

# Visit the Sick

## WHO ARE THE SICK? HOW DO WE RESPOND IN THE VISIT?

### Psalm 41

<sup>1</sup>Blessed is he that visits the sick: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble.

<sup>3</sup>The LORD will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness.

1. Javier Le Pichon: *“He who comes to visit someone who is sick must not sit on the edge of the bed nor on a chair; he must cover himself entirely and sit in front of the one who is sick, because the divine presence is over the head of the sick person.*

The sick are the privileged of God. The Eternal sits over the head of the sick person. Knowing this should guide our approach to the sick when we visit. Do not sit on the edge of the bed, or on the chair. Cover yourself entirely. Sit in front of the one who is sick.

The attitude is respect and worship for God is present. When God is present, blessings flow- healing for the sick and humanity for ministry to the one who is sick.

What is this humanity that is received- love, compassion, service? This humanity is spent immediately upon the one who is sick. Show love, compassion. Serve. This humanity is our gift as well. We are made into a human being.

The Eternal above the head- strengthens the sick from the inside- giving attitudes of humanity, strength and hope. Hope is that mental attitude, the cap that releases the contents of strength in the bottle. It is not confidence. It is strength that proclaims. Good or bad, whatever the outcome I have the chutzpah to go through with it. Hope's fullest meaning is when things turn out the worst. We have the grace to suffer gracefully.

## WHY SHOULD WE VISIT?

Visit the sick, and you will heal yourself.  
The ill person may be a Sufi master,  
And your kindness will be repaid in wisdom.  
Even if the sick person is your enemy,  
You will still benefit,  
For kindness has the power to transform  
Sworn enemies into firm friends.

And if there is no healing of bad feeling,  
There certainly will be less ill will,  
Because kindness is the greatest of all balms.

Rumi

### **GOSPEL**

As humans we are mortal. We suffer. We are all the sick. The Eternal is over our heads. Pray that the Eternal gives us the gifts to preserve our humanity. Pray that the Eternal gives us grace to live our lives with dignity. Pray that the Eternal gives us hope which releases the strength to bear the worst.

### **A PRAYER**

Bathed in the Presence which is everything- light, love, wisdom, strength, how can we not if mindful be the blessed? How can we if mindful, not have hope beyond confidence? How can we not endure, even not knowing what the outcome will be? Whether in life or in death we exist fully. May we rest, fully assured in that Presence. In that presence we are answered before asking. There is no need to ask. There is no need to give thanks. Thou art Presence and therefore present.

**AMEN.**