

Eris Clapton, god or God's

By John Van Sloten

March 25, 2007

[(1-10) Tears in Heaven – Live] ... I can still see the image of **Faith's** 'little footprints' on funeral memorial card Shauna... (S/S lost late term DS baby 2 yrs ago!) **PAUSE... She'll know your name!...** and it won't be the same... **it'll be perfect then!...** it'll all be perfect... every last chromosome... **LONG PAUSE...**

(looking at people) **"It will all be perfect one day... and we'll know..."** **"(11)**We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!" 1 Corinthians 13:12

PAUSE... (12)EC wrote "Tears in H" 4yr old Conor's tragic death NY apt fall... song is a deep expression of his agony... **PAUSE... deeply resonated with his listeners... w/all of us** who suffer with loss... with death... **w/life not always being the way supposed to be...)** **LONG PAUSE...**

(13) Time can bring you down Time can bend your knee
Time can break your heart Have you begging please Begging please

When I read lyrics one part of **EC's** grieving that struck me as odd... **"(14)** Cause I know I don't belong Here in heaven"... did he mean **"I don't belong right now?... or don't belong ever?"**... **PAUSE...**

Reading through his life story wonder if it's the later!

- Age 9 – [Parents/Grandparents] Father left him! a huge rejection... upheaval "what am I worth?"
- Grade school – [self described outcast, 98lb(7s.) **"(15)** I was the one that used to get stones thrown at me because I was so thin"]

- A lifetime of **broken relationships**(w/bands, in love, with himself – ie:addictions)
- In **early** stardom reporter's noted huge 'humility' bordered on 'insecurity/sense of unworthiness'

"(16)I've had a great deal of hang-ups about my singing all my life. I've always been very worried about whether or not I could sing."

"(17)Until I am either a great songwriter or a great singer, then I shall carry on being embarrassed when people come on with that praise stuff."

"(18)I came off stage shaking like a leaf because I felt once again that I'd let people down..."

"(19)What I tried to achieve on that album was satisfying the people I was playing with..." saw this theme all over interviews this obligation to prove he was **worthy... deserved** to be there... **belonged... CLAPTON!!!**

PAUSE... Sometimes played with back to audience... [so deferential w/other musicians he disappeared]... often thought only good as lead guitar/side guy...

"(20) I'm always worrying about who I am going to please, apart from pleasing myself..."

One reporter once wrote **"(21)**it has often been said that one of Eric Clapton's major problems over the years has been to **find his own identity**, a role in which he can be comfortable and assured..." **LONG PAUSE...**

Yeah... Eric and all the rest of us eh!... trying to figure out **who we are...** where we **come from...** where **we're going...** **PAUSE...** Eric just did his *struggling search* on the big stage... via lens of celebrity...

[(22 - 31) START "Father's eyes" AUDIO CLIP softly]
"In 1998 EC released Grammy award winning song, **"My Father's eyes"**... about his now deceased Father

that he never met... listen to the **yearning (guitar)**... the **questioning LYRICAL search**...

Catch phrase? “**(32)**Just a toerag on the run” British slang “worthless person” (cloth strips on vagrant’s feet) Song goes on to ask ‘How can I be a dad?’ ... calls himself a “washed out bridge” (between generations)... “**My foundations were made of clay...**” **PAUSE**...

(SLOWLY)... All I could feel in listening to song, “**(33)** **Thank you Father!**... that I **do** know you... that I know **who I am... where from... where I’m going**... that I know that I **[BELONG]**... see me... that you teach me... that you’re proud!...[I don’t earn it/good enough/**just is**]

[**Thomas** comes up stairs leave for school... tell him about Clapton’s fatherlessness... thankful for my dad thankful for his... ☺] “We have no idea like to not have a dad...” **PAUSE... or maybe you do... PAUSE or maybe we all do!!... LONG PAUSE**...

“**(34)** We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist...” there is **separation... disconnect... lostness**

LONG PAUSE... I think a lot of EC’s struggles (like ours) result from a **struggle with identity!**... we’ve lost sight of **our worth**... lost touch w/our **foundational meaning**... forgotten what **we’re really made of!**...

[(35-38) READ PS8 – THE MESSAGE] this psalm kept reciting itself in my mind read Clapton’s story such high peaks/deep valleys... **superstar/addict... leader/follower... confident/insecure... strong/weak saint/sinner** this is the human condition!!... you have so much potential!... made for so much more!... & yet!...

Martin Luther (led reformation/anti-Semite)... **MLK** (great emancipator/plagiarized/adulterized)... **David** (man after God’s heart/murderer/adulterer)... **PAUL... Me... YOU... (Whisper)**...“**(39)** With your very own hands you formed me; now breathe your wisdom over me so I can understand you.” Ps119:73

So what do we do with this situation... so much good... so prone to messing up?... **[(40)Deny probs/shortfall?** Clapton’s authenticity couldn’t allow it! ie:struggled]

Or live in **(41)perpetual guilt?** “never good enough... worthless toerag...”... can’t live that way either!... EC sadly proved it in his early life... always “**proving**”

So how does life’s journey (good, bad, ugly) get resolved then?.... **Where does the healing and reconciliation come in? “Souls restored again”?**

[(42)READ INTERVIEW EXCERPT EC’s answer]

PAUSE... God keeping him alive... PAUSE for a reason... needing to find identity by looking into **that** Father’s eyes... **crying out to that Father’s ears**... putting it all **before that Father’s heart**... all of it... all of the **yearning... tears... questions... anger... fear and doubt... feeling of abandonment... all of it!!!**

Trusting that **God who Fathered you**... made the good in you can make it all good again... would come to you... adopt you (choose you, cherish you, eternally!)

I think it all startslaying all before **this** Father! **PAUSE**

60 Minutes: **(43)**Was writing about Conor your way of dealing with it?

EC: Yeah. Writing and playing. Playing... well first and foremost the most healing experience was for me just to hold my guitar and play and make music. Make music that made... that took me away.

Music can do that can't it?... take us away... express what words can't... **PAUSE...** When once asked most beautiful thing ever created EC referred to a solo end of "Just like a prisoner" (could have played on forever)... **song is a deep expression of a desire to be free [(44)CLIP/Express your stuff to O]**

18-21 That's why I don't think there's any comparison between the present hard times and the coming good times. The created world itself can hardly wait for what's coming next. Everything in creation is being more or less held back. God reins it in until both creation and all the creatures are ready and can be released at the same moment into the glorious times ahead. Meanwhile, the joyful anticipation deepens.

22-25 All around us we observe a pregnant creation. The difficult times of pain throughout the world are simply birth pangs. But it's not only around us; it's within us. The Spirit of God is arousing us within. We're also feeling the birth pangs. These sterile and barren bodies of ours are yearning for full deliverance. That is why waiting does not diminish us, any more than waiting diminishes a pregnant mother. We are enlarged in the waiting. We, of course, don't see what is enlarging us. But the longer we wait, the larger we become, and the more joyful our expectancy.

26-28 Meanwhile, the moment we get tired in the waiting, God's Spirit is right alongside helping us along.

EC Why me? [why did I survive?] In the end, um, the closest I can come to is I might have something left to do which is of use to somebody else.

And I don't mean on a global scale. **I'm talking about maybe one other person can benefit from my existence that makes it worth God keeping me alive**

(1) BLANK - Tears in Heaven

(2) Would you know my name
If I saw you in heaven
Will it be the same
If I saw you in heaven

(3) I must be strong, and carry on
Cause I know I don't belong
Here in heaven

(4) would you hold my hand
If I saw you in heaven
Would you help me stand
If I saw you in heaven

(5) I'll find my way, through night and day
Cause I know I just can't stay
Here in heaven

(6) Time can bring you down
Time can bend your knee
Time can break your heart
Have you begging please
Begging please

(7) (instrumental)

(8) Beyond the door
There's peace I'm sure.
And I know there'll be no more...
Tears in heaven

(9) Would you know my name
If I saw you in heaven
Would it be the same
If I saw you in heaven

(10) I must be strong, and carry on
Cause I know I don't belong
Here in heaven

Psalm 8

(35) God, brilliant Lord, yours is a household name.

2 Nursing infants gurgle choruses about you;
toddlers shout the songs
That drown out enemy talk,
and silence atheist babble.

(36) I look up at your macro-skies, dark and enormous,
your handmade sky-jewelry,
Moon and stars mounted in their settings.
Then I look at my micro-self and wonder,
Why do you bother with us?
Why take a second look our way?

(37) Yet we've so narrowly missed being gods,
bright with Eden's dawn light.
You put us in charge of your handcrafted world,
repeated to us your Genesis-charge,
Made us lords of sheep and cattle,
even animals out in the wild,
Birds flying and fish swimming,
whales singing in the ocean deeps.

(38) God, brilliant Lord,
your name echoes around the world.

Im like that prisoner, I dont know right from wrong.

Just like that baby, I sing a pleading song

And thats why youll never know how I feel.

Yes, thats why youll never know how I feel.