

## Reflection Friday week 14 The Chinese Martyrs 2021

**On this feast of the Chinese martyrs a reflection on Martyrdom** by Alice Walker

When the people  
have won a victory  
whether small or large  
do you ever wonder  
at that moment  
where the martyrs might be?  
They who sacrificed themselves  
to bring to life something unknown  
though nonetheless more precious  
than their blood.  
I like to think of them  
hovering over us  
wherever we have gathered  
to weep and to rejoice;  
smiling and laughing,  
actually slapping each other's palms  
in glee.  
Their blood has dried  
and become rose petals.  
What you feel brushing your cheek  
is not only your tears but these.  
Martyrs never regret  
what they have done  
having done it.  
Amazing too  
they never frown.  
It is all so mysterious  
the way they remain  
above us  
beside us  
within us;  
how they beam a human sunrise  
and are so proud.

Thank God for all the martyrs who have kept the faith alive, and for the freedom with which we are able to celebrate and live our faith today.