

# REFLECTION NOTES from *“The Universal Christ: How a forgotten reality can change everything we see, hope and believe”* by Richard Rohr

## Appendix 2: A Pattern of Spiritual Transformation

Even inside an incarnated worldview, we grow by passing beyond some perfect order, through a usually painful and seemingly unnecessary disorder, to an enlightened reorder or “resurrection.” This solidifies our relationship with everything around us. To grow toward love, union, salvation, or enlightenment, we must be moved from **order** to **discord** and then ultimately to **reorder**.

### Order

Not all are granted this first stage, where everything is basically good, it all means something, and one feels a part of what looks normal and deserved. Here we can operate from the worldview of scarcity and hardly ever from abundance:

- We end to avoid any confusion, conflict, inconsistencies, suffering or darkness.
- We tend to dislike anything that looks like carrying a cross (walking boldly and lovingly through the ugliness of the world as it is)
- We tend to avoid all disorder or change; we just hunker down and pretend that “status quo” is always good and true for all.

### Disorder

Eventually we fall (the comfortable life begins to fall apart) . . . which is necessary in some form if any real growth is to occur.

- But some of us, through our discomfort try to flee back to the first created order, even if it is killing us.
- Others give up and become a part of the “post truth society. With these folk we see anger, strong opinions and desperation. They actually begin to worship disorder itself; it becomes their operative religion, while it also creates their greatest vulnerability. They say/think things like . . .
  - “there is no such thing as universal order
  - Why trust all these grand narratives about ideologies, globalism, absolute truth or objective reality.

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**Reorder**

Every religion, in its own way, is talking about getting us back to the reorder stage of existence . . . the life on the other side of death, the victory on the other side of failure, the joy on the other side of the pain of childbirth.

- Reorder happens by the insistence on going through disorder, not under it, over it, or around it.
- We must endure, learn from and embrace the disorder stage, transcending the first naïve order stage, but also still include it in our personal reality.

One who, loves their truth enough to critique it, maintains their own integrity with no overreaching and no under defending it could be referred to a "Radical Traditionalist". But what comes to my mind is the exemplification of “Carrying the Cross and following Jesus.”