

Do Dogs Go To Heaven?

As a small child, I anguished over the question:
“Do dogs go to heaven when they die?”
People told me they didn’t; but one day
I met a woman who lived very close to heaven
And just as close to earth, and she said:
“Now, Moko (little one), just you listen to me.
God made everything in this world
Out of his aroha (love). And I mean everything.
Flies, ducks, mozzies, whitebait, cats and dogs.
Every single creature’s got a pinch of God in it,
And like you’ve always been told,
There’s just no way God can die.
When a creature’s life runs out
That little pinch of God goes right back
To God’s great big loving heart.
That’s how I reckon it’s always been
And how it’ll always be.”

I was eight, and I went away comforted,
Knowing that my closest friend,
A dog called Don who’d been killed by a bus,
Was now living happy and safe with God
Who would feed him and take him for walks.



Now, understanding less than then,
But touching from time to time
That “pinch of God” in all things,
I give special thanks to my creator
For the friendship of animals in my life.

I can’t count the times God has loved me
Through small furred and feathered things,
How often I’ve been taught through them,
Lessons of trust and playfulness,
Simplicity and self-acceptance.

And since I do believe that heaven
Is not so much a place as a state of being,
I can say to my own mokopuna (little one),
“Yes, there are dogs in heaven.”

(Aotearoa Psalms, Prayers of a New People by Joy Cowley)

