



Context of Blighted Ovum

By Marcus Lander (March 2011)

This poem was written about an experience of upset and disappointment I went through when what would have been my first child was conceived, but something went wrong during the pregnancy, and the foetus did not develop. It was not a stillbirth or a miscarriage as such, because there was nothing present that was identifiable as a baby, just a vacant amniotic sac. However it was an experience of frustrated parenthood, and there was still an accompanying sense of loss and grief for what was expected but did not come to pass.

As someone who sees human beings as made in the divine image, endowed with an immortal soul, and having a life that begins before birth, such an occurrence raises questions, and challenges ones faith in a God who does not make mistakes, and for whom no human being is an accident. However, ultimately faith does not depend on having all the answers, rather it depends on not having all the answers, but believing in one who has and is the answer. I wrote this poem some years after the event it describes, as I think I needed some time to process it, although I always felt it was an occasion that deserved to be marked by a poem, and I often return to this time and continue to ponder and remember the child that never was.