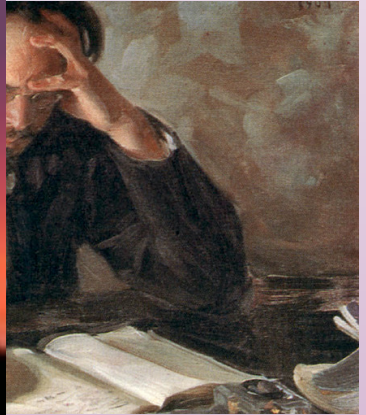
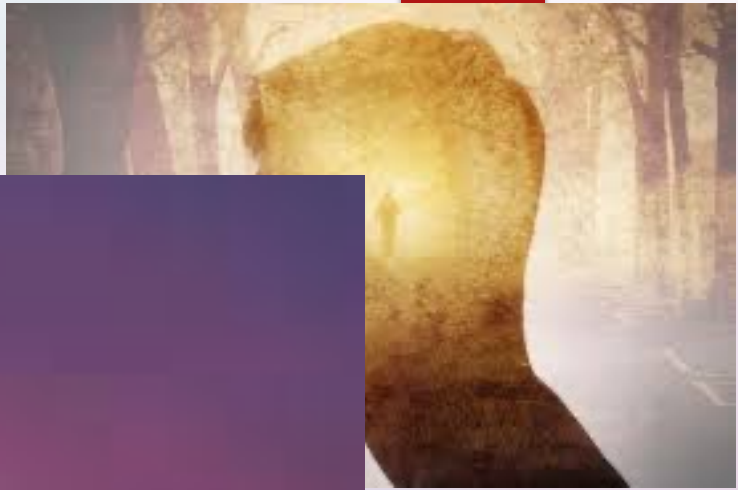
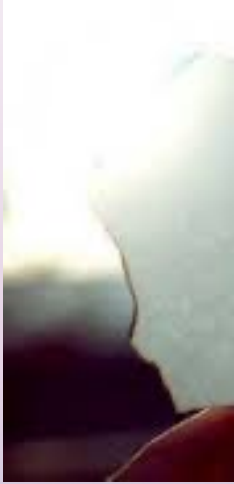
“and in the mist of tears I hid from Him”

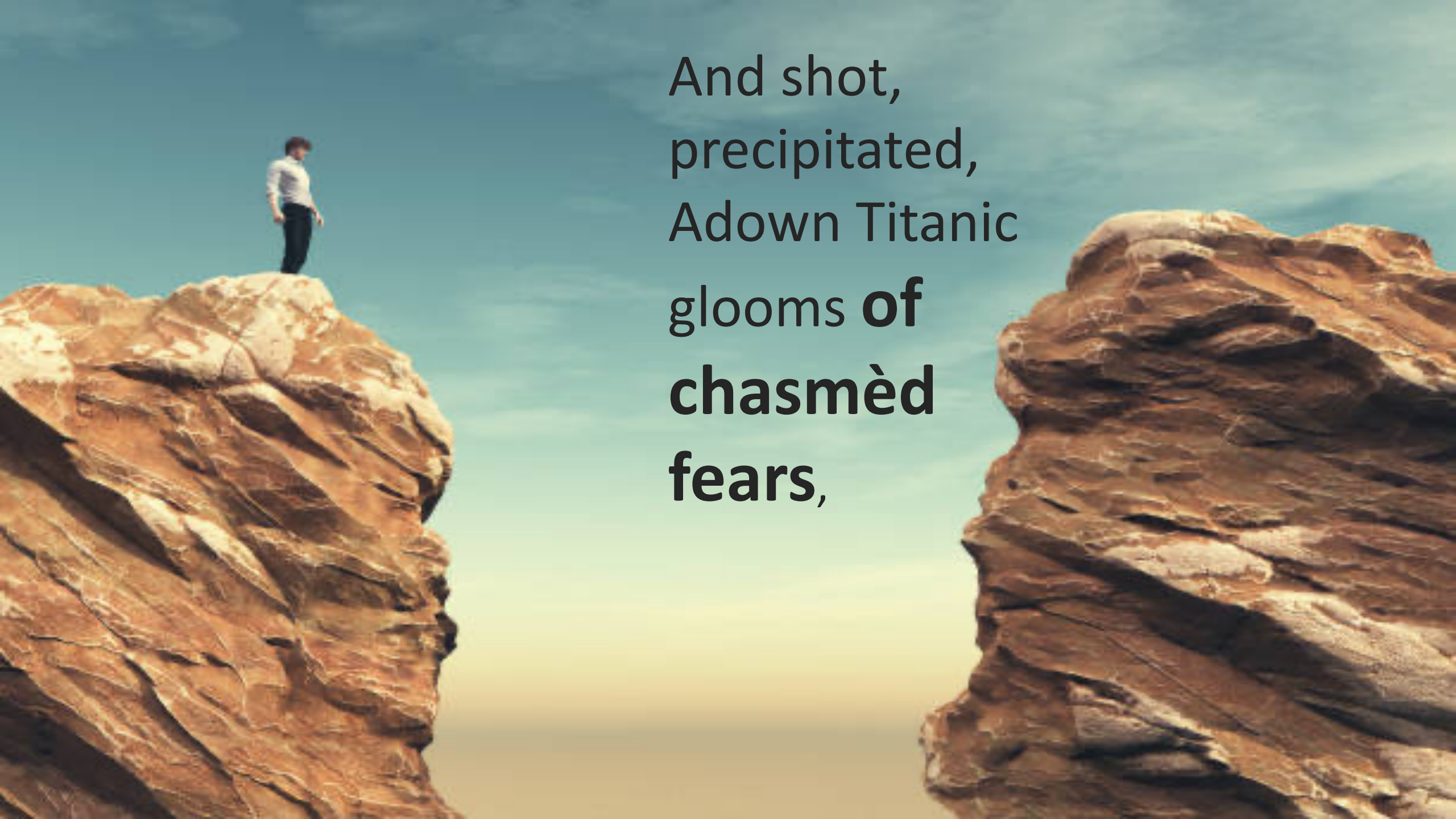
and in the mist of tears I hid from Him,

**and under
running
laughter.**



Up vistaed hopes I sped;




A person in a white shirt and dark pants stands on the edge of a large, layered rock formation. A significant gap exists between this rock and another similar formation on the right, creating a chasm. The sky is a clear, pale blue, and the overall scene conveys a sense of height and risk.

And shot,
precipitated,
Adown Titanic
glooms **of**
chasmèd
fears,

Despair Like the Titans

“Glooms that were not only broad and high and so enveloping that into their nether darkness no ray of hope could steal, but almost brutish in their aggressiveness against the soul. Then it is that soul-paralysis is wont to come...” FL





**But with unhurrying chase,
And unperturbèd pace,
Deliberate speed, majestic instancy...**

**Our
conscience
reverberates in
us like a
heartbeat....**

A close-up photograph of a dark blue, heavily riveted metal door. The door is covered in numerous small, raised rivets. A large, horizontal metal latch is visible, secured with a padlock. The padlock is silver-colored with a circular face and a keyhole. The text "II. 'Naught shelters Thee, who shelters not Me.'" is overlaid in white on the left side of the image.

II. "Naught shelters Thee,
who shelters not Me."



I pleaded, outlaw-wise,

By many a hearted casement, curtained red,

Trellised with intertwining charities;

(For, though I knew His love Who followèd,

Yet was I sore adread

Lest having Him, I must have naught beside).

But, if one little casement parted wide,

The gust of His approach would clash it to.

Fear knew not how to evade, as Love knew how to pursue.

I pleaded, outlaw wise, by many a
casement, curtained red, trellised...



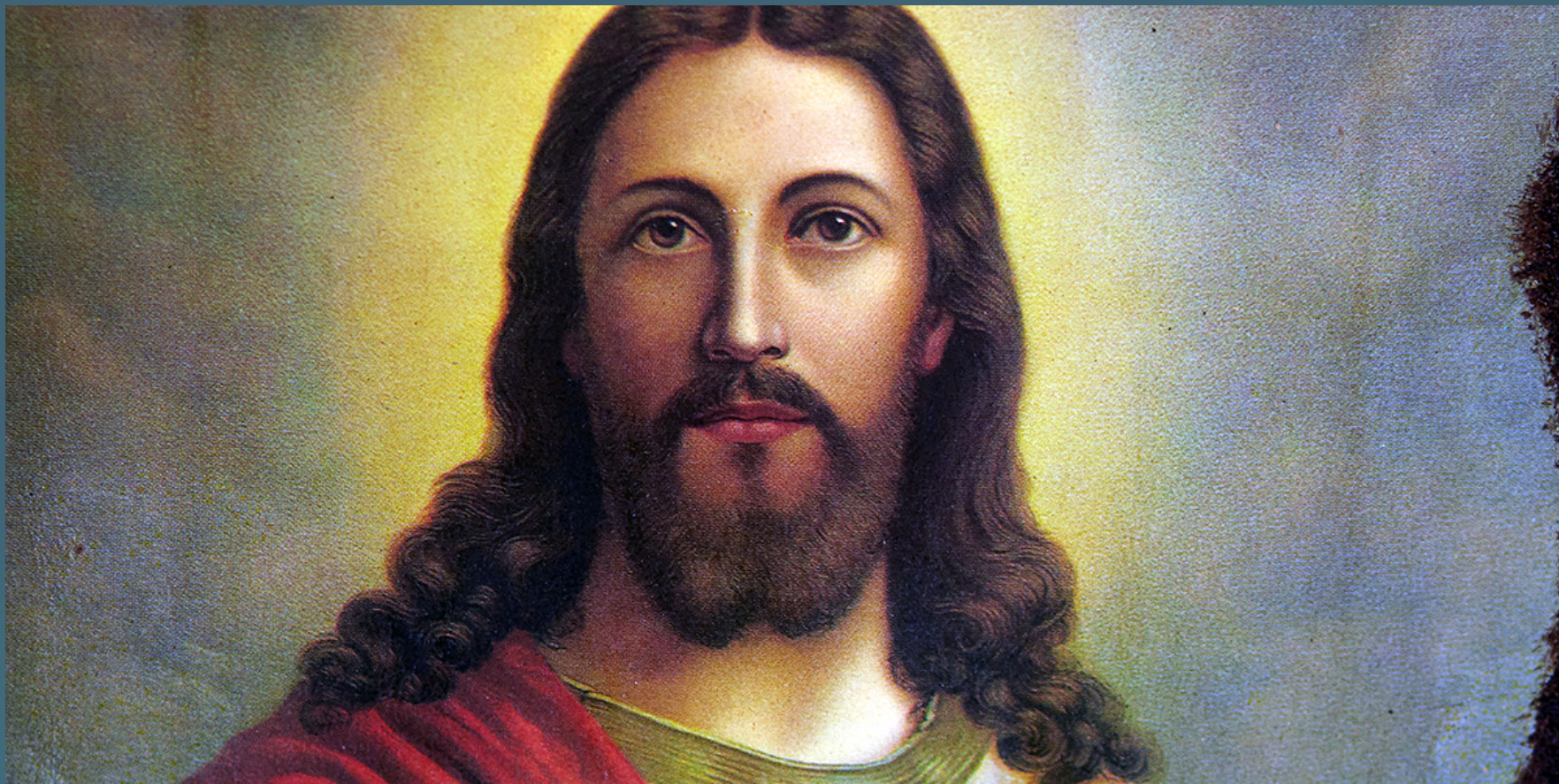
The soul is pictured as
pleading for shelter at
a human heart, which
is likened to a **clay**
cottage, with windows
that hinge out.

“with intertwining charities...”

**The Charites were
three goddesses,
who were sisters:**

**Aglaia (Beauty),
Euphrosyne (Joy),
Thalia (Bounty).**





**(For, though I knew His love Who followèd,
Yet was I sore adread
Lest, having Him, I must have naught beside).**

“Sore adread...”

“There is no pain like the anguish of the soul that is face to face with a great renunciation for God and finds not within itself sufficient generosity to make the surrender.” FL



El Shaddai – “God is our Sufficiency”

“O unhappy man! ‘Love your true SCHADDAI. He alone can fill every corner of your soul...To the mind He is the fulness of light, to the will a manifold peace, to the memory a continuation of eternity.”

Cornelius Lapide, SJ



Shad = breast in Hebrew