

Jens Bjrneboe

"Mea Maxima Culpa"

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I recently heard it, it hasn't been long:
Where is the man who has never done wrong?
Is any man living who has no flaw,
Who doesn't feel guilty before the law?

That is the wisdom in which I trust:
May God show mercy before being just!
I hope that God in heaven will say:
Justice, my children, another day.

Ask me about guilt! A horrible word!
We share guilt in everything, rest assured.
We all must lower our heads in shame:
For the sins of one, we are all to blame.

And when we saw innocence, blood was spilt.
All we've got left is our shame and guilt.
We've allowed evil and watched it take place.
For evil's been done in every case.

We have been wronged, but we've caused our own
plight.
And we all became killers that very night.
Man's conscience is clear. Man lives in the mud.
And everyone's red to the elbows with blood.

The laws are all made in our hearts, of course.
But every one must be maintained by force.
We stare at life through the eyes of a souse:
We have made this planet a slaughterhouse.

Yes, we must recognize, mankind is small;
The justice of God puts fear in us all.
Is anyone human who cannot see:
We need the Lord's mercy and leniency.

I recently heard it, it hasn't been long:
Where is the man who has never done wrong?

