

5. Love Is the Meaning

“Know it well, love is its meaning. Who reveals this to you? Love. What does he reveal? Love. Why? For love. Remain in this and you will know more of the same. (Lady Julian of Norwich, “Sharings”)

“Love is the very physical structure of the Universe” (Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955))

Love is an energy that is attracting all things and beings to one another in a movement toward ever greater complexity and diversity – and yet, ironically, also toward unification on ever deeper levels. This brings me back to [d’bwashmaya](#) and the syllable “shm”ⁱⁱ meaning “love.”

What Love Tells Us about God

- We can’t describe love, but we know it when we see it.
- When we experience love we want to unite.
 - It threatens the ego because it means giving up separation, superiority and control.
 - It is a flow of energy willingly allowed and exchanged, without requiring payment in return; it comes from a selfless source.
 - It constantly creates future possibilities for the good of all concerned – even, and especially, when things go wrong.
- When we forgive we bear witness to the ever Risen and always loving Christ . . . Who is always going ahead to Galilee (or always planning to meet us some place)?
- The Crucified and risen Christ uses the mistakes of the past to create a positive future, a future of redemption instead of retribution (As Crossan would say, “disturbed grace, as oppose to retribution”, or as The Apostle Paul says, “salvation comes by grace through faith”ⁱⁱⁱ.”
 - He does not eliminate or punish the mistakes.
 - He uses them for transformative purposes.
 - People formed by such love are indestructible.
 - Forgiveness might just be the very best description of what God’s goodness engenders in humanity.
 - This takes me to the sixth line of the Lord’s Prayer: “Forgive us our offenses, even as we have forgiven our offenders”, or in Arimaic – “Wasboglan khaubayn ayakna daph khnan shbwoga l’khavyabayn.”^{iv}
- Cleaning up is a result of waking up, but most of us put the cart before the horse.
 - Human made commandments are clean-up tools and often takes the place of love^v.
 - The commandments are the cart; love is the horse.
 - Obedience is usually about cleaning up; love is about waking up.
- We all need a love object, a North Star, to ground us, or we find ourselves following a hate object. (Boy, does this ring true in these days of Trump leadership.
 - The prevailing number of electoral votes in 2016 indicated, in some voting regions, the total absence of a collective love object, as discussed here,.
 - Perhaps it was because they simply have seen what they would consider a north star example in a politician during their life.
 - With a love north star, the instinct is love, a felt need for adoration.

- “If we knew how to adore, then nothing could truly disturb our peace. (Elai Leclere [1921-2916])
- “An operative Love, you might say, is the training ground of adoration.”

Love Made Me Do It!!!

In some ways, the object of our affection is arbitrary. It can begin anywhere.

- “God is not in competition with reality, but in full cooperation with it.”
- At the end of each healing Jesus usually says, “Your faith has saved you, now go in peace.”
- Mature and transformational religions ask us to participate, cooperate, and change.
 - The divine dance is always a partnered two-step (Grace and Faith).
 - All people must learn to draw from their own inner Christ and not just its outer manifestation.
 - You might say that the Eternal Christ is symbolic superconductor of the Divine Energies into this world. Jesus ramps down the ohms so we can handle divine life and receive it through ordinary human mediums.
- Grace is just the natural loving flow of things when we allow it, instead of resisting it. Sin is any cutting or limiting of that circuit. And we all sin now and then. But an occasional power outage can help you appreciate how much you need unearned love and deeply rely upon it. Failure is part of the deal.

Moving in the Divine Two-Step

“God does not offer himself to our finite beings as a thing all complete and ready to be embraced. For us, He is eternal discovery and eternal growth. The more we think we understand Him, the more he reveals himself as otherwise. The more we think we hold him, the further he withdraws, drawing us into the depth of himself” (Pierr Teilhard de Chardin, “Divine Milieu”)

- The simple kindness and gratitude of good people produces a momentary “good feeling” in me, but even this goodness I do not know how to hold on to. It slides off my consciousness like cheese on a Teflon pan. But God rewards me for letting him reward me (having cultivated sufficient faith for that blissful moment). This is the divine two-step that we call grace: I am doing it (with faith?), and yet I am not doing it (grace?), it is being done unto me, and yet be me too. Yet God always takes the lead in the dance, which we only recognize over time.
- When we speak of Christ, we are speaking of an ever-growing encounter, and never a fixed package that is all complete and must be accepted as is.
- “For freedom Christ has set us free ” Gal 5:1
 - God unfolds my personhood from within through a constant increase in freedom – even freedom to fail.
 - Love cannot happen any other way
 - God loves me by becoming me – taking my side in the inner dialogue of self-accusation and defense. My mistakes get turned into grace by constantly giving me back to myself in a larger shape (here we are, back to the sixth line in the Lord’s Prayer).
 - The only thing that separates me from God is the thought that I am separate from God.

- Every attempt to describe any and every action, or seeming inaction, of God will always be relational, interpersonal, and loving and totally inclusive.
 - Through this unifying love we learn that God can never be experienced apart from my best interest being involved.
 - Human loves are the trial runs; Divine love is always the goal.
- The receiving of love lets us know that there was indeed a giver (it helps me remember “Abwoon d’bwashmaya”) and it provides the freedom to even ask for love, which is the beginning of the receiving process.
 - Thus Jesus can rightly say, ‘if you ask, you will receive’ (Matthew 7:7-8)

LOVE, IS, AFTER ALL, THE MEANING OF EVERYTHING? I think this links back to the title of part 1 of this book: “ANOTHER NAME FOR EVERY THING”

ⁱⁱ **D’BWASHMAYA**

Bwa: the ray or emitting unity proceeding from potential to actual

Shm: that which rises and shines in space (light, sound, vibration, word, logos, love as energy?), the entire sphere of being

Aya: shows that this shining includes every center of activity, every place we see, as well as the potential abilities of all things. (the Christ in all?)

ⁱⁱⁱ The definition of **Faith**, that I find most useful, is **“the capacity of opening to something ‘more’, a capacity not given us either by the senses or by intelligence.”** (see page 30 of “The Experience of GOD: Icons of The Mystery” by Raimon Panikkar.

^{iv} **Wash-bah-claun how-bain** which means to forgive one’s self by remembering our innate fullness and natural yearning to release all blockages.

Ikana duf-kahnan shwa-kau nal’hi-ya-bain, which means to forgive other or as we forgive our depts, removing the blockages that hinders the binding Holy Spirit flow within.

^v A week or so ago I found myself in a dispute with a religious organization that insisted on being exclusive rather than more inclusive. What brought the discussion to a head were some by laws being proposed to exclude any meaningful participation ex felons, clerics who have ever administered a same sex marriage, etc. in the organization. Of course I was shouted down because I, in their mind should have know that one must be free of sin before one could experience the presence of God. Of course that has not been my experience but there was no way I was going to win that argument.