

Gifts of God Notes Editor's Notes

First off, be aware that the name "*The Gifts of God*" which has been used as the title of an anthology of Helen Schucman's own poems, is being used here only to refer to the [16 page typed manuscript](#)

[also entitled "THE GIFTS OF GOD"](#) which is part of the *Urtext* material. It is my understanding that this material was included in later editions of the collection of Helen Schucman's poems called "*The Gifts of God*" and in fact lent its name to the whole collection in the end.

However, as outlined in the *Editor's Notes* for the facsimile and e-text copies in this compilation, (reproduced below) most of that 16 page

typed document does not appear, in the view of

many, to be Schucman's own composition, but is far more reminiscent of Schucman's "scribing" of the "Voice." The inclusion of that material with Schucman's own poems *as if* it were another of her own poems, and using the same name for both the whole collection of poems and this unique few pages of scribed material results in rather large potential for confusion.

Originally this section had one line: "As far as we can tell, none of the *Notes* for the *Gifts of God* are present in this collection." One of the first comments on the document was "Wait, there are lots of Helen's poems in the *Notes*." Indeed there are, but **THIS** "*Gifts of God*" does **not** appear to be one of Helen's poems. To date we have not located any original handwritten copy of **this** "*Gifts of God*" material. The most original copy we have is a typed manuscript facsimile which begins with the date February 8, 1978. (**Figure 1**)

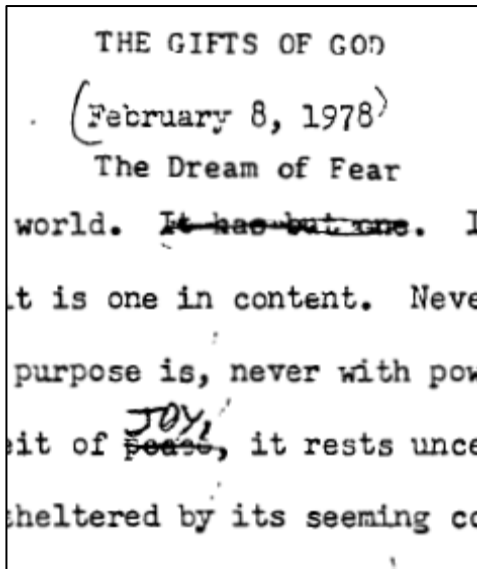


Figure 1 Cut-out from the first *Urtext* page of the *Gifts of God*

***Gifts of God Urtext* facsimile and e-text Editor's Notes**

The [Release Notes](#) document accompanying this distribution provides extensive documentation regarding this compilation, its history, and its provenance. Should you have questions concerning the material, they are likely answered there.

The *Gifts of God* was first published along with Schucman's poetry in a book by that name. Without wishing to take anything away from Helen Schucman's own poetry, this material differs markedly and many consider it canonical, which is to say a part of the "Course Proper" or genuine channelling of Jesus, rather than a composition by Schucman herself.

It is for this reason we've included it as a seventh volume of ACIM. Unlike the *Special Messages* which are personal, mostly not intended for (or already incorporated in) the "Course Proper" and which have various other authenticity problems, the *Gifts of God* has the same high literary style and dominant Iambic Pentameter of the later scribing of the Course. Its claim to "canonical status" is therefore strong.

In doing this our point is not to make an argument that it *is* canonical, or even *should be* regarded

as such. It is simply that because many people *do* regard it as such, its claim *is* strong, and our purpose is inclusivity, it would be inconsistent of us to exclude it.

In parts the "Voice" seems to shift from that of Jesus speaking in the first person to that of God Himself in a poetic grandeur reminiscent of the *Song of Solomon* in the *Old Testament*, complete with the "lover" metaphor.

The provenance of the copy reproduced here is unknown. Somewhere in the past few years someone sent me a PDF facsimile which contains a manuscript which I believe to be identical to that contained in Volume 22 of the USCO deposit labelled *Urtext of A Course in Miracles and Related Material*. The precise provenance is uncertain, however. I don't even recall who sent it, but whoever you are, thank you.

In the 16 typed pages, each segment is dated and one, that for January 14, 1978, which is page 15 of the 16, as the material arrived here, is chronologically out of order and separates the first and second pages of the last segment, *The Father's Love*. That segment is the one, which on its second page, shifts

from speaking of God in the third person to a first person voice “You are My Son.”

There are several mysteries regarding this particular page. It shows up, in its entirety in the *Special Messages*. It’s page 13 of the “Gifts of God” manuscript in my collection; SM 24 in our chronological sequencing. It has the tone of personal reassurance to an anxious Schucman typical of many of the *Special Messages*. It has comments which could be construed as directly personal for Schucman such as “You still are needed in the world, to hear His Voice and share his messages of love with those who call in sorrow.”

The *Special Messages* copy puts the last two lines on a second page while the *Gifts of God* copy squeezes these same lines onto the bottom of the one page, obviously with a different typewriter – and to my eye a more modern carbon ribbon typewriter at that, suggesting a later date for that modification. Otherwise we clearly have two copies of the same original sheet, as they contain the same typing mistakes and handwritten mark-up.

Wherever it belongs, it is almost certainly not in the middle of the final section, *The Father’s Love* as its content is quite distinct and distinctly inappropriate to that physical location.

That page bears the handwritten marking “17” and occurs between pages numbered “13” and “15.”

This suggests there was originally a page “14” and a page “16” but no such pages exist in the facsimile file available to us.

That the pages marked “13” and “15” belong in sequence is demonstrated in that the last line of page 13 is repeated and crossed out at the top of page 15. If there were any doubt that the one page is a continuation of the other without anything intended to go in between, this would seem to eliminate it.

Could what we read as “17” really be a truncated “14?” That is possible. There is a tiny tick at the top of the upper part of the character “7” which might indicate a part of the writing was cut off in copying.

But even if that numeral is “4” rather than “7” this doesn’t indicate that it was *intended* to be in this location. That numbering could have been added very late in the reproduction process by someone simply counting and marking the sheets, and not carefully considering their proper sequence. That it doesn’t belong where it appears is suggested by three elements: 1) it’s date is January 14, three weeks earlier than the next earliest dated page in *The Gifts of God*, which is February 8 for *The Dream of Fear* and four months earlier than the pages between which it is inserted, and 2) it is quite literally inserted in the middle of a sentence in that April 11 section, *The*

Father's Love, and 3) the content bears no relation to the other two pages.

On the basis of its content alone, it is markedly different than the rest of *the Gifts of God* and striking similar to the general topic and tenor of many of the *Special Messages*. I'd be inclined to regard it as properly belonging in the *Special Messages* section where it also appears and having ended up in *Gifts of God* entirely by accident. Given that the page *is* in the *Special Messages* and that it appears out of place here, that page is omitted from the e-text of this compilation. It is, however, appended to the facsimile copy for reference.

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For more information concerning this document and the rest of the *Shorthand Notes* distribution from **Miracles Pathway Fellowship** please see the [Release Notes](#) and [Quick Start Guide](#) accompanying this distribution.