

Connecting New

March, 2019

Some of you may recall the 1965 hit from the Righteous Brothers "You've Lost that Loving Feeling." (If you are unfamiliar with it, you may wish to find it on YouTube.) Many of us feel this way toward God sometimes. We long for the consolation of the past, times when we felt close to God, and even when we engage the same practices that seemed to "work" (i.e. open us to experience and receive the gift of God's presence), those practices no longer yield the desired result. Some spiritualists would argue that we are being invited into greater freedom and that this "absence" is in fact God loving us still. Nevertheless, we may feel neglected or perhaps even abandoned by the Master Lover.

None of our images or "understandings" of God could ever be complete, so I believe that what may be happening is that God is inviting us to a new and different image of God. Until we welcome God in this new way, we can remain stuck. What may help is to give God permission to be who God is, even if this means letting go of who we wish God would be.

One Day I Cried

One day I cried because the God who loved me had gone.
I grieved the absence of comfort and consolation
and I moaned for the tears of joy that would well -
their meaning I could never fully articulate or capture -
like a long, sweet kiss.

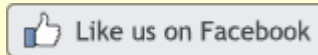
Honestly, I'll admit that it's the experience of the God
who loved me I miss even more than the being of God.
Honestly, it only means I am being tempted to disengage
from the path and try to circle back,
and after that fails,
to sit in the shade with Jonah.
Honestly, I'm being invited to welcome God as God is
(rather than as God was)
with the same love that God loved upon me.
And honestly, I'm not so sure I am ready,
or grateful, or willing to say yes to that.

One day I cried because the God who loved me had gone.

This Lent, may all of us fast from what keeps us from deeper relationship with God, even if that means welcoming the One who is unknowable.

Peace and Blessings,

Clarence



Clarence Heller is a spiritual director, poet, and dreamer whose writing and paintings are inspired through prayerful reflection.

Contact: clarence@clarenceheller.com

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