

The Unity of all things.

I have been meditating and reflecting upon a number of thoughts and topics over the last few weeks, and it was through listening to some inspiring music earlier this evening on the drive home from work, that I realized that all of these things have something in common, are all interconnected in some way. So, perhaps with that revelation, it is no surprised that I call this particular meditation "The Unity of all things."

Everything is interconnected, we just may not be able to see the interconnectivity of all of creation unless we are able to step back and view everything objectively, to view everything through a clear lense and without judgement. When we have this in mind, we can move effortlessly into the idea that all of creation contains the essence of God, yet all of creation is also contained within God. The creator permeates all of creation. Like a glass fully submerged in water, it contains the water as much as the water contains the glass. If we see this, and also know that the creator is love, God is love, then we come to the exciting realization that all of creation is permeated with the love of God.

No one thing in creation can contain the full essence of God, save that of Christ. Everything we gaze upon, the sand, the skies, the seas, only embody but a small piece of who, or what God is. It is by the consumption of ALL of creation that we can even begin to see a glimpse of who God really is, but even then, it is still but a small fraction. We can no more or less surmise the entirety of a painting by a single color from a painters palette, but we can see the brush stroke, as well as the creativity and intelligence behind the design. It is through the collective intermingling of these colors and brush strokes that we see the painting in its entirety. So it is also with God and the whole of his creation.

Look at all of creation with open eyes, the eyes of your spirit, and what do you see? I see water, and in it I see life. Water gives life to all living things on this earth, and without it, we would all surely die. Water is a symbol of change, and rebirth. We are baptized in water as an outward profession to our faith, being washed in the blood of Christ. We drink the living water of Christ when we follow his way. Water is also like the way, the path in which we follow Christ, where it is beneficial to all things, yet competes with none of them, resting quietly in the lowest of places.

I see the trees, and I am reminded of the patience of our creator. Despite all the atrocities we have committed upon our mother earth, the trees still stand fast, without complaint. They provide us with shade when it is hot. They give us the oxygen we so dearly need to live and breath from day to day. They provide shelter for the small and meek creatures of the earth. They willingly give themselves that we may have the ability to build our homes. We burn them, pollute them, cut them down, surround them and drown them out, but they keep growing and giving. In this, it is also from them that I am reminded of both life and death, for it was from a tree that Eve pulled the apple that led to the fall, and it was to a tree that Christ was nailed.

I see the flowers, and I am reminded not to worry.

"Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well." - Luke 12:27-28

I could go on in all things. It is through the whole of creation that we can see God, but it is in Christ alone that we can see the face of God, and the fullness of his love. If one looks carefully enough, the fingerprints of the creator can be seen in all things. Yet, it is through another part of this whole that we can see the will of its creator in motion, his hands and feet, the depths of his compassion, and darkness of the lack there of.

The sons of man.

Chaos theory states that the flapping of a butterfly's wings can theoretically affect the weather patterns on the other side of the world. So then, why is it that we assume on some scale that our own actions do not have such an impact on the world around us, our immediate surroundings, and the people we meet. We are just as interconnected with each other as much as the rest of creation is amongst itself.

Think of the things that you do, and the people you meet. Think of the clothes that you wear, and the car that you drive. I get up in the morning, and say morning prayer from a book that was published by some company, delivered by any one of a number of postal agencies, produced from paper and materials from around the country, and composed and written by a number of people whom I will likely never meet. Yet, each and every person in that chain, the people who work for the publisher, the driver of that delivery truck, the lumberjack that cut down the tree that made the book, or the author, I am connected to every one of those people on a most basic level simply by saying my morning prayer from that book. This is just the first step of my day. But then you can take it to the next step and think of the other people. I am sure they all had to eat somewhere, I am sure the delivery driver needed gas for his truck at some point, and so on. We are all connected.

Our actions, our words, have impact on other people, and likely people we will never meet, whether we want them to or not.

Do you think the people who developed electricity could ever have conceived of a such thing as the internet? Did the black hand have any idea that their actions would have triggered world war one? Could the people of the Manhattan project have conceived the power of what it was they were working on, or in the resulting loss of life from the birth of their scientific genius? Probably not, but one could not exist without the other. We may not see the results of our actions now, but rest assured everything we do will have a consequence somewhere in the world.

Our actions have impact on the world around us. We must be careful to make sure that the actions we take are not going to have a negative impact. Negativity often has immediate and far reaching consequences, and lingers longer. Wounds often leave scars, whether physical or emotional. Scars tend to linger and remind us of the pain we have suffered.

Acts of love leave no such scars, and for some are often harder to remember as a result. Perhaps this is why acts of love performed in sacrifice of ones self, and in the needs of another, are frequently remembered more often then self fulfilling acts of compassion.

Our first action, our first thought and deed should always be an act of compassion or love.

If we lead a life of love in a world that contains the very essence of God, that is, love, then we serve to have a positive impact on the lives of those around us. Since we are all interconnected, first we must find the love we wish to give, well within ourselves. We become what we love, and who we love shapes what we become. If we love things, we become a thing. If we love nothing, we become nothing.

"To live well myself is my first and essential contribution to the well being of all mankind and to the fulfillment of man's collective destiny. If I do not live happily myself how can I help anyone else to be happy, or free, or wise. Yet to seek happiness is not to live happily.

Perhaps it is more true to say that one finds happiness by not seeking it. The wisdom that teaches us deliberately to restrain our desire for happiness enables us to discover that we are already happy without realizing the fact." ~ Thomas Merton