

Spirit as Unfathomable

What is spirit?

Lao Tzu says:

“Those who say don't know,
and those who know, don't say.”

Buddha says:

“It is not this;

It is not that.

It is an emptiness

That is also freedom and compassion.”

The Bible says”

“It is like wind;

It blows where it will;

No one knows where it comes from

Or where it is going.”

We see a chair;

But no one is sitting upon it

We see footprints in the mud,

But we do not see the walker.

We see the tree under which he sat,

But we do not see the Buddha.

We see the tomb in which they put him,

But we do not see the Messiah.

It is said that words can speak

The WORD of TRUTH,

But words are not the WORD.

And the WORD is not words.

The WORD is SILENT,

Yte every noise, every sound

Scrams with this SILENCE

To those who have ears

Of Spirit,

Let us never stop asking,

For then we think we know.

Asking means we do not know,

Which is true.

When the mind of knowing

Surrenders to freedom and compassion,

When the heart of longing

Clings no more to this or that,

When the will of achieving

Reounces both failure and success,

Then Spirit is left

To know and do

Its own un-self.

Spirit is not a Private Matter

Spirit is only known in the secret solitude
Of singular persons.

Yet Spirit is not a private matter.
For spirit is expressed in public
Through outward acts of
Freedom and compassion.
Flight from Spirit is expressed in public
Though outward acts of
Despair, self absorption, and destruction.

If Spirit blows in you,
You are the light of the world.
Do not put your lamp under a washtub
But on a lamp stand
So it will illuminate the house.

Spirit is the same in every age.
Spirit is not a creation of the human mind.
Spirit is not an achievement of the human will.
Spirit is not a perfected personality.
Spirit is a wild gift, like blood, like air.
Spirit is human authenticity
Breathed by the Infinite Silence
Into our finite processes of body and mind.

Spirit fills the biological processes of people
Spirit is a bridge of relationship
Between human biology and the Wholly Other

- the emptiness, the NO-THING-NESS from which all things come and to which all things return
- the fulness, the EVERY-THING-NESS in which all things adhere.

Spirit is inescapable, even though escaping from Spirit
Is the general condition of humanity.
And since escaping from the inescapable is futile
Humanity is not happy.
Indeed, despair is the general condition
Of the human family.

The despairing only occasionally notice
That they are in despair,
For to notice despair
Is the first step toward
Moving away from despair.

To be struck at this first step
Of noticing despair
Is intolerable.
So most noticers of despair
Take a step backward into hiding
Despair from view
Rather than a step forward
Toward leaving behind the
Understanding and commitments
That are causing the despair.

The unhappiness of despair
Is rooted in some specific way
Of not being willing to be spirit.

Happiness is the state of willing to be
The Spirit relationship we are,
Being that bridge between our wondrous self
And the Wholly Other

- the emptiness – the NO-THING-NESS from which all things come and to which all things return
- the fullness – the EVERY-THING-NESS to which all things cohere.

All this is not a private matter,
Every leaf and every hair
Of the biological world
Is involved this public act
Of choosing to be the Spirit being
That we are.