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Purpose

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Purpose

— JOSEPH P. HESTER, CLAREMONT, NORTH CAROLINA, USA

Outside my window winter's subtle rhythms speak
With darkened sky and winds severe,
I sense frigid weather is about to appear.
Yet, the Lenten rose from my garden spreads;
It echoes the promise: "Brighter days ahead."
Shedding its brittle umbrella of green
It reveals its hidden beauty –
A winter day's most delightful cuisine
Junco and chickadee in their hurried discourse,



Along with a painted finch
and a cardinal or two,
Flitter about with excited
movements,
Their utility lying in their
invigorating achievements
Our lives also have their
winter winds.
They come unexpectedly
with harshness and pain.

Old age, rusty plumbing and
failed memory, I think;
Are just enough to drive us
insane

But on we move with our wrinkles and afflictions,
Fragile egos and untamed emotions,
We try to counter this incessant commotion
Staying busy with meaningless activities,
Silence and stillness we avoid.
Plugged in, hooked up, and heads in a spin
Securing our vanity we connect with others;
Twittering, face booking, and blogging
Ardently neglecting what lies within.
A settled soul,
A life of symmetry
Are these the eternal goals I seek?
Yet the search for solutions is exceptionally displeasing,
Plaguing the privacy of mind and spirit,
They seem to remain both tentative and weak.
Buber reminded, between man and man

Is where God stands
The enriching leaven of our moral growth;
Yet, dialogic civility seems archaic and old fashion
Blinding a life of self-giving and compassion.
What is the reward of faith, hope, and love?
Vision is needed and wisdom from above.
Through Logos and Sophia strength is provided,
The moral persona through which we are guided.



About the Author

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Dr. Joseph P. Hester is a professional writer and retired educator who serves on the editorial board for the *Journal of Values-Based Leadership* for which he is a frequent contributor and the advisory board for the Humanities Bulletin also for whom he writes. See <https://www.encyclopedia.com/arts/educational-magazines/hester-joseph-p-1939>.

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