

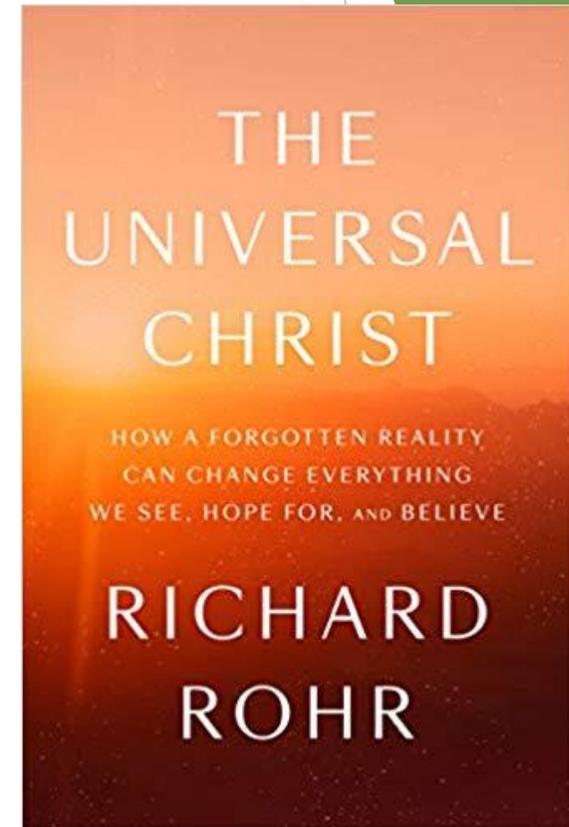
# 10

Chapter 9

# Things at Their Depth.

*One day the religion of Christ will take another step forward on earth. It will embrace the whole man, all of him, not just half as it does now in embracing only the soul.*

*Nikos Kazantzakis, Report to Greco*





Watching Catholics after receiving communion...  
gesture toward altar or tabernacle  
Have they missed what just happened?  
Where is the Presence?

The Eucharist was supposed to be a full  
transference of identity to them!

God's big leap in Jesus was to come "down here."

In Christ, God is forever overcoming the gap  
between human and divine.

The Christian path becomes less about climbing  
and performance, and more about letting go, and  
unlearning. Knowing and loving Jesus is largely  
about becoming fully human...



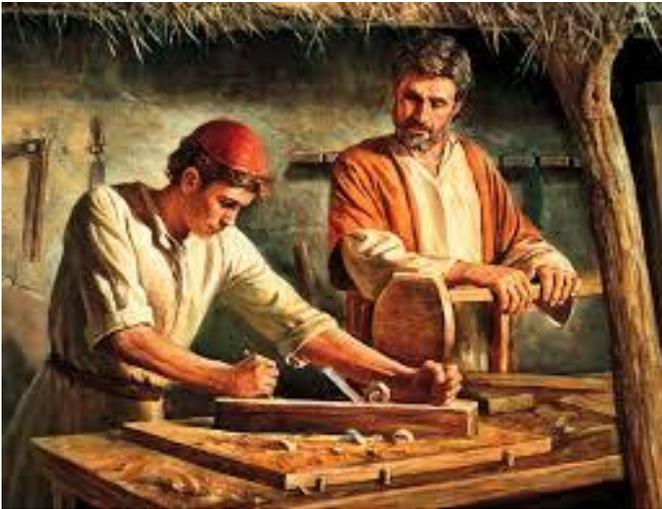


Jesus offered the world a living example of fully embodied Love that emerged out of our ordinary, limited life situations.

Jesus was “born of a woman under the Law” (Galatians 4:4)

Jesus spent no time climbing but a lot of time descending, “emptying himself and becoming as all humans are.” (Philippians 2:7)

“tempted in every way that we are” (Hebrews 4:15)





## The Divine Map

Jesus walked, enjoyed, and suffered the entire human journey, and he told us that we could and should do the same.

God hides in the depths and is not seen as long as we stay on the surface of anything - even the depths of our sins

Then encounter between doubting Thomas and the Risen Jesus (John 20:19-28)

a story about believing that someone could *be wounded and also resurrected at the same time!*

*Great love and great suffering bring us back to God (the only things strong enough to take away the ego's protections and pretensions)*





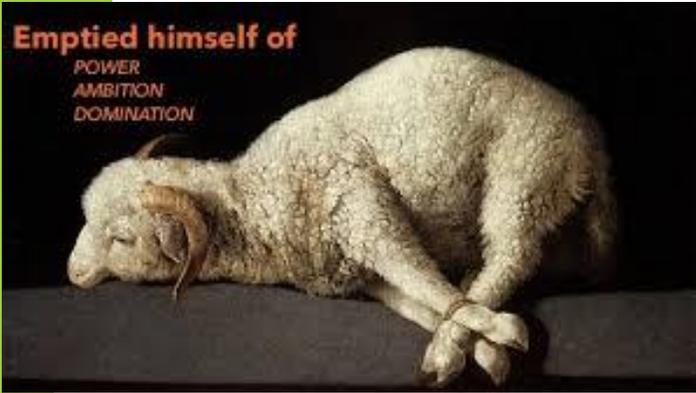
St. Francis of Assisi... the first recorded Christian to call animals and elements and even the forces of nature by familial names.

Francis was fully at home in this created world.

*What you choose now, you shall have later seems to be the realization of saints...* Not an idyllic hope for a later heaven but a living experience right now.

We cannot jump over this world and its woundedness, and still try to love God.

We must love God through, in, with, and even because of this world.



We were made to love and trust this world, “to cultivate it and take care of it” (Genesis 2:15) Dominate it (1:28).???



God “empties himself” into creation (Philippians 2:7) vs. humans create systems to control & subdue that creation for our own purposes and profit, reversing the divine pattern.



Not mere materialism but observing, touching, loving the physical, the material, the inspired universe - in all of its suffering state. (necessary starting place for any healthy spirituality and any true development)

touching human pain and suffering the way to both compassion and understanding.



The depth of everything:  
Not death or resurrection  
But death and resurrection

Tangible religion: touching human pain and suffering  
an act of outward kindness???  
Change us as much as it might change them

Human sympathy is the best and easiest way to open  
the heart space and to make us live inside our own  
bodies.



God wants humans to represent the very Sympathy  
and Empathy of God.

*God loves things by becoming them. We love God by  
continuing the same pattern.*

## Christianity's unique trump card: The Incarnation



(Only condemned heresies sought to deny the Incarnation: heady spiritualism, pious romanticism [Gnosticism])

But we are gnostic: “Condemn it over there instead of own it over here.” (Institutions)

What we need is here!

Humanity has grown tired of overarching societal plans: communism, Nazism... and disembodied spiritualities. (these often hide an agenda of power and control, obfuscating and distracting us from what is right in front of us)

Literal belief in the virgin birth of Jesus (interior poverty, readiness to conceive, and human vulnerability)

Jesus rose from the dead (a parable about the journey of all humans, and even the universe).



Tools help us to examine and to trust interiority and depth

psychology, trained in spiritual direction

the Enneagram

Myers-Briggs typology

grief and bereavement work

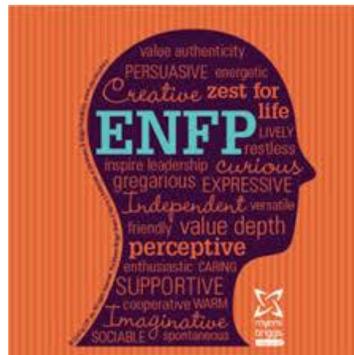
Integral Theory

wilderness training



Richard's experience, retreat dialoguing with own body, roads not taken: concrete events and persons.

Discovered depths within self: intense happiness and gratitude.



The best way *out* is if we have first gone *in*!

The only way we can trust *up* is if we have gone *down*.



## Emphasizing the experiential

Both Jesus and Paul trusted their own experience of God against the status quo of their Jewish religion.

“By what authority are you doing these things?”

How did they get away with it? In their lifetimes they didn't!

Prophets are “radical traditionalist”

You can only reform things long term by unlocking them from the inside - by their own chosen authoritative sources.





An angel is the inner spirit or soul of a thing (Walter Wink)

There must be a way both here and in the depth of here

Jesus is the here.

Christ is the depth of here.

Art

Hans Kulmbach's Ascension of Jesus

Bronze statue of St. Francis, upper basilica of

Assisi

Both images put the two worlds together: it is the Divine that takes the lead in changing places.



Image of God in fellow humans... first see it in rudimentary form in stones, plant and flowers, strange little animals in bread and wine... in yourself!