

The Central Issue

The essence of Life and the Power of God is revealed in the very nature of our physical existence - in all things, in the universe, and on earth. Life ever changing is the artwork, the Revelation of God's presence. But we are newcomers to the ways of change, and have realized neither our power, nor indeed the trap we are now caught in.

The Christian faith was born of the realization that we exist in God's likeness. To understand, and to forgive what Christians have done with that knowledge, requires experiencing the power of human love. The mind creates for itself images to visualize and make sense of a feeling. Thus the feeling of God's presence among us was materialized into imagery.

Beliefs shared form consensus. The result we call knowledge and teach the young. Beliefs held in common form the bedrock on which any culture stands and survives, but the roots sustaining the beliefs sustaining the culture quickly fade from view - it is imagery that passes on the common sense.

When beliefs are weakened, the culture weakens, fails, and begins to die. Thus all cultures resist change in their beliefs.

Change, despite resistance, reveals Nature's power to form our present out of our past. Primitive people were once given the knowledge that reverence for the earth - the land, the waters of life, the Spirit governing all life and its cycles - must flow deeper within the human spirit than reverence for ourselves. Christians taught the opposite priority. With a sense of mission as "Chosen Ones", Christians told the "Heathen", "There is only One God, and I am made in His image". Thus, does arrogance grow from love misused.

Love, and intimacy with God, is natural, and best left to God's own teaching. Instead, godless men and women now plunder the earth and procreate their kind, and the Church can neither see nor admit its complicity in the poisoned waters of life. From the ethics of Christians and Jews has come the industrial revolution, the thermodynamics of Law, and this nuclear age. The belief in strict separation of God from Nature continues to advance its rape of the human spirit and the earth: a process now wholly out of control and defended from change.

Forgive them? No. The time for that is long past. We know what we are doing, and if we caved, we would change. But one cannot bring to life what has not first been given to experience - neither love nor understanding, nor the power to change.

Our innocence was not a void to be filled with our own beliefs but a vessel to be filled with the beauty of the universe, to know the pain and the joy of a personal intimacy with God - to preserve a sense of reality. We cannot presume to give such a gift to each other, nor can any Church. It is for us then to turn again to Nature for teaching. We can easily see what our faith has created, and none of us can any longer claim innocence. Our institutions preserve the roots of violence: it is Nature that teaches common sense. The process of Nature and the Power of God is one, indivisible, and within us all to realize.

Africa:

Was it the Great Desert that gave our people so little sense of beauty that they ^{find} found it necessary to change living portraits of God into ^{Portraits} portraits of themselves? What of the Great Forests, now destroyed, and what of the Emerald Isles? Within us is a desert still, planting the future's seed: a dead land, a dead sea, and a dead Man - Our future. That is the Artist's Way, and the way of love.

(What one comes to love, one preserves.)