

The Diamond Turns

By Lynn DeShazo

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One of my favorite quotes on the subject of song writing is from Sheila Davis, author of several excellent books on the subject. This one is found in *The Craft of Lyric Writing*, Writers Digest Books):

"Unlike a poem, whose language can be as abstract as a cubist painting, a lyric should be as direct as a highway sign."

In other words, your lyric should be clearly understood by the listener. I have written a song, however, that has raised a question from a few people wondering about my use of the phrase "the diamond turns". "Just what, exactly, is the diamond?" you ask. Allow me to explain.

The idea for the song, "The Diamond Turns" came to me in the fall of 1999 during a class lecture on the Book of Ephesians. Dr. Jay Ferguson, our instructor, was teaching on Paul's description of God's wisdom in Ephesians 3:10 as being *polupoikilos*. This Greek word is rendered "manifold", meaning that it has many sides or colors. "Multi-faceted" is another word that can be used. He then used the illustration of a diamond. If you hold up a diamond to the light and view it in one position, you will be able to see a number of its facets. If you turn the diamond slightly, however, even more of its beauty and brilliance can be seen. Dr. Ferguson then began to describe what it must be like for the heavenly beings around God's throne as they continually behold the ever-unfolding revelation of His glory. They cry "holy!", as they see a glorious dimension of the Lord. They cry "holy!" again, as another facet of His glory is revealed, much like the turning of the diamond in our illustration. A third time they cry "Holy!" to still another revelation of His glory. On and on it goes, so that "day and night they do not cease to say 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the almighty, who was and who is and who is to come.'" (Rev. 4:8 NASB).

As I pondered this image of the heavenly worship before God's throne, the phrase "the diamond turns" really captured my imagination. I wrote a few lines of a song idea in the margin of my notes: "The diamond turns, the angels bow/ holy, holy, holy is the Lord!" This mysterious sounding phrase is actually a metaphor for the ever-unfolding revelation of God's glory.

It is also important to note that God's manifold wisdom has been "made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places." (Eph. 3:10). In other words, the powers to whom God is demonstrating His wisdom and grace are the beings that rebelled against Him- the very ones we constantly struggle against (Eph. 6:12). Dr. Ferguson puts it this way:

"Every sentient being God has ever created will exist forever, either with God in heaven or in 'the lake of fire that burns forever'. No ruler, authority, power or any other kind of

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spirit will ever be able to accuse God of being unloving, unkind or unforgiving. The eternal proof of His grace and kindness will be seated and reigning with His Son! The proof of God's loving-kindness is us, the church, the children of God! The church is the trophy of God's complete victory and the evidence of His grace to all of the rulers and authorities that rebelled against Him! " (Page 32, The Book of Ephesians CLST Course Study Guide, by Dr. James Ferguson). Thus the song's bridge:

*Who can stand, O Lord
Before Your eyes of fire
Or speak against the wisdom
You've reflected in Your bride...*

I finished writing "The Diamond Turns" in August of 2000, and recorded a version of it on my CD of the same title in 2001. It was also recorded in September of 2001, at the World Prayer Center in Colorado Springs during a live recording with the Integrity songwriters. That recording appears on the Integrity CD, HOPE OF THE NATIONS.

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Verse 1:

Who is like You, O Lord among gods
Who can but worship as You shine
Who could ever know
in just a single gaze
All the glory of Your face
All the glory of Your face

Chorus:

The Diamond turns, the angels bow
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord
The Glory burns, the saints cry out
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord

Verse 2:

Who is there like You, O radiant One
Ever exceeding all we know
Merciful and just, full of grace and love
Ever shining from Your throne
Ever shining from Your throne

Bridge:

Who can stand, O Lord
Before Your eyes of fire
Or speak against the wisdom
You've reflected in Your bride
We fall upon our knees
And join the ancient cry
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Most High!
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord!
Holy, holy, holy

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