SUPPLEMENTAL IMAGES AND NARRATIVE FOR IS YOUR GOD BIG ENOUGH? CLOSE ENOUGH? YOU ENOUGH? JESUS AND THE THREE FACES OF GOD by Paul Smith

### Chapter 14 THE PEACE OF ONENESS CONSCIOUSNESS

(pages 313-338)









(Also called the Kingdom of God, the Kingdom of Heaven, and the Realm of God)

Jesus said:

"The Reign of God is at hand."

"Seek first the Reign of God and all these things will be added to you."

Jesus speaks of the Reign of God 106 times in the Gospels.

The Reign of God has been misunderstood for the last 2000 years and by many today.



The Reign of God has been seen as Jesus returning to earth with his angelic army to establish God's Kingdom and many still believe that.

But Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have

been fighting." John 18:36



Or it is seen as the place Christians go to when they die

But Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is spread out upon the earth, and people do not notice it." (Gospel of Thomas, 113) Some decided it was the Christian Church

But Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is within you." Luke 17:21



Some see the Reign of God representing the hearts and minds of the faithful captured by the love of God and the pursuit of Christian teachings.

That's not a bad idea. It's just not what the Reign of God is.



The current official Catholic view

of the Reign of God is that it is the coming kingdom of love, peace, and justice. This is also the view of many progressive Christians.



However, if the kingdom of God is

- "not of this world,"
  - "already within us," and already
    - "spread out upon the earth and people do not notice it,"

#### Then,

Peace, love, and justice are the *result* of recognizing, awakening to, and manifesting the Kingdom Consciousness that already exists within us!

> There is no agreement among scholars as to what the Reign or Kingdom of God is.

I'm going to tell you what everybody else has missed!



The Kingdom of God is not a belief, concept, or doctrine to be held.

Trying to see the Kingdom of God by thinking about it is like trying to see an electron with a reading glass or a galaxy with a \$10 pair of binoculars.





"Aha! I don't see any electrons!"

"They told me the whirlpool galaxy was out there. I don't see it!"



Jesus said, "If those who lead you say to you, "See, the reign of God is in the sky," then the birds of the sky will precede you. "It is in the sea," then the fish will precede you.

(Gospel of Thomas, 3)

Now comes the most important thing Jesus said about the Reign of God. (here and in Luke)





Rather, the Reign of God is inside of you, and it is outside of you.

(Gospel of Thomas, 3)

"The Reign of God is within you." (Luke 17:21)

When you come to know yourself, then you will become known, and you will realize that it is you who are the children of the living Father/Mother.

(Gospel of Thomas, 3)



But if you will not know yourselves, you dwell in poverty and it is you who are that poverty.

**Gospel of Thomas Saying 3** 

### What is the Reign of God?





### AND WHAT'S IT DOING IN ME?

Why didn't Jesus just come out and and say what it was?

> The Reign of God is the end of Christianity as a belief system

Is the Reign of God hiding?

Is the Reign of God a secret?



# Yes, the Reign of God is a secret! Jesus said, "The

knowledge of the secrets of the reign of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables."

Luke 8:10, Mark\_4:11



"These are the secret sayings that the living Jesus spoke."

Gospel of Thomas, Prologue

Jesus offered some clues to the Reign of God:





"The realm of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field." Matt 13:44



"The realm of God is like yeast that a woman hid in a large amount of flour until it permeated all of the bread." Mat 13:33



"How difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the reign of God." Mark 10:23-27

# Four reasons why the kingdom of God was and is still a secret.



## 1. Jesus used a politically and historically provocative word: *KINGDOM* of God



Both his religion and his culture used it to mean the rule of a king over a kingdom here on the earth

Jesus, being provocative as usual, meant something

completely different. It was about how we see.



We can only see what our stage of development or worldview allows us to see.

We can only perceive what our state of consciousness allows us to perceive.

People are not able to understand what Jesus meant because their worldview does not allow them too. The more we evolve in our stage of development, the more we can understand Jesus.



3. The kingdom of God is not a belief or concept.

It is only experienced or awakened to. Only those open to that awakening can experience it.



And Jesus breathed on them and said "Receive the holy Spirit. " John 20:22

4. Jesus pointe the Reign of God and then helped to awakened spirit-breath consciousness in his friends.

#### SINGLE-SEEING

Your eye is the light of the body. If your eye is single, your whole body is full of light; but if it is distracted, your body is full of darkness.

Luke 11:33 Matt 6:22





The spectrum of consciousness moves from Basic, to Awakened, to Transcendent, to Oneness. The farther along the spectrum our consciousness is, the less "secret" Jesus teaching is—and more we understand him.

#### The Reign of God is seeing, embracing, and manifesting from Oneness Consciousness



The Reign of God

Oneness Consciousness

> A New Way of Seeing

ONENESS

Nonduality

#### NONDUALITY????



Jesus said to them, "When you make the two into one, and when you make the inner like the outer and the outer like the inner, and the above like the below, and when you make the male

and the female into a single one . . . then will you enter the kingdom."

Gospel of Thomas, Saying 22



".... when you make the inner like the outer and the outer like the inner ...

Jesus

In Oneness Consciousness there is no "out there and in here." Both are expereinced as one.



To use another word, the Reign of God is seeing which we call "nonduality."

Jesus was nonduality in sandals.

What is duality and nonduality?

Duality is a way of seeing that can separate, rather chan connect if we let it. We all need to have discernment to operate in the world of dualisms which of course is necessary. However, it can become a judgment which makes us think we are separate from God and one another.



#### What are some RELIGIOUS "dualities," or opposites?

Good/bad Clean/unclean Pure/impure Godly/ungodly Righteous/unrighteous Good/evil Creator/creature Human/Divine

Heaven/Hell

Sin/Redemption

Christian/Non-Christian

True/False

Sinner/Saint

Saved/lost

Sinful/righteous

The most devastating dualities are the ones that make us think we are separate from God and one another.

Dualism is a belief such as we are separated from God.

Nonduality says that separation never took place. It may feel like that at times, but God has never ceased loving us.

Dualism tells us that we are separate from certain people.





Nonduality tells us the we have never been separate and will never be.

When looking out from the Reign of God—Oneness Consciousness—we don't lose our discernment, but we do lose our judging. We see no separation, only connection and oneness.



**DUALITY:** "I hate poop! We have to get rid of all the poop before we can have chocolate!"

NON-DUALITY: "Both chocolate and poop have equal value."

ACTUALLY APPLYING NON-DUALITY: "Both chocolate and poop have equal value, but I'm just gonna eat the chocolate." In Oneness Consciousness you become everybody – We are the body of Christ – one with everyone



Body of Christ by Danny Hahlbohm



Like Jesus, "We are ONENESS with skin on." ~ Robin Main

#### **Heart-Centered Nonduality**

Getting to Oneness through the path of heart-centered devotion to God and Jesus

I used the phrase "devotional nonduality in this book chapter. Since writing that I have decided that a much more descriptive phrase of what I mean is "heart-centered nonduality" as well as "heart-centered prayer and meditation."

What we perceive with our eyes and our minds can be very superficial. What we see from our hearts is real. Your heart is your teacher.



Take a breath or two with your hand placed gently over your heart to calm yourself. You can close your eyes or keep them open. You can be standing, sitting, or lying down. Now imagine that you are breathing into and out of your heart. Imagine breath flowing in and out of your heart. Breathe slowly, deeply and rhythmically. Enjoy the feeling of nourishing your being with a full and conscious breath.

Many people want to learn how to meditate to quiet the mind. What will quiet your mind is to give attention to your heart. The heart will then send signals to the mind that are more harmonious.

Come, take a pick axe and break open your stony heart. The heart's matrix is glutted with rubies. Springs of laughter are buried in your chest. —Rumi





One of the main way to connect with God is to stay Heart Centered. But what does this mean exactly? Well, it doesn't mean, "be good", or "be loving", or "be forgiving". Although these things might happen when we stay heart centered, but only as side effects.

To stay Heart Centered is an actual physical practice. It's like going on the treadmill to keep your physical body fit. This exercise is designed to move our

awareness from our head center/ego to our heart center/higher-self.

The first thing to do is to locate the heart center. This the area behind our breastbone, up toward the jugular notch, and back to between the shoulder blades. This whole area is your Heart Center.

This center contains your physical existence, including emotional, physical and ego bodies, and your Higher Self connection, or connection to the Divine. After you locate the Heart Center, you will become aware of it, the space it occupies in the physical realm, and breathe into it. As you breathe in, it fills with the life force or consciousness that the Bible calls "spirit-breath., as you breathe out, the life force of spirit-breath-consciousness expands into the rest of your body and into the world. 1. Am I becoming more peaceful?

# Eight signs you are moving toward the nondual reign of God.

- 2. Is my heart opening?
- 3. Am I becoming more compassionate?
- 4. Do I feel more joyful at times.
- 5. Am I more connected to other people and the world?
- 6. Do I find myself returning often to such practices as reflection, prayer, meditation, asking "Who am I?" and "I have a body"?
- 7. Have I had some of my most comfortable assumptions challenged?

#### 8. Have I felt a new sense of my self by asking "Who am I?"



Now to finish up with singleseeing.

When we see from the eyes of singleness or oneness (nonduality), we see only the peace and joy of Oneness. His is living and loving from the Reign of God. The cover of this book is an image of singleseeing where the eye is the light of the body. This is Seeing as God sees -God sees Oneness, not twoness.

When we put all four dimensions of consciousness together with Trinity, we have Trinity Being Us. The order here is not Father-Son -Spirit as Trinity is usually pictured, because consciousness states do not follow that pattern but rather the pattern and states of consciousness that you see here:





#### **This Book in Five Sentences**

1. What does it look like for a person in today's world to uncover the Christian God that is hidden behind the centuries-old religious saying: "God the Father, Son, and Spirit—one God in three persons."

2. Surprisingly, it looks like a multi-dimensional God who is big enough for our minds to reflect about, close enough for our hearts to relate to, and us enough for our deepest identity to rest in and as.

3. A God that is big enough is Infinite Being,

a Cosmic Person (Christ) - symbol for all of reality, and Infinite Consciousness.

**4. A God that is close enough** is the presence of a divine loving mother and/or father,

Jesus and sometimes other transforming friends in the spirit realm, And the extraordinary Helper that is

consciousness that comes in many forms.

5. A God that is us enough is our own consciousness at every level—

ordinary perception,



awakened awareness,

expanded consciousness,

and our deepest identification with seeing everyone and everything as connected.