

THE *LOGOS*, JESUS & the literary *logos*, Andrew

My literary career is dedicated to glorifying the *Logos*, the Word, - Jesus. The Garamond font denotes this new *logos* English Literature, post James Joyce and the destruction of the *logos* in *Finnegans Wake*. I am an ex-Joycean, having rejected Joyce on account of the *Wake*, Joyce's own "biblical" text and version of the Pentateuch, the opening lines, "riverrun, past Eve and Adam's, from swerve of shore to bend of bay, brings us by a commodious vicus of recirculation back to Howth Castle and Environs", consciously introducing a text of scriptural status, the protagonists of HCE, Humphrey Chimpden Earwicker, and ALP, Anna Livia Plurabelle, rivalling the Old Testament's Abraham and Sarah. John Milton is my 'great original' as he remarked of Edmund Spenser, author of *The Fairie Queene*, but I am an ex-Miltonist too, having rejected Milton, on account of his theological beliefs, especially his anti-trinitarianism.

- *Christ: a depiction of the Writer as an English Benedictine Novice* is a short, accessible book written in a plain and simple prose style, contrasting with the "purple patches" in Joyce's *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*. John Milton's *Lycidas*, featuring the shepherd-poet, is the single greatest poem in the English Language and I approached the holiness of singing the *Adonai Office*, as a novice choir-monk, at Adonai Abbey, (based on the Psalms in English and the language of the Roman Catholic Church, Latin Gregorian Chant), via the axis and fulcrum of Milton's poem, *At A Vacation Exercise*, the word vacation, being the polar opposite of the word vocation. In *Christ*, I quoted the seminal words: "Hail native language, that by sinews weak / Didst move my first endeavouring tongue to speak" to consciously conjoin canonical English Literature with the canonical language of the Church, and the singing state of the novice in *Christ* complements the singing state of Milton's swain in *Lycidas*. The two novices in the book, *Christ*, yoked together, echo the two gallants in Joyce's *Dubliners*. The two novices in the poem, *The Christ Colloquy*, freed together, disband the two novices in *Christ*, whilst both Christ and Mary themselves, cut the *logos* free from Adonai. The truthful monastic community of Andrew and April, sing not the *Adonai Office*, but *The Christ Colloquy*, undoing disillusioning Adonai, the *logos* not finding the pleroma of the *Logos* at Adonai Abbey, in Berkshire, which I joined during Eastertide at the age of 26, but, at Dante's 'pilgrim' age of 35, in Florence, at The Harold Acton Library, in the two literary *logos* words, April Child, referring, at their most profound level, to the Easter Paschal Mystery, the meaning of human existence, and truth. The goodness, honour, idealism, innocence, naivety and zeal, with which, I first came to Adonai, find fulfilment in being gifted the grace, by God, to Ariel like, turn the words of the *Adonai Office* into something "rich and strange", - the Cross *logoi* of *The Christ Colloquy*, as Thomas More refined humankind's perception and use of gold (and silver), in his magisterial *Utopia*.
- I reject Dom Augustine Baker OSB, the English Benedictine Congregation (EBC) mystic, who wrote over two million words of tangential, ungrammatical and diffuse words in his tract *Sancta Sophia*, the polar opposite of the *Logos*. I reject the aspiration to titles in the Church, for example, that of 'Cathedral Prior'. I reject posturing, for example, the Dominican Blackfriars Priory in Cambridge, being referred to as a 'house of writers'. I reject seeing religious life as a "career", and the pursuit of power, status, influence, and position, for 'pilgrimage' and trying to prepare for the true *telos* of the beatific vision.
- The literary *logos* in this new *logos* English Literature, is fundamentally rooted in two words: gold and Logos. The word gold refers to the gold featuring in More's masterpiece *Utopia*, and its singular and thought-provoking use. Logos refers to the word Logos in St. John's gospel, "in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God", being the polar opposite of Joyce's, "riverrun, past Eve and Adam's"...