

Finding God in the questions? Soulful Men

Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves. Do not seek the answers that cannot be given you, because you would not be able to live them- and the point is to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps you will gradually without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer. Rilke

Each one who is born comes into the world as a question for which old answers are not sufficient. Merton

It is not always comfortable to live in the questions. In fact, it usually isn't. What makes it attractive is the potential it gives us for rising to a newer richer life. But we like our comfort. We are prone to choose present comfort over future gain. Indeed, how many of us fill our lives with doing to avoid the quiet moments when the questions might arise. We are made in the image of God, so we are mystery. We are question, infinite question. We can avoid living in the question only by avoiding our true self, devoting ourselves to building up a false self made up of what I do, what I have, what others think of me. We want to have the answer the answer that will answer all, so that we can have everything under control. God is the answer, and God is mystery, God is the question. Pennington

Deliverance as the result of the right question is a universal, archetypal, motif. Indeed, in fairy tales it is usual for the hero who wishes to acquire the treasure to have to fulfill one or more special conditions, on the correct execution of which the result depends. One such condition is the question, where it is the matter of guarding a mystery. The mystery is generally that of the hero's descent, which, most frequently is miraculous. Jung

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But now you will ask me, “ How am I to think of God himself, and what is he?” and I cannot answer you except to say, “I do not know!”. For with this question you have brought me into the same darkness, the same cloud of unknowing where I want you to be! For though we through the grace of God can know fully about all other matters, and think about them- yes, even the very works of God himself- yet of God himself can no man think. Therefore, I will leave on one side everything I can think, and choose for my love that thing which I cannot think. Why? Because he may well be loved, but not thought. By love he can be caught and held, by thinking never. Therefore, though it may be good sometimes to think particularly about God’s kindness and worth, and though it may be enlightening too, and part of contemplation, yet in the work now before us it must be put down and covered with a cloud of forgetting. And you are to step over it resolutely and eagerly, with a devout and kindling love, and try to penetrate that darkness about you. Strike that thick cloud of unknowing with the sharp dart of longing love, and on no account whatever think of giving up.”
-The Cloud of Unknowing

Finding God in the Question? Soulful Men

“To this day, psychologically, ‘God’ is the name by which I designate all things which cross my willful path violently and recklessly, all things which upset my subjective views, plans and intentions, and change the course of my life for better or for worse”. Jung

What questions and frustrations have I been wrestling with from my life experience? How is it pushing me to places I have not chosen to go myself?

How have I experienced the shifts in what the new questions are now emerging from my journey?

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Going Beyond the questions:

Are you willing to be sponged out, erased, cancelled, made nothing?

Are you willing to be made nothing?

Dipped into oblivion?

If not, you will never change.

The phoenix renews her youth

Only when she is burnt, burnt alive, burnt down

To hot and flocculent ash.

Then shall stirring of a new bud in the nest

With strands of down like floating ash

Shows that she is renewing her youth like the eagle,

Immortal Bird D.H. Lawrence

How are you called to know God in body and spirit by becoming the phoenix , trusting beyond the questions?

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**Cyclic Questions: Conscious and Unconscious Spiritual
Energies**

Who Am I?

Emergence of a more authentic self
Identity beyond the persona and the false self
Dialogue with material from the unconscious
Integration of the shadow
Commitment to integrity

Who Do I Want To BE With?

Intimacy and relatedness
Sexuality as identity and capacity to connect
Relationships as sacred path, friendships and self- disclosure
Withdrawing projections and living more wholly
Search for meaning in solitude and relationships

What Am I Called To Do?

Need for creativity and generativity
Finding meaning in the work place
Creating a legacy and mentoring the next generation
Self- realization in social changes
Self- expression in life

Who Is This Mystery I Call God?

Real encounter with mystery
Evolution of God Imagery-letting the old images die
Capacity to process and articulate religious experience
Getting in touch with the deepest desires of the soul
Ethical transformation through God, a man of integrity

False Self/ Partial Self
Soulful Men

The neurotic ego can be described as:

Fear
Attachment
Control
Entitlement

What am I afraid of?
What am I holding onto?
How am I insisting to be in control?
What am I entitled to in life?

True Self/ Wholeness

The Ego Self axis can allow the energy of truth to emerge as:

Freedom
Acceptance
Compassion
Energy

How free do I really want to be?
What happens when I accept reality?
How much suffering can I hold to become compassionate?
How do I channel this energy in my life?

David Richo and Don Bisson

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Richard Rohr: The Naked Now: learning to See as the Mystics See

“Wondering is a word connoting at least three things:

Standing in disbelief

Standing in the question itself

Standing in awe before something

Try letting all three ‘standing’ remain open inside of you. This is a very good way to grow spiritually, as long as the disbelief moves beyond mere skepticism or negativity. P.46

The mind is not the only way to engage the questions: p.55-56

The mind can't do everything

We need our bodies, emotions, hearts, nose, ears, taste and soul.

We need our minds but it cannot perceive the invisible such as love, eternity, fear, mystery or the divine.

The mind can become obsessive and compulsive

The mind can create lies as well as seeking the truth

The mind cannot relate to the pre-rational and the trans-rational elements of life.

The mind must accept its finite position to some viewpoints

The mind can divide what is in reality undivided

The mind must become humble to other ways of knowing such as synchronicity

The mind can be both friend and foe

The mind needs education and at some point to be uneducated, to unlearn and be free to experience directly

The mind can serve but often- times, becomes the master of the whole.

The mind wants us to think like Descartes, that we are our thinking.

The mind must learn it cannot know everything

