

REFLECTIONS



On A

VOYAGE

Pictures and Prayers by Jill Geoffrion
Poems by Bob Kimberly

"Pictures, Prayers, and Poems"

Copyright © 2015.

by Jill Geoffrion and Bob Kimberly

All rights reserved.

Published in the United States by Bob Kimberly

No part of this book may be reproduced in any manner whatsoever without prior written permission, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles or reviews.

Published by

Bob Kimberly

bob@bobnank.com

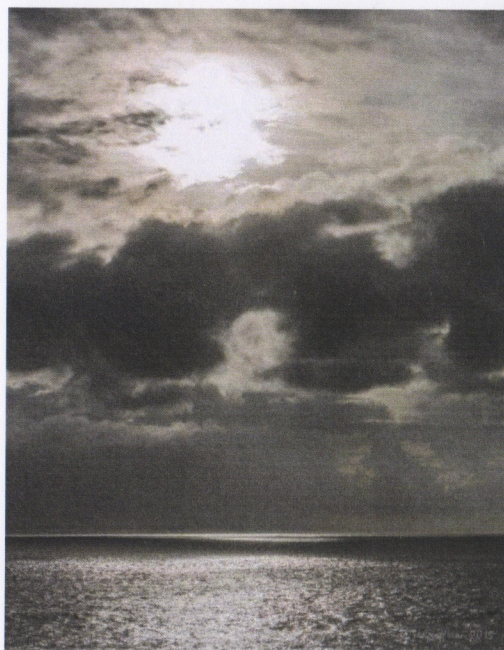
The sea is only movement and love.
It is the living infinite.

Jules Verne

The pictures in this book were taken by Jill on a cruise she and her husband Tim took from Australia across the Pacific Ocean with stops in places like French Polynesia and the Easter Islands enroute to Lima, Peru and around the horn to Buenos Aries. On the cruise Jill posted a daily blog with pictures and prayers. Her father, Bob, selected a few of them to use as prompts for his poems.

Table of Contents

Deep Calls to Deep	2
Rising	4
Reversing	6
Middle of the River	8
Wow	10
Glory	12
Creation	14
Embraced	16
Repositioning	18
Full Moon	20
Paradox	22
Magnificence	24
Transitions	26
Inner Beauty	28
Unexpected	30
Eyes	32
Joy	34
Crater	36
Change	38
Locked	40
Starting Again	42
Creative Power	44



Deep calls to Deep

The rocking of the ocean and the embrace
of a mother's body around a forming child,
The rising of the sun and the human
heart's orientation toward hope,
The unceasing movement of the wind and
continual quest to touch unseen Reality,
Deep calls to deep, deep calls to Deep.

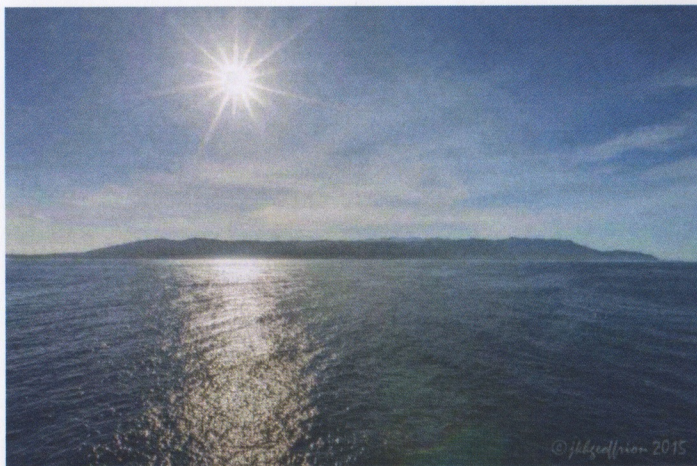
My prayer response:

God of all that is, before I even recognize my
longing for connection, You have made
Yourself known. Thank you for coming to
me through my eyes, my skin, my emotions,
and my memory. I am grateful.

Depth

From the depths of the oceans
to the farthest reaches of heaven
there is a connection.

In our quest
to explore the realities of both,
we find a connection
that orients our desire for hope.



Rising

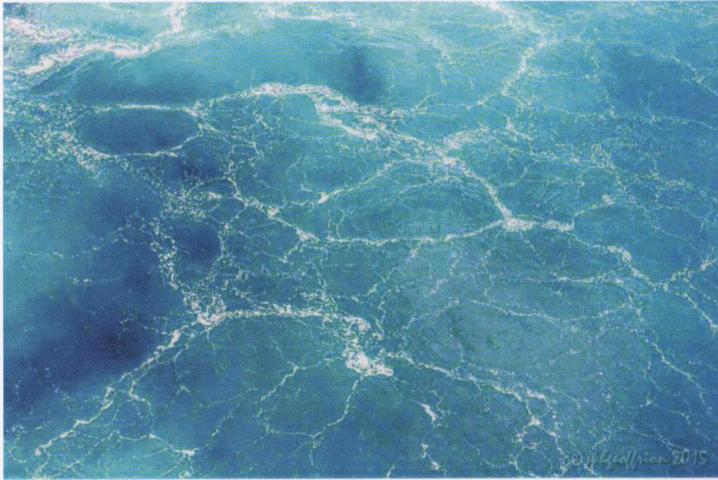
Fiery earth emerges from the sea.
The sun, rising in the East, climbs.
A human spirit opens anew to its Creator.

My prayer response:

Wow! Everywhere I look, I perceive Your creativity, Your value of beauty, and Your complex nature. I breathe in with thankfulness, I exhale with amazement. Everything sings Your song. Praise be to You, oh Wonder of Wonders.

Rising

Over the headland
The sun climbs
into a clear sky
gilding a path
across the water
inviting the spirit
to rise into
a new exciting world.



Reversing

Reversing involves far more than just moving in the opposite direction. Forward motion slows. Energy swirls. Currents and counter-currents mingle. Things change in stages.

My prayer response:

For a heart that values ebbing and flowing, for a mind that trusts complexity, for a spirit that perceives beauty in unexpected events, I pray.

Stages

We live life in stages
that change,
like the ocean tides,
advancing , retreating,
reversing, renewing.
Our lives move in one direction
then new interests develop,
ideas mingle, energies swirl,
that direction slows,
and our life begins
to move into its new stage.



The Middle of the River

Sensations of wind swirling. Striving successfully against the current. Countless shades of green singing. Attention. Curiosity, Fascination.

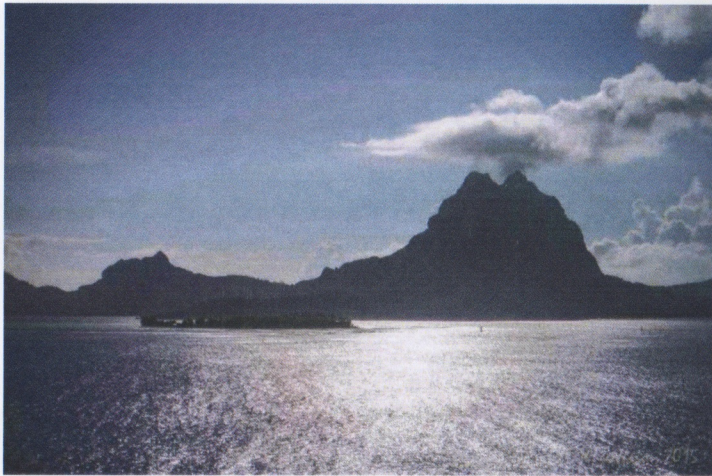
What might be around the next bend? I release the question to float downstream. Being here with my mind, my body, my spirit- all of who I am-is fully engaging.

My prayer response:

For this moment, and its fullness, I give thanks.
For the ability to experience it, I give thanks.

Swirling

Countless shades of green
carpet the hillsides
that rise above the river
meandering through the valley.
Currents eddying along the banks
carry my spirit with them
as they swirl around,
piquing my curiosity
and raising the question of what
might lie around the next bend.
Like the river, I'm fully engaged
as I flow into the unknown,
my mind, my body, my spirit
all at full attention.



Wow

Seeing the peaks of an extinct volcano rising out of the ocean took my breath away. Joy leapt within. Awe and gratitude invited me to stand quietly and let the beauty penetrate my being.

My prayer response:

God, Amazing! Beautiful! Exciting! Fascinating! Incredible! I see limitless possibility. I hear the call to move more deeply into my creativity. I feel so thankful for the opportunity to experience this island and this moment.

Wow

A cloud hangs
above the mountain
like a puff of smoke.
The sun reflects off the water
in shimmering silver ripples.
I stare in awe
at the beauty
of God's creation.



Glory

What does glory look like? Color. Movement. Contrast. Flight. Hope.

My prayer response: God, the beauty of Your creation astounds. How grateful, how joyful, how amazed I am to be a part of Your Life.

Glory

A bird soars gracefully
above the land that rises
out of the blue water
up to the jagged peaks.

A rainbow, with which
God promised a new covenant,
arches across the landscape
reflecting glory and peace.



Creation

Creativity can be unpredictable. Like a volcano it can erupt, cool down, and even collapse.

My prayer response:

Creator, Help me to trust my creativity even more. Love,

Creation

From far below the surface
lava rose in sudden eruptions
forming volcanos
that slowly cooled into mountains
whose verdant tranquility now
contrasts the unpredictable violence
of their creation.



Embraced

Receiving a hug brings warmth and joy
that opens my heart, inviting deeper
connection. When this mountain reached
out for me, I reached back with awe,
appreciation and wonder.

My prayer response:

God, free me from small-mindedness that hesitates
to acknowledge how connected I am to all creation.
Thank You for how every reminder of Your love
helps me to love all You have created.

Embraced

The mountain rising
from the ocean floor
is embraced and nourished
by the sea and reaches out to me
inviting a connection
which like a hug bring warmth.
Instinctively I reach back
with awe and appreciation.



Repositioning

Flexibility and willingness to reposition its wings and feathers contributed to this bird's successful dive for an ocean fish. My fascination with the beauty of its midair dance tapped into a desire to find new ways to use the tools I possess to accomplish important goals.

My prayer response:

For eyes to see more clearly, willingness to change even more, and an ability to focus on what is most important, I pray.

Repositioning

Like the Frigate Bird
changing wing and feather positions
as it soars, dives, and skims,
I need to be willing to change
my focus and direction
to meet each new challenge
while striving to accomplish my goals.



Full Moon

My heart leaps each time I spot the moon.
There is no need or way to understand the joy
it brings. The happiness and connection I
experience is more than enough!

My prayer response:

Light of Lights, Thank You for every reflection
of Your beauty. I am vibrating with so much
gratitude,

Full Moon

Our closest neighbor
creates a connection,
a tidal pull on our hearts
and a sense of joy
that brings contentment
whenever we see it
shining in the starry night.



Paradox

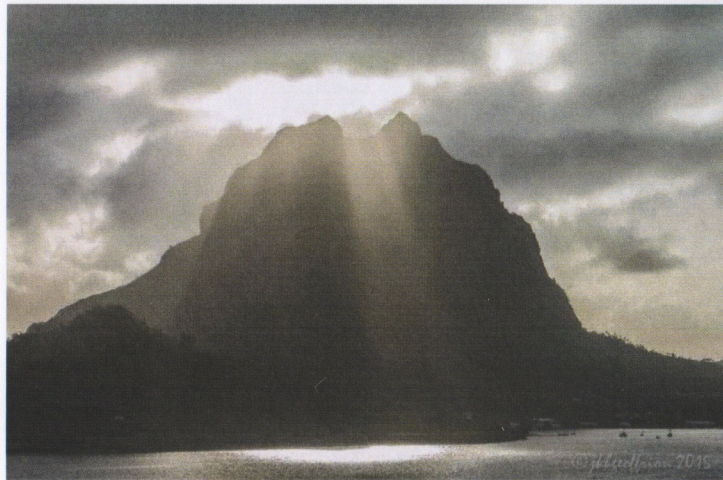
Light and dark. Attraction and repulsion. Hope and despair. The sky embodies paradox. My heart longs to hold and express beauty that is as complex and creative—even wild.

My prayer response:

God Who Holds All Things Together, May I be more and more like You.

Paradox

Driven by unseen winds
clouds fill the sky
crashing together
then blown apart
in wild rhythms
and complex beauty
that my heart longs to create.



Magnificence

The beauty of creation reflects the beauty of its Creator.

My prayer response:

You are magnificent. I am so grateful to know and love You, Creator. So grateful, Jill

Magnificence

Land, water, heavens
mountains, ocean, sky
all reflect the wonderful design,
beauty, and magnificence
of The Creator.



Transitions

The warm colors of the sun setting over the ocean beg the body and spirit to unwind. To trust. To let go enough to welcome change.

My prayer response:

Thank You, God, for the way that transitions invite me to pause and take stock of what has been and what is becoming. Help me to savor the beauty of these times of transformation.

Transitions

As we unwind from the day,
freeing our minds to go,
like clouds, where they will,
the sun sinks into the ocean
completing its transit
across the sky
in a kaleidoscope of warm colors
welcoming the peace and quiet
of the night.



Inner Beauty

The translucent, multicolored mother-of-pearl insides of oyster shells are gorgeous! Their rough outsides completely hide their inner beauty.

My prayer response:

God, May the eyes of my heart see clearly both the inner and outer beauty of people, situations, and ideas. Please help my perceptions to mirror Yours.

Hidden Beauty

In this day of instant everything we tend to make snap decisions about people and things based on what we see or past experiences, and in so doing often miss the beauty hiding just out of sight.



Unexpected

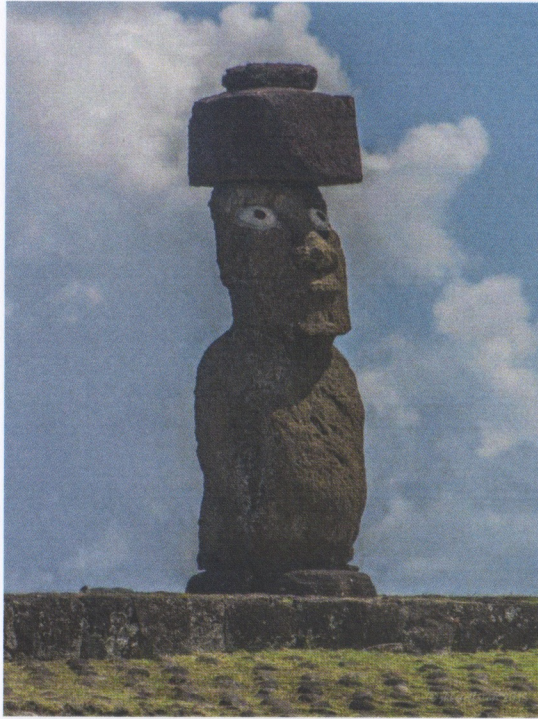
I never imagined that a rainbow could appear in the middle of the ocean. Stunned by its presence, my heart and mind opened to possibilities that have seemed “impossible.”

My prayer response:

Thank You for surprising me today, God.
Thank You for the realities that lie beyond my current experience. Thank You for the beauty of what is possible.

Unexpected

When confronted with the unexpected, we search our experiences looking for explanations, and open our minds to the possibility that ideas we held impossible are actually real.



Eyes

Being seen by those who can help often implies understanding, connection, and hope. The coral eyes with black obsidian or red scoria pupils of the Mo'ai were believed to give these statues the power to watch over the people of Easter Island.

My prayer response:

God, if only I could see You seeing me! My mind tells me that You perceive everything, yet I long for reassurance that Your loving gaze watches over me. I echo the words of the man spoken to Jesus, "I believe, help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:25)

Eyes

Our first thought is that
we don't want
anyone watching over us,
yet we all hope
in times of trouble or need
there will be Someone
with understanding and compassion
watching out for us.



Joy

It was so unexpected. To see a tiny bird land on the massive head of the Mo'ai statue brought a spontaneous laugh and a huge smile to my face. The simple joys of life often invite me to look more carefully while they open my heart and mind to new perspectives.

My prayer response:

Thank You, God for the small things that reorient me. Thank you for laughter. Thank you for the joy that leaps within me, even if I can't explain why it is there. Gratefully yours,
Jill

Joy

Joy come
in unexpected ways.
Little thing,
a word, a smile,
a shared hug
all shine
a new light
into our world.



Crater

Held securely within our mothers' wombs, we begin our lives. Reminders of that first embrace, whether big or small, move us.

My prayer response:

God, I breathe in the beauty of a volcanic crater filled with water, plant and animal life, and history. I breathe out gratitude. I breathe in greens, blues, browns and whites. I breathe out hope and strength. Thank You for holding me within these moments of deep connection and appreciation.

Crater

The land and water
nestled within the crater
of the extinct volcano
remind us of how much
we value and appreciate
embraces of those we love.



Change

Change happens every moment of every day.
Appreciating its beauty helps me to fully engage in
life.

My prayer response:

God, may the wisdom of the skies teach
me flexibility as I flow with the changes that present
themselves. Thank You for creating a world that
teaches me to embrace transformation.

Change

Light from the setting sun
changes the color
of the clouds from
palest pinks to orangey red
creating a beauty
that engages and enlightens
our lives.



Locked

What is inaccessible? It's an important question because there is often a key that will open things up.

My prayer response:

God, Thank You for reminding me that what seems unthinkable, may in fact be very possible. Thank You for shifting perceptions that unlock new understandings.

Locked

It would be wonderful
to have a magic key
that unlocked every lock.
Although impossible,
that thought reminds us, that
by changing our perspective
we may be able
to open our minds to new ideas.



Starting Again

Darkness recedes as the rising sun lights the sky and land. The day begins with softness and beauty.

My prayer response:

God of the New Day, thank you for this fresh start.

Dawn

Light creeps
up and over
the mountain
softly sweeping
darkness
ahead of it
revealing
the beauty of
a New Day.



Creative Power

Natural forces are powerful beyond comprehension. Their wildness, whether spewing hot lava to bring more land into being, or sculpting the landscape with glacial force, is inspiring.

My prayer response:

Wow, God! Wow! May I accept the power you have given me to both create and reshape. May I use it to serve You.

Power

Majestic mountains
rising from the
valley floor
reflect the power
God has given us
to create and edit
these words
to His glory.

Jill Kimberly Hartwell Geoffrion is a photographer and an ordained minister. She has published seven books on Labyrinths including one on the Cathedral at Chartres where her pictures are used in seminars and retreats.

Bob Kimberly started writing poetry after he retired. He has published three books of poems.