

6. A Sacred Wholeness

“Truly, my life is one long harkening unto myself and unto others, and unto God. “ Etty Hillesum, “An Interrupted Life.”

A sacred Wholeness, in the flesh, is one utter realist, devoid of self-pity, with-- an otherwise -- impossible freedom from need to blame, hate or project inner anxiety elsewhere, and an illustration of true incarnation.

- Who sees god as a power to be nurtured and fed inside oneself (Faith Cultivated, perhaps).

Dear God,

“Alas, there doesn’t seem to be much you yourself can do about our circumstances, about our lives. Neither do I hold you responsible. You cannot help us, but we must help you and defend your dwelling place inside us to last.” Etty Hillesum, “The letters and Diaries of . . .”

“In spite of everything you always end up with the same conviction: life is good after all, it’s not God’s fault that things go awry sometimes, the cause lies in ourselves. And that’s what stays with me, even now, even when I’m about to be packed off to Poland with my whole family” Again, Etty Hillesum, who was a Jew killed at Auschwitz in 1943.

Those two months behind barbed wire have been the two richest and most intense months of my life, in which my highest values were so deeply confirmed. I have learnt to love Westerbork. . .”

The Whole – Making Instinct

“God Archetype” = “Whole-making instinct” which is the driver of greater inclusivity by

- Deep acceptance of the real
- The balancing of opposites
- Simple compassion toward the self, and
- The ability to recognize and forgive your own shadow side.

On the other hand we can strive for moral perfection, which is tied up with ego and denial of inner weaknesses that all of us must accept. This is all a reflection of a punitive God.

Any view of God as tyrannical or punitive tragically keeps us from admitting these seemingly contradiction.

- The tyrannical God keeps us in denial about our true selves, and forces us to live on the surface of our own lives.
- This gets us to a “problem solving religion,” rather than a healing religion, which spends all its time and resources “cleaning up.”

Carl Jung (1875-1961) understood the full journey toward wholeness must always include the negative experiences (the cross: a metaphor meaning , “to walk boldly and lovingly in the midst of all that/who scorn God”: that which Jesus tells us to pick up and follow him,) that we usually reject.

The Voice that is Great Within Us

God speaks to us through our own thoughts, according to Etty, Jung and Joan of Arc. God speaks through intuition . . .

- Compassion instead of hatred
- Forgiveness instead of resentment
- Generosity instead of stinginess
- Bigness instead of pettiness.

This is what incarnation is all about.

- It is below rational consciousness, a place where only the humble or the trained know to go.

Jung says, “My pilgrim’s progress has been to climb down a thousand ladder until I could finally reach out a hand of friendship to the little cloud of earth that I am”

- A combination of humility and patient seeking is the best spiritual practice of all.

Rohr says, Without the mediation of Christ, we will be tempted to over play the distance and the distinction between God and humanity.”

When we wake up to the discovery of our own soul, with the very discovery of God, it will feel like a calm and humble ability to quietly trust yourself and trust God at the same time.”

Augustine Says, “A temporal thing is loved before we have it, and it grows worthless when we gain it, for it does not satisfy the soul . . . but the eternal is more ardently loved the more it is acquired. The soul will find the eternal even more valuable after once tasting it”

“Spiritual satisfactions feed on themselves, grow by themselves, create wholness, and are finally their own reward.”

- While material satisfactions tend to become additive, they keep reminding of how incomplete you are.
- If something comes toward you with grace and can pass through you and toward others with grace, you can trust it as the voice of God.
- I must listen to what is supporting me. I must listen to what is encouraging me. I must listen to what is erging me. I must listen to what is alive in me.”

Unless religion leads us on a path to both depth and honesty (to awaken the voice that is great within), much religion is actually quite dangerous to the soul and to society. In fact, fast food religions and the so called “Prosperity Gospel are some of the very best ways to actually avoid God – while talking about religion almost non-stop.

- The day of Pentecost, on the other hand, I about that the voice that is great within awakening.
- Praise to you Lord Christ.