

## *Symbols vs. Cymbals*

Cymbals of  
musical acuity  
are symbols of  
vital vacuity.

How do we keep our  
precious symbols  
from degenerating into  
hollow cymbals?

Symbols are pregnant  
with meaning;  
cymbals are resonant  
with noise.

Symbols are invitations  
to fullness;  
cymbals are deviations  
into emptiness.

Symbols  
flood the soul;  
cymbals  
din the senses.

A lifestyle  
of selfishness and greed  
is a cymbal;  
a life  
of devotion and commitment  
is a symbol.

Sacred rituals  
perfunctorily performed  
are cymbals;  
as faith-filled experiences,  
they become symbols.

Devious demagogues  
are cymbals;  
inspired leaders  
are symbols.

Dedicated disciples  
are symbols;  
craven followers  
are cymbals.

Symbols communicate;  
cymbals exasperate.

St. Paul said that  
our life of faith  
should be an  
eloquent symbol,  
not a  
clanging cymbal.

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