

UNSEEN

This enemy is unseen, Father.

This enemy that stalks us
Is invisible, strong and unknown:
It is microscopic,
so we cannot see to avoid it.

It is pervasive,
present on surfaces and in the air.

It is powerful,
so that even the strong succumb.

For a time, we didn't even know what to call it.

So we have no weapons,
no defences,
no agreed expectations.

Yet it is real.

It lurks in shadows, but attacks in the light.

We fight as we might subdue a tiger with a feather.

It's not unlike evil, Satan, the devil—

Whatever name we call him.

The enemy stalks us,
Steals into our lives,
Initially undetected,
Until it begins to do its damage,
To change our hearts,
our thoughts,
our actions.

Keep me safe, Father,
From sickness that will destroy me—
Sickness of the body,
And sickness of the soul.

Be careful—watch out for attacks from Satan, your great enemy. He prowls around like a hungry, roaring lion, looking for some victim to tear apart. Stand firm when he attacks. Trust the Lord; and remember that other Christians all around the world are going through these sufferings too. (1 Peter 5: 8–9, TLB)