

Science, Mystery, Love, and the Divine

(For Those Who Believe in God)

For those who tend to believe in the divine, God is the ultimate mystery—that which we will never fully understand. Thus, those of us who are predisposed to the idea of God, are infinitely drawn to God. Once the mystery in something is gone, we begin to lose interest in it.

Say you are interested in some topic, the historical figure of Picasso for instance. You have a hunger for anything that is Picasso. His art, the stories about him, the pilgrimages for him—you seek his mind and his works everywhere and soak it all in like a sponge. But one day you realize that even if you discover a new book on Picasso, you already know all that it will say. You've learned all there is to know of the existence of Picasso. You have been obsessed for years and your knowledge is finally complete on the subject. You have plotted his very last step into oblivion. If ever anyone asks you about him, suddenly you are rekindled with the thrill to teach and you recant that which you have learned through the years. Though once you have told a fair amount, your interest subsides as the pupil is brimming. You then go about your business, with little pulling you towards things that are Picasso. There is nothing new to learn.

Everything in the observable universe can be understood scientifically through the scientific processes. However, since God is not wholly in this universe, God is the one aspect of our universe that we cannot fully understand. God is beyond this world, this universe, while also still within it. God is the ultimate unknowable. The physical presence of this world is here for us to explore, here for us to understand, predict, and utilize. From one side of the universe to the other we may name and connect each thing we see with one another. God, the Divine itself, cannot be directly understood in full. Little glimpses, of course. Beautiful moments, yes. After all, this created universe is naught but a part of God the whole. But God, in the entirety, is forever a mystery. Thus we can never tire of yearning for God! And even though we cannot complete the full understanding of God, this does not mean we shouldn't try! On the contrary! Naturally, as the creation is part of God itself, we are stricken with awesome curiosity! As we yearn for God in God's entirety, we yearn to understand the inner and outer workings of everything in this world. Thus Science is a holy quest if the motive,

in the end, is to realize more of God through God's creation, a part of God the whole.

Returning to the example of Picasso, there is something there that is infinitely mysterious. That of the mystery of God in Picasso's works and himself. If a work of Picasso was divinely inspired, we may indeed be forever drawn to it, as though we may never fully understand it. Even the God which is within Picasso, as is within us all, can be infinitely intriguing to others. Tunnels to and from the mystery of God can riddle our world like blood-bearing capillaries. Arteries from God are perhaps the births and lives of Jesus Christ and the Buddhas. The potential of partially discovering God is within us all, seated at the depth of our spirit, and we may open up a tunnel of this awesome power of God ourselves. Calling on God, realizing the true nature and meaning of love, and pouring out this essence in our lives, our bodies the vessels. Perhaps God will call on us and our lives will change in a flash as something broadens and rises inside of us we never knew. If one has truly joined the Brahman as in Buddhism, this is as if the entirety of the person has fully become a tunnel of God's love, a walking presence of God in this world.

But this would lead us to the conclusion that some of creation isn't God. If a person can become a walking tunnel of God's love, what is everything else then? If the whole of creation is a part of the greater God, then these images don't match up. What is evil? What is hatred? What is pain and suffering? What is ignorance?

The answer is unclear, subtle, and complex, but I have a hunch. Creation began as self-unaware. It began as ignorance and cluttered, constricted consciousnesses which did not fully understand who it was. Creation is in time as it is in space. We began as dust, slowly evolving into life and then ever clearer consciousness. There would be no point to creation if everything automatically clearly understood that it was a part of God and thus knew all of love and goodness. No. Creation must begin dimly, and seek understanding and love and reconnect to the artery that will enlighten it. Each evolving, minor consciousness is a small part of a much larger, major consciousness which created it. Thus the task of creation is to re-connect. We evolve to re-learn and re-understand from that which we were created. It is a complicated task, and ignorance leads to sub-

creations of ego and fear and thus hatred. All still a part of God because that is the free-will which we were granted as creatures in order to connect back to God. Violence has multiplied in our genes as it leads to short-sighted survival, protecting our sub-creations of egos. This makes our task to re-connect all the more difficult. All the more challenging. But without this challenge, there would be no life to live, no creation to speak of as it would be undifferentiated from God.

We have been granted a compass, however. A guiding beacon for the dim, murky world of creation. That pointer is our own sublime happiness. A marker that comes when we truly love others, when we experience beauty and awe in nature and life. When we receive these waves of happiness, it is because we have tapped into the lifeblood of God. We have hit an artery that can eventually lead us to rejoin the greater consciousness. There are pseudo-forms of happiness that we have sub-created in our egos. Power trips. Personal will to control others and hurt. Power to create pleasure for oneself to survive and step over others to the top. But what is the top? A mere sub-creation that is ultimately in vein. This pseudo-happiness is fleeting, and will only leave the ego empty in the end. These acts can never lead to the pure, sublime happiness that love will bring. True love of thy neighbor. Seeing it come back through the eyes of your brother and sister. In a way, pain and suffering is a necessary effect of creation, or else we would cease to be 'we' at all, and instead be purely one in God. We would not exist to know ourselves as both many and in the end, one.

This seems a cruel game for God to play. Why create in the first place? Why set things into motion so that eventually there are little individual dim lights of consciousness striving to melt back into you. All the while they horrifically mess everything up. What You have created destroys itself and finds great pain in re-finding you. After all it's little parts of Me. Parts of me hate other parts. I'm killing myself. Why did I do this? What have I done?

These don't seem like the right questions... perhaps. How about this: What if creation was necessary? What if God could not become fully conscious until there was this creation in which parts of the whole suddenly felt limited in consciousness... an illusion of a wall to be broken with love. Love. Now that seems to be the answer. The completion of God. God must become fully God

with creation. There must be something like an illusion of the other for love to exist. For two to become one, there must first be two. You are me, I am you. This can only happen if we have the illusion of 'you' and 'me' a priori. God as the greater consciousness could not conceive of love until creation. Love is our purpose and being. Because of love we were created, and because we love, God is whole.

Thus we must first love. Love not our idea of what God is, but first we must love our neighbors and selves as one. Then through love, we know God. The real God. We fulfill God so then God allows us to become fully conscious of God's greater being, our true selves... it is all the same thing. When we love, we feel as though the other is ourself, so we see through God's greater eyes. But it is this action of the separate becoming the same that God needed first. We are rewarded with happiness. Our task completed, we have understanding of love and can rest sublimely with knowledge that we are a small part of the greater Whole. The drop of water understands that it is in fact the entire ocean. We die and are reborn as all. We no longer exist, yet exist for eternity. Happy. Knowing love.

It is my deep belief that scientists are learning more and more of God as they expand their knowledge of truth and understanding of the universe. Understanding the intricate subtleties of the workings of creation brings you a glimpse of the profound nature of God. In other words, science can bring us closer to God. Widening our tunnel to the divine. However science is not the easiest way, nor is it certain.

The surest way to God, is in fact love.