

*friends*  
(John 1: 35-39)

**Scripture:**

*On the following day John was standing there again with two of his disciples. As Jesus walked by, John looked at him and said, "There is the Lamb of God." On hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. He turned and saw them following, and he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They answered, "Rabbi (which means Master), where are you staying?" Jesus said, "Come and see." So they went and saw where he stayed and spent the rest of that day with him. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon.*

**Meditation:**

the water is sparkling  
in spite of so many people  
nearby

    there is a solitude deep  
so the baptist tells us  
    to follow the one  
    walking in front

i stare into the river  
    watching as it winds  
    along the curves of the land  
there is a stillness  
about this afternoon  
    it is as if you can feel  
    something deeper happening  
it is as if somehow you can  
be brought into what is inside  
at the deepest core  
    where most of the time  
    we never go

taking my gaze  
    away from the river  
    from the sparkling  
    on the water  
    away from the steady flow

in the distance  
    this one stops and sits  
    watching all the people  
    around him

he also is enjoying the afternoon  
not hurrying  
feeling the flow  
of the moment

feeling something deeper happening  
know i will soon  
need to introduce myself

he starts to walk again  
looking at him  
as he passes  
underneath the tallest trees  
as he passes through the shade  
i have this tremendous desire  
to tell him  
that i have lately been trying  
so hard to do  
something for our country  
i feel this strong desire  
to talk to him  
about the last five years  
how hard i have tried  
to find others  
who will be willing to risk  
it always seems the same  
how no one seems interested  
and here i am  
leaving the baptist  
from whom i have learned so much  
when would this journey ever end?  
when would i ever be able  
to find what i was looking for?

he moves from underneath the shade  
turning away from the river  
i watch him  
as he makes the turn  
on the path  
i still cannot make out  
his face  
all i can see is his white robe  
flowing  
as the breeze blows against me  
as he starts to ascend the incline  
asking myself

should i continue to follow him  
or go back to the baptist?  
something within me  
pushes me  
to also make the turn  
away from the familiar  
away from what i know  
to make the turn  
to meet someone  
different  
now walking along the path

reflecting as i take  
each step  
how i never know  
what is going to happen  
when i listen  
to what is happening inside  
always being thrown off course  
always finding myself  
walking down paths  
i never thought  
i would be walking

once again he sits down  
looking  
at the riverbed below  
he sees us  
walking behind him  
know  
i need to come closer  
know  
there is no turning back  
it is time  
to introduce ourselves  
quickly approaching him  
he stands up  
i look into his face

he greets me  
can i help you?  
what are you looking for?  
  
what am i looking for?  
this search is why  
i left the baptist

that is why i have taken  
    so many risks  
that is why  
i have been looking so hard  
for someone  
who also  
has a vision  
    what am i looking for?

i don't know  
why i said it  
but i could not think  
of anything else to say  
    where do you live?  
so there it was

he says  
    come and see  
    i live over those hills  
        would you like  
        to see a different part  
        of this land?  
    come let us walk  
so this one  
whom i had never met before  
was inviting me  
    to come  
    to see  
where he lives

why would i want  
    to walk with him  
    to see where he lives?  
but once again  
there was this deep desire  
    to share with him  
    what i had been experiencing  
    in our country  
was not too sure  
why i said it  
but i did  
    about why i like to live  
    in my village  
    what had happened during the years  
    to the poor of our village

could see he was interested  
    in what i was saying  
we walked and walked  
talking  
    about many things  
    about so many events  
    in our lives  
he asks  
    why i wanted  
    to follow the baptist  
i tell him

i know he understands  
he wants to know  
    what was the hardest challenge  
    working with the people  
    what was the best part of it  
    during these last months  
telling him  
makes a difference  
    somehow just by telling him  
    there is something different  
    within me

arriving at his house  
passing through the doors  
    feeling  
    that something new is happening  
that i will never be the same  
just like i felt  
at the river  
    know something deeper is happening  
sitting around his table  
we begin to speak  
    about more of our lives  
    can tell him anything  
as the afternoon passes  
    into night  
as we pass the hours  
talking  
    feel how important  
    to have found someone  
    who understands  
    what i am saying  
how important  
    not to keep so much

enclosed within  
a beginning that afternoon  
of sharing what is within  
with this one  
offering his friendship  
which i know  
will deepen with the passing  
know this time  
i found  
the one  
i had been looking for

