

Excerpts from And Grace Will Lead Me Home: Images of the Prodigal Son



Ben Earl Looney
The Prodigal's Return
(n.d.)
Etching

“Rumpled, and with one pant leg cut off at the knee, this returning Prodigal is in a sad state, an object of trouble and care. Nonetheless, one person stands on tiptoe with excitement. A young girl on the left treats the drunkard as if he were a returning hero.”

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“In He Qi’s Return of the Prodigal Son, we experience a rich range of color and a dramatic sense of calm. Motion arrested, the white-bearded father sits in his chair. He displays authority and compassion as he bends forward over his kneeling son. The young lad does not lean into the father as in many representations of return and reconciliation. Instead, his head is bent backward at an uncomfortable angle.”

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He Qi
Return of the Prodigal Son
(1996)
Ink and color on paper



James McNeil Mesple
...”and ran, and fell on his neck and kissed him.”
(1990)
Mixed-media/monoprint

“..He presses forward to kiss the son’s neck with such force that his own facial features are compressed by the action. Two marble white tears flow from his sea-blue eyes. Those tear drops are reflections of the son’s own bluish-white coloration. At the same time two tears stream down the son’s cheeks, also from deep blue eyes. These tears, appropriately, are tinged with the coloration of the father’s face. Thus the two figures are contrasted yet bonded by style and color as well as by gesture and deep emotion.”

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