



## CHARISM

For all eternity I have forgone  
the opportunity of bringing  
into being  
persons of my mould  
for all eternity  
unique  
yet with my features,  
my voice, my face, my hands,  
my chemistry,  
blended with hers.

For You  
for all eternity  
I have forgone  
the right to call  
one person in this world  
my very own  
and to be hers — for You  
I have forgone.

Could I have given  
greater gifts than these  
to You, my Lord,  
could I have given greater?

There will be  
never again  
a life-time for procreation.  
I live my flesh—  
my transient flash of shooting stardom—  
against the backdrop of  
eternity  
and give to You  
all that I could create  
all that I could — with You—  
bring to eternal being.



## SAINT LOUIS ABBEY



I give  
I give You  
all...and You give me,  
(Lord, how this shaft of mystery  
splinters within my brain,  
my consciousness,  
intensely live  
like wires grown white almost to melting point)  
You give me, Lord,  
power to begin with You  
eternal life,  
power to beget,  
to procreate,  
the life that is only yours,  
making me fingers of your gentle hands  
for forming immortal mystery.

You use me as a womb to bring to birth  
persons to live for ever;  
You use these hands to bring to your believers  
the being of our God become our food;  
You use this mouth to whisper or proclaim  
that God is Man and no thing is profane;  
You use these feet to bring with quiet speed  
news of your all-creating, -keeping,  
-breathing and all-welcoming Being;  
and choosing not to procreate  
in all eternity  
my mortal name  
You call me to fling word-seed to the wind  
that will— in time — have grown  
into no other likeness  
but your own.

*Ralph Wright, O.S.B.*