

The Passion of Joseph

By Arlene Scott

His mind whirled in a vortex
of conflicting thoughts
too painful to ponder.
The life within her
signaled a kind of death in him,
Death to the joy
that came from beholding her,
Death to the peace
he always felt in her presence,
Death to the beauty
in her celestial face.

The Law said she should be stoned to death.
His love for her would not allow it.
The stone of his heavy heart
would bear the burden of putting her away.

Like Abraham before him,
He would have to separate his heart
from that other heart which he treasured
more than his own life—
His life in exchange for hers
(and the new Life within her womb
whose origin he did not yet know.)

Saving the Savior,
Joseph placed on the pyre of separation
the dearest treasure of his life.

In Joseph's passion begins our redemption!