

Celebrating the Divine at the Heart of Life

“ ... life obliges humans over and over again to give birth to themselves”

- *Gabriel Garcia Marquez*

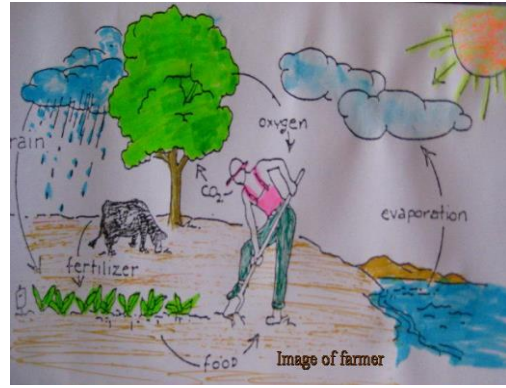
Our story then...



We perceive Reality, our Planet, our place and role in the world through the lens of the cosmology of the time. We order our lives and build our societies within this worldview. From the current worldview, in that cosmology we thought of God as someone or some force outside of this Universe. We created Great Myths, Rituals and Religions to make contact with this God. At times It evoked great fear and awe and we created rituals to placate and appease this Deity so as to escape punishment and receive favours from Him. We gave It names, gender, personhood and most often bigger and more powerful versions of ourselves. We also created the structures of our society within this paradigm and accepted hierarchy as being designed by God Himself. This way of ordering placed all non-humans and the earth at the bottom of the pyramid with disastrous consequences for our world today.

Our cosmology has changed but we haven't yet found a way to speak or to relate to the Ultimate Mysteries other than continuing to worship It. It is as if there is a divine Deity sitting on a throne expecting all nations and tribes to bend their knees before Him. We think of prayer as sending up our supplications to this deity and expecting it to be fulfilled.

Our Story Now ...



The

Mystics of all ages and peoples of the indigenous cultures had a much more holistic view of the Universe and of the Great Indwelling Spirit. They have known this Power or the Ultimate Reality to be a depth dimension or an indwelling reality within all things.

"... we imagined it as a distant and inaccessible, when in fact we live steeped in its burning layers" - Pierre Teilhard De Chardin

And again from the Black Elk of Oglala Lakota people *"... peace comes within the souls of humans when they realize their oneness with the universe and all its powers, and when they realize that at the center of the Universe dwells the Great Spirit and that this center is really everywhere, it is within each of us"*.

Our call is not so much to worship an Almighty Power residing outside of us and outside this Universe rather our call is to embrace practices that will connect us with this awesome, magnificent Energy that fashions the wonder of our being and everything that exists in the universe. It is from this alignment that life flows with ease, elegance and creativity, and invokes in us the potential to bring forth new forms and realities into existence. Our alignment with the creative powers within the Universe and our ability to attune ourselves to the center of our own existence brings us in contact with cosmic potentialities. We then allow ourselves to become the livingness of God.



For this to happen we must each call forth the mystic within us; this connection to the depths – the Holy Mystery dimension is true spirituality. Only a 'new blood transfusion' from the mystical Spirit of creation will have the power to lead humanity into the future. Born of the Universe we carry the essence of the Universe within us. We don't live in the universe; the universe lives in us.

Aquinas brings this lesson home to us when he says,
"Our greatness as humans is that we are capable of the Universe!"

Christianity at its core is built on the belief in the Incarnation - the Word becoming Flesh - an indwelling God. *"The whole movement of the Bible is toward ever-greater Incarnation and embodiment, until the mystery of mutual indwelling is finally experienced and enjoyed..."* - Richard Rohr.

What if we think of prayer as *“attuning ourselves to Love, to Life, to the Energy that moves the sun and the moon?”* Br. David Stindl-Rast. Prayer is the celebration and a radical response to Life. A maiming of life and shrinking of our souls happens when we are cut off from the Life Force at the roots, when we are cut off from Earth, from the rising and setting of the sun, from the magic of solstice and equinox. The Universe has gone through such miraculous and awesome transformative stages of development and evolution. Thomas Berry calls it Moments of Grace. Each of these moments is an integral part of who we are and ritualizing them is our way of returning to our roots and rediscovering the mysterious depth of our own selves.

Our souls have a deep need to remain connected to the wonders of the universe. *“The Universe offers the ultimate ceremony, liturgy or ritual”* – Berry. We depend on these marvels for our evolution and our human becoming. We have made ourselves aliens in this world; everything in these times of upheaval and pandemic is calling out to us to take our proper places in the order of the Universe. *“We are carved by life into instruments that will release our song”* - Mark Nepo

(The sketches inserted are drawn by Sr. Lynette Rodrigues pbvm)

Submitted by Brigit Mathew, pbvm