

Reflection for January 2020 - Peter Millar

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Responding to your requests:

In recent weeks many of you have sent messages asking if I could include some quotations for 2020 in the January Reflection. Please don't read them in a rush. Some of them were written several years ago, but still speak to us today.

*** Jung, quoting from an ancient hermetic source, says, "God is a circle whose centre is everywhere and the circumference is nowhere." Wherever we look, into whosoever's eyes we gaze, into whichever life-form we peer, into whatever family or nation we move, there is the heart of God. And there is also the suffering of God. Our traditions have often tried to place fixed-circumference walls around the sacred =whether that be the sacredness of our religion, the sacredness of our nation, or the sacredness of our species. But the sacredness is everywhere. As is the woundedness of God. New science has given us the ability to conceive that we live in an omnicentric universe. There is no such thing as one central point in the cosmos. Every point is the centre, for the universe expands infinitely in all directions. When I stand in Carol's garden I am aware of the font at the heart of life. It is at the heart of every moment and every place. And I am aware also of the wound that is everywhere to be found.

John Philip Newell: *New Harmony, The Spirit, The Earth and The Human Soul* Jossey Bass, San Francisco, 2011. ISBN 978-0-470-55467-8. Also an e-book.

*** The PERSON belongs to the realm of quality, not quantity. It is suddenly manifested in a powerful inner movement which partakes of the nature of the Absolute. However many things we have accumulated, that would bring us no nearer to it. The PERSON resides in being, not in having. It is beyond all measure; it eludes every test; it is outside all definitions. The PERSON is uncompleted and evades our grasp. It imparts

movement to our being, always refashioning our body and soul. The flowering of the PERSON is not a state at which we arrive, it is the movement that results from perpetual incompleteness. Paul Tournier, The Meaning of Persons.

Into our hearts, into our hands, into our eyes may your Kingdom come.

Part of a prayer from
the Czech Republic

To have humility is to experience reality, not in reference to ourselves, but in sacred independence. It is to see, judge and act from the point of rest in ourselves. Then, how much disappears, and all that remains falls into place. In the point of rest at the centre of our being, we encounter a world where all things are at rest in the same way. Then a tree becomes a mystery, a cloud, a revelation, each person a cosmos of whose riches we can only catch glimpses. The life of simplicity is simple, but it opens to us a book in which we never get beyond the first syllable. Dag Hammerskjold , Markings.

The Original Blessing is life, is breath is Spirit.

David Steindl-Rast

*** Dr Martin Luther King when leading the Civil Right Movement in the States, introduced one of his talks entitled "The World House" with these words... Some years ago a famous novelist died. Among his papers was found a list of suggested plots for future stories, the most prominently underscored was this one: 'A widely separated family inherited a house in which they have to live together.' This is the great new problem of humankind. We have inherited a large house, a great 'world house' in which we have to live together - black and white, Gentile and Jew, poor and rich, Catholic and Protestant, Muslim and Hindu - it is a long list. A family unduly separated in ideas, culture and interest, who, because we can never again live apart, must learn somehow to live with each

other in peace. Can we imagine the world, locally and globally as such a household? Diana Eck, Encountering God

*** In the old days, on Easter night, the Russian peasants used to carry the blest fire home from church. The light would scatter and travel in all directions through the darkness, and the desolation of the night would be pierced and dispelled as lamps came on in the windows of the farmhouses one by one. Even so as the glory of God sleeps everywhere, ready to blaze out unexpectedly in created things. Even so His peace and His order lie hidden in the world, even the world of today, ready to re-establish themselves in His way, in His own good time: but never without the instrumentality of free options made by free people. Thomas Merton , The New Man.

+Thanks to all those who have contacted me asking for further copies of my new free booklet Touch The Earth Lightly. Apologies if you are waiting patiently. The booklets are being sent out and will reach you before too long.