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Your Sons and Your Daughters Shall Prophesy

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Your Sons and Your Daughters Will Prophecy

LEE MAGNESS

(This poetic reflection on Acts 2.17–21 could be read by a single reader, by two or more readers, or by a reader and chorus. The reading—Parts I, II, and III—could be read in its entirety, as Parts I and III, or as Part I only.)

Part I

And it will be

Not might be or may be, not would, should, or could be,
not might be but will be, what God wills will be.

And it will be . . .

in the last days,

Not end days or when days or then days but now days,
all the days that have passed since the Savior passed our way,
all the days that have passed since the Savior passed away,
not future time but fulfilled time, not rapture time but resurrection time,
not there and then days but here and now days.

And it will be in the last days . . .

God says,

Luke says because Peter says,
and Peter says because each apostle says,
and each apostle says because Joel says,
and the prophet says because God says.

And it will be in the last days, God says . . .

I will pour out from my Spirit

The promise of outpouring, a great, godly apportioning,
Not of God's Spirit but from it,
not the stuff but the source of God's gift,
a hear-it gift, a Spirit gift, a share-it gift, declare-it gift.

. . . I will pour out from my Spirit . . .

on all flesh,

No use for the euphemism, it's flesh not people,
flesh, what makes us most human,
flesh, what makes us all human,
neither Jew nor Greek, both Jews and Greeks,
flesh, all flesh.

. . . I will pour out from my Spirit on all flesh . . .

and your sons and your daughters will prophesy

All means all, gender doesn't matter,
or gender does matter and both genders matter,
sons and daughters, your sons and your daughters,
separated and connected by the "your" and the "and,"
who they are still secondary to what they do,
speaking forth, speaking for, speaking forth for God.
. . . *and your sons and your daughters will prophesy* . . .

and your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams;

All means all, age doesn't matter,
or age does matter and all ages matter,
young and old, your young and your old,
separated and connected by the "your" and the "and,"
who they are still secondary to what they do,
envisioning what God envisions, dreaming God's dreams.
. . . *and your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams* . . .

and even on my male slaves and my female slaves,

All means all, social status doesn't matter,
or social status does matter and every social status matters,
still male and female, now slave and free,
separated and connected by the "my" and the "and,"
who they are, slaves, secondary to who they are,
God's slaves, freed by God to be slaves to God.
. . . *and even on my male slaves and my female slaves* . . .

in those days I will pour out from my Spirit.

. . . *and they—they all—will prophesy.*

Part II

I will give wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below,

God's mighty deeds done through the ages,
from creation to Christ to consummation,
marvels, miracles, the might of heaven right here on earth,
significant acts, signposts of his sovereignty.
. . . *wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below* . . .

blood and fire and mists of smoke;

Rivering and rising from thousands of Pentecost sacrifices,
rivering and rising from the destruction of Jerusalem,
rivering and rising from the myriad slain of every war,
rivering and rising at the return of the Lord.
. . . *blood and fire and mists of smoke* . . .

the sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood

Echoes of the black noon and bloody moon of his departure,
anticipations of the cosmic crises at his return,
from first coming to second coming, Pentecost to Parousia,
everything in creation recreated.
. . . *the sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood* . . .

before the great and glorious day of the Lord comes.

Great is still great, but terrible has become glorious,
judgment has met mercy,
the Judge is just, the Sovereign saves,
his return is a reason for rejoicing.
... *before the great and glorious day of the Lord comes.*

Part III

And it will be

Not might be or may be, not would, should, or could be,
not might be but will be, what God wills will be.

And it will be . . .

that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord

Everyone means everyone,
those who are called must call, may call,
call on the Lord, the Lord who came,
the Lord who comes, the coming Lord.

And it will be that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord . . .

will be saved.

And it will be . . . , and it will be . . .
that all flesh . . . , that everyone . . .
who absorbs the Spirit's gifts . . . , who returns his call . . .
will be saved, will be saved.

And it will be that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

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