



Living in Relational Wholeness

Coalesce Podcast

Episode 033 - To *Christify* the World

Note, terms, scripture, practice



Evelyn Underhill (1875-1941)

Mysticism: A Study in the Nature and Development of Man's Spiritual Consciousness (1911)

The mystics find the basis of their method not in logic but in life: in the existence of a discoverable "real," a spark of true being, within the seeking subject, which can, in that ineffable experience which they call the "act of union," fuse itself with and thus apprehend the reality of the sought Object. In theological language, their theory of knowledge is that the spirit of man [and woman], itself essentially divine, is capable of immediate communion with God, the One Reality.

The Letters of Evelyn Underhill (1951)

Try to arrange things so that you can have a reasonable bit of quiet every day and do not . . . think it selfish You are obeying God's call and giving Him [sic] the opportunity to teach you what He wants you to know, and so make you more useful to Him and to other souls.

Take the present situation as it is and try to deal with what it brings you, in a spirit of generosity and love. God is as much in the difficult home problems as in the times of quiet and prayer. . . . Try especially to do His will there, deliberately seek opportunities for kindness, sympathy, and patience.

The Mount of Purification (1949)

Remember God is acting on your soul all the time, whether you have spiritual sensations or not.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955)

The Divine Milieu

I am not speaking metaphorically when I say that it is throughout the length and breadth and depth of the world in movement that man [sic] can attain the experience and vision of his God.

By means of all created things, without exception, the divine assails us, penetrates us, and molds us. We imagined [the divine] as distant and inaccessible, when in fact we live steeped in its burning layers.

By virtue of the Creation and, still more, of the Incarnation, *nothing* here below *is profane* for those who know how to see. On the contrary, everything is sacred. . . . Try, with God's help, to perceive the connection—even physical and natural—which binds your labour with the building of the kingdom of heaven; try to realize that heaven itself smiles upon you and, through your works, draws you to itself.

[Colossians 1:15-20](#)

[Ephesians 3:9](#)

We are to help transform this universe in Christ by seeing Christ in the universe and loving Christ at the heart of the universe. (Ilia Delio, O.S.F., *Christ In Evolution*, 2008)

Simone Weil (1909-1943)

Waiting for God (1951)

Gravity and Grace (2002)

Etty Hillesum (1914-1943)

An Interrupted Life and Letters from Westerbork (1996)

Practice: Listening Silence

Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941), Bengali polymath—poet, playwright, painter, musician—is yet another modern mystic whose art shows the intimacy between human and divine. For him there was no separation between sacred and secular. One could not know God simply by thought or analysis, but by experience. Tagore says, “You can't cross the sea merely by standing and staring at the water” and “We live in the world when we love it.”

Find a few quiet minutes to listen to his beautiful poem set to simple chant ([click here to listen to the audio](#)):

Silence my soul, these trees are prayers.

I asked the tree, “Tell me about God”;

then it blossomed.

Now look around you, wherever you are, and find something of beauty. Sit in spacious silence, observing without words or judgment. Let this beauty teach you the mystery of Incarnation, of God's indwelling presence in all creation. As Simone Weil says, “The beauty of the world is Christ's tender smile for us, coming through matter.”