

## *TO PONDER:*

### WHAT THE MYSTICS KNOW

*BY RICHARD ROHR*

After decades of counseling, pastoring, and clumsy attempts at helping other people, I am coming to a not so obvious but compelling conclusion: Much of our helping is like hoping for first-class accommodations on the Titanic. It feels good at the moment, but it is going nowhere. The big tear in the hull is not addressed, and we are surprised when people drown, complain or resort to lifeboats. Most of the people I have tried to fix still need fixing. The situation changed, but the core was never touched.

But what is the core? And how do we touch it? What does it mean essentially to help another person? If we can find the answer to these questions, we are coming close to what the world religions mean by true ministry. It is absolutely unlike any other form of helping. It has many counterfeits and disguises. What Jesus, Buddha, Confucius, the saints and the prophets are talking about is the Absolute Help, which alone is worthy of the name — the radical help that none of us can give to another. We can only point to it and promise that it is there. That is the first and final work of all true religion. All else is secondary.

Call it grace, enlightenment, peak experience, baptism in the Spirit, revelation, consciousness, growth or surrender, but until such a threshold is passed, people are never helped in any true, lasting sense. After the early stages of identity and belonging are worked through, real transformation does not seem to take place apart from some kind of contact with the Transcendent or Absolute. We now live in a secular culture that is largely afraid to talk about such contact except in either fundamentalist or vague New Age language. Neither is sufficient to name the depth or the personal demand of the true God encounter. What characterizes the trustworthy conversion experience is a profound sense of meeting Another, who names me personally and yet calls me to a task beyond myself. Therapeutic healing will always be an effect, but it is never the goal itself or even a concern. One's own wholeness pales into insignificance in relationship to the Wholeness one is now delighting in.

## *READING:*

### PRAYER OF ST. IGNATIUS

All the things in this world are gifts from God,  
Presented to us so that we can know God more easily  
and make a return of love more readily.  
As a result, we appreciate and use all these gifts of God  
Insofar as they help us to develop as loving persons.

But if any of these gifts become the center of our lives,  
They displace God  
And so hinder our growth toward our goal.

In everyday life, then, we must hold ourselves in balance  
Before all of these created gifts insofar as we have a choice  
And are not bound by some obligation.  
We should not fix our desires on health or sickness,  
Wealth or poverty, success or failure, a long life or a short one.  
For everything has the potential of calling forth in us  
A deeper response to our life in God.

Our only desire and our one choice should be this:  
I want and I choose what better leads  
To God's deepening his life in me.

## SHARING...

A WORD...

A PHRASE...

A REFLECTION...

# GIVE A LITTLE LOVE

## BY NOAH AND THE WHALE

Well I know my death will not  
come

'Til I breathe all the air out my  
lungs

'Til my final tune is sung

That all is fleeting

Yeah, but all is good

And my love is my whole being

And I've shared what I could

But if you give a little love, you can

get a little love of your own

Don't break his heart

Yeah if you give a little love, you

can get a little love of your own

Don't break his heart

Well my heart is bigger than the  
earth

And though life is what gave it love  
first

Life is not all that it's worth

'Cause life is fleeting

Yeah, but I love you

And my love surrounds you like an  
ether

In everything that you do

But if you give a little love, you can  
get a little love of your own

Don't break his heart

Yeah if you give a little love, you

can get a little love of your own

Don't break his heart

Yeah if you give a little love, you

can get a little love of your own

Don't break his heart

Yeah if you give a little love, you

can get a little love of your own

Don't break his heart

Well if you are (what you love)

And you do (what you love)

I will always be the sun and moon  
to you

And if you share (with your heart)

Yeah, you give (with your heart)

What you share with the world is

what it keeps of you

## Thank You For Joining Us!

Your Prayer Leader  
Syndie Eardly

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# WE CAN ONLY HOPE TO POINT THE WAY



Centering Space

A ministry of prayer,  
listening & direction

Our prayer is characterized by silence

**Be still and know that I am God!**

In that silence we listen for a new word.

God is present in all our lives.

God cares for us, and

our life experiences are a source  
of deepening knowledge of God and self.

Inspired by God's Word in the silence  
we share from our hearts.