The Fragility of God
(some thoughts for a Christmas morning)

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A baby born in a manger who is at the same time the supreme power of the universe.

This is the paradox of Christmas.

How are we to understand it?

Three wise men follow a light in the heavens to a manger where lay a newborn baby, the "almighty" God in infant form.

This infant-God is soon to be assailed by the tyrannical forces of the world. A despot king will seek to kill him, terrified by a prophesy that the child will grow to become a king himself.

But the child will never grow into the sort of king the despot envisions. Rather, he will be crucified by the world's despotic forces.

And the religion founded in his name will be corrupted, again and again, through its alliance with worldly power.

What, then, were the wise men celebrating? To what salvation was the great light pointing?

Wherein lies the power of this fragile God?

We receive an answer in the Christmas story itself, the story of God incarnated in the created order, God immanent within all things, within ourselves.

God's Unity seeks expression in human community - the divine love seeks to live as human love.

But this is not simply what God wants, it is what the immanence of God within us wants - what we in our heart of hearts want, if we would but know it.

And yet this divine desire is fragile, clouded and threatened by our separateness, our desire to be exalted in our separateness.

This separative desire is the desire to encompass all things within one's finite self - a 'fallen' form of the desire to commune with all things within the Infinite self of God.

Thus, sin is fallen love.

And love's vulnerability to such fallenness, to the hatreds, horrors, and violence that arise from such fallenness - this is the fragility of God.

In the Christ-child we see a revelation of this divine fragility.

Because Christ is fragile, he will be crucified - again and again.

Because Christ is divine, he will - again and again - be resurrected.
The divine fragility can be assailed, but never destroyed.

On Christmas we are invited to reconnect with this fragile love within us, this fragile desire for love and for a loving world.

This love is the power of God, the light that shines in the darkness that the darkness cannot overcome - ever fragile, ever eternal, ever in need of rebirth within us.

This is the divine child whom the wise seek to worship, whose presence within would defeat the despotic forces of the world, if we would but be true to it.

My thoughts on a Christmas morning.