

Feedback on Sophia Wellbeloved's *Praying for Flow*

February 2011:

Thank you for your book titled *Praying for Flow*. I must say this is an aesthetically wonderful book. It creates a warm feeling as soon as you get it in your hands. I especially liked the fish on the front cover. A wonderful painting...

A very successful choice that corresponds to the title of the book. The calligraphy gives a special character to the content. All together a very attractive book that you want to read. Congratulations to you and to Waterloo Press.

Dr Ekaterina Kornilaki Developmental Psychologist
University of Crete, Greece

February 2011:

It is a most handsome production, attesting to great care and concern and sense of design and proportion. Great use has been made of ideograms and drawings, to match the typographical layout of the poems, and all together they suggest "praying" or meditation and at times quirky movement or "the flow." It would not have occurred to me to borrow from Chinese imagery for this purpose, but it works. Finally, the quality of the printing is excellent.

Reactions to the four sections: I feel in part one that you were/are playing or trying out or auditioning for various Roles. In part two, I sense the imagery of Snapshots, almost an extended family album of feelings. For part three, there is the Empyrean, with its out-of-this-world range and grasp of etheric imagery. Part four centres all of us in the Human Body, a grand return.

You are well served with a fine Introduction (though it is misnamed; it is a Foreword) that offers an inspired appreciation of your strengths and characteristics. Joseph's linkage of GMH and SW is quite insightful; curiously, at first I misread it as "Emily Dickinson and Wellbeloved" and frowned as I struggled to find ED in SW or SW in ED! Then I reread the sentence and found relief. Hopkins is a good equivalence (more than Borges); your work and his have much in common, maybe even "sprung rhythm."

What will remain with me: "Stories invent their listeners"; your need for hugs; EZs; twin brother; the six line stanzas, with one for each of the six senses, perhaps; I could go on. Congratulations again!

John Robert Colombo Canadian publisher, anthologizer and poet