

FROM A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE #1

This is the first in a series of reflections on life, humanity, faith, God and our world.

The Great Human Search

Throughout recorded human history we know that men and women have expressed a search for God. This has shown up in many forms of religious behavior, various beliefs, prayers, ritual sacrifices. This search has crossed thousands of years of history and many cultures and continents. Despite many variations and ambiguities this search for God truly shows that humans are religious beings. This search for God takes many different pathways, yet God is truly not far from us. We live and move and have our existence in God.

But we can become a people forgetful of God, or overlook the signs of God's presence, or even explicitly reject God. This wandering from God has many root causes; religious ignorance, or indifference; the desire for material goods in this life; the scandal and bad example from people who profess that they are believers; currents of thoughts which are hostile to religion; and the internal sinful attitudes of persons who then hide from God out of a subconscious fear. The search for God requires a sincere effort and an upright heart. God will assist the sincere person who seeks to know the truth. Even when a person runs from God, God will continue to seek him so that he or she may return and find true happiness.

The truth is that humanity is created by God so that we come to know Him and love Him as He loves us individually. God always renews opportunities for us to re-discover Him.

There are ways of discovery open to us. They are not proofs of God's existence as in the scientific understanding of the natural sciences. But they are convincing arguments that converge in a sense as they point toward the existence of God.

We look at nature, the land, the sea, and multiple complex forms of life and order and beauty. We look at the cosmos, the immense universe of so many

galaxies. Does all this suggest something as the origin? Believers in God see God as the ultimate origin of all.

Then again we look at the human person with our openness to truth and beauty, and sense of moral goodness, and aspirations of freedom and that interior voice of moral conscience. Humans long for the infinite and we have an innate desire for happiness. The soul of the person seeks beyond oneself and Christians see this as a search for God and eternity.

Even as children we asked ‘where did this and that come from’? And as immediate answers are given by parents, they ask, ‘well, where that that come from’? Ultimately we realize there must be something that always existed and which started the whole process of existence of things that exist today. We reason toward a primary mover and cause. Christians see this as God who always existed and who created from nothing the primal universe and placed the basic laws of matter, energy and nature into that which God called into existence.

Science searches to discover these laws and processes that orchestrate the constant unfolding and changing of what God first called into existence. Christians say that God created all out of a motive of love for those creatures who would eventually receive the capacity to share the Divine life and happiness.

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ed. Fr. Patrick Geinzer, C.P.