

Public Darkness

To me, the regrettable thing about social media
is it's easy availability to even our darkest selves.
I have believed for a while
that often we strive to present a certain image
in these public spaces.
And yet some seem to care not
what faults and wounds they display.
I'm not sure if that's a good thing or not.

At my age I should know better.
But on rare occasions my pre-Buddhist pre-reborn-in-Christ self
rears its ugly head and I make me a public fool.
I wish I could say that I am a fool for Christ
but I'm afraid I lack the courage to make myself
such a glorious fool
so I opt for the inglorious one.

I heard a favorite teacher say
"Every day we need a little humiliation."
I don't know if I could take it every day
but on occasion it is a good antidote to ego.
It makes me realize how much I need God
and how easily I slip into darkness
without a regular dose of his nourishment.

Maybe exposing my darkness in public has its benefits.
Public honesty can be dangerous
but also salvific.
Being a public poet is a risky business
but so is being human.

Author's Note: I'm not sure this is a poem, but it is something I needed to say.

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