

Exploring a new way

ON GOOD FAITH

Fiona Grace

Who is God for us in this day and age? Is our concept formed from small attendances at Sunday school with stories of a man eaten by a big fish only to be spat out again and survive? Or a big man in the sky that we need to fear, and be good, so he will love us?

God, at this time, for many people is a mystery and maybe something not to be thought about at all, taken over by the rationality of science and common sense.

Perhaps this suspension of beliefs is a positive step forward in the relationship between man and God. It does no-one any good to take things as true when they have not been experienced or tested through personal belief systems.

But all through history God and man have been intricately connected? Does all this stop now, completely? Surely as evolution continues so does man's relationship with God. Could there be some newness and growth in this aspect of life that does not disregard the advances in science and the wisdom of common sense and logic?

A natural and balanced integration of parts of a whole?

As a mid-thirties woman, I have grown up, as so many others of my generation, with little or no concept of God, with a loving family for sure and a great connection to the rhythms of nature, a university education, jobs, boyfriends, travel and always with a yearning for I was never sure what.

In searching to fill this yearning I was drawn to a connection to something greater than myself. And even more importantly, I was beginning to find the answers to my questions.

But the answers were from no one person, no system or no specific book. It was not a set of concepts that I could just memorise and regurgitate.

It was a feeling, a connection, a place that I knew to be truth but the process of getting there I had never experienced before. The ideas and concepts had never been taught or talked about, nor had I been encouraged to explore this part of life.

I believe the answer to the questions I had been asking was to be found in the mystery and depth of a connection to what the old mystics and religions have called God. The word is not so important but the feeling, the certainty and the peace found there is a link to everything that had come before me, and a thread running through all God-inspired works: eternity, peace, love and goodness.

I believe this connection and way of looking at, and learning about the world, is lacking in modern culture, and can only be found through a new way of looking at religion and spirituality. A mature and grounded growth and evolution. A spaciousness so that the old forms can be allowed to evolve and change.

There is something in personal communion, in going within, turning to the mystery and being receptive to the answers. When the answers start to come and you start to experience the mystery that is. This is the new way.

If there is to be harmony and health on Earth then there needs to be an evolution of religious forms and structures.

The basis of love and loving one's neighbour as oneself is still as true today as it was over 2000 years ago.

But there is a new way, let us explore it together.

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