

THE NIGHTS

Night of SENSE

Night of SPIRIT

Transforms*
our
relationship
with the
world

Transforms*
our
relationship
with God

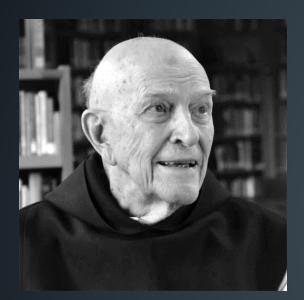
Active: What we do (Rule of Life)

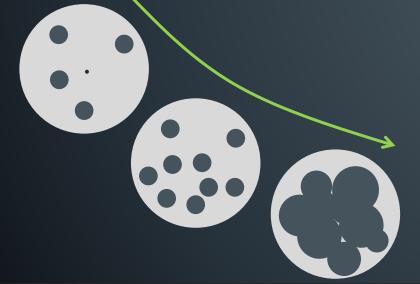
Passive: What we undergo

^{*} The classical terms are 'purification' and 'purgation'

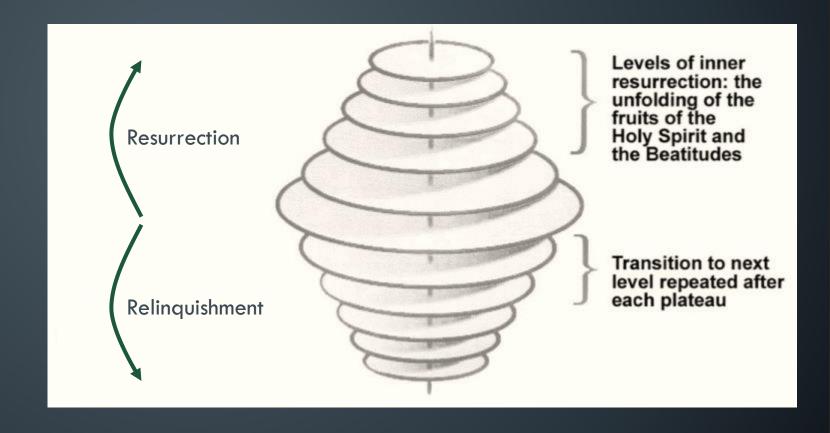
La Noche Oscura Journey of the soul to its union with God







- > The Archaeological Dig and the Spiral Staircase
- > An ongoing cyclic (vs. linear) model of transformation





TOWARD GOD

"The deepest relationship between God and person is hidden from our conscious awareness ... the dark night is ... the secret way in which God not only liberates us from our attachments and idolatries, but also brings us to the realization of our true nature."



From self to Self (or no-self)









Self Remembering ...

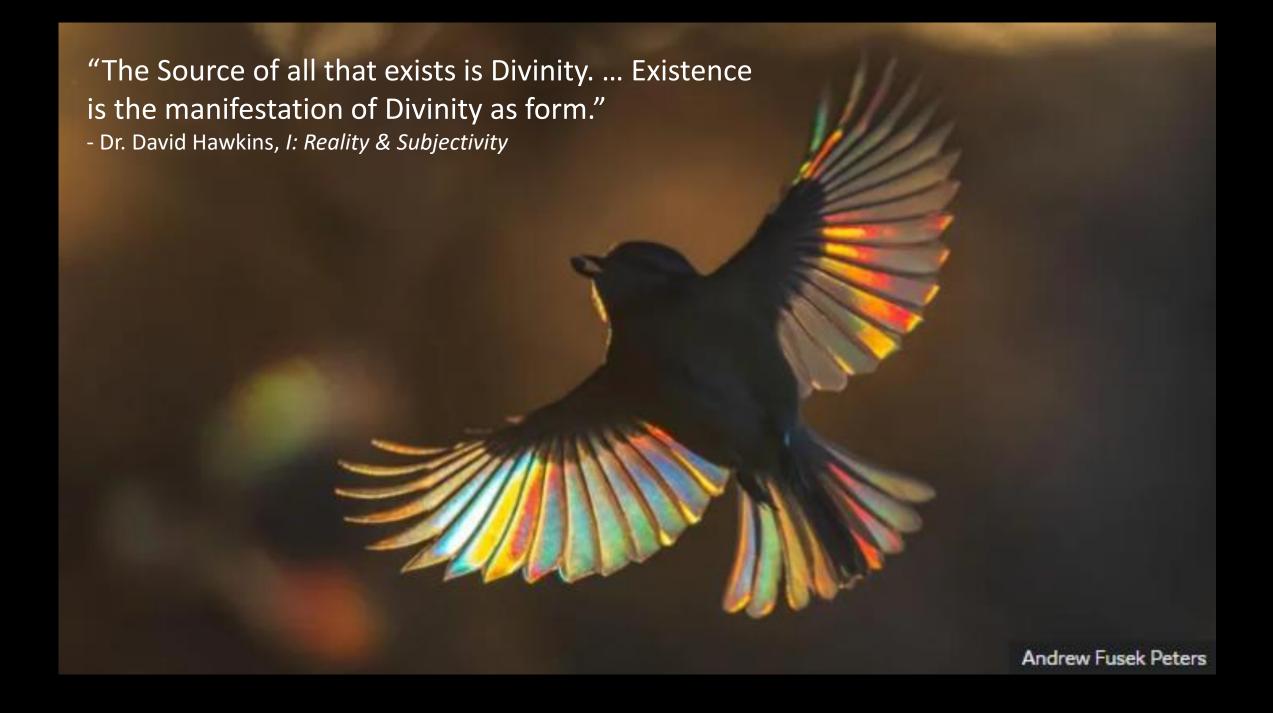
Ask for a sign from the Lord, your God; let it be deep as the netherworld, or high as the sky!

- Isaiah 7:11

As transformation happens >> God winks are everywhere

Until then, "act as if" – practice seeing this way.





"The gate of heaven is everywhere."

- Thomas Merton

Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander





Everyday Portals

Behold, now is a very acceptable time: behold, now is the day of salvation.

- 2 Corinthians 6:2

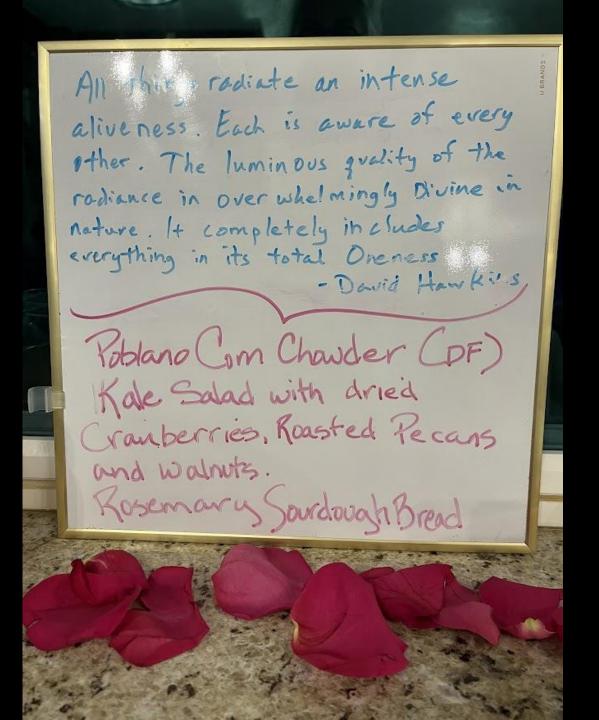
"Every time we accept disappointment, undergo hardship for the sake of [gospel values], and trust inner wisdom, a doorway opens into the life of the spirit. We taste a moment of God's eternity breaking into our consciousness. By learning to recognize these everyday portals, we are never far from a potential 'initiatory moment'. Today is always the day of salvation, because God is always present, here and now."

- Mark Kutolowski



"There is not a moment in which God does not present Godself under the cover of some pain to be endured, of some consolation to be enjoyed, or of some duty to be performed. All that takes place within us, around us, or through us, contains and conceals God's divine action."

- Jean-Pierre de Caussade, *Abandonment to Divine Providence*



On the menu for today ...

"All things radiate an intense aliveness.

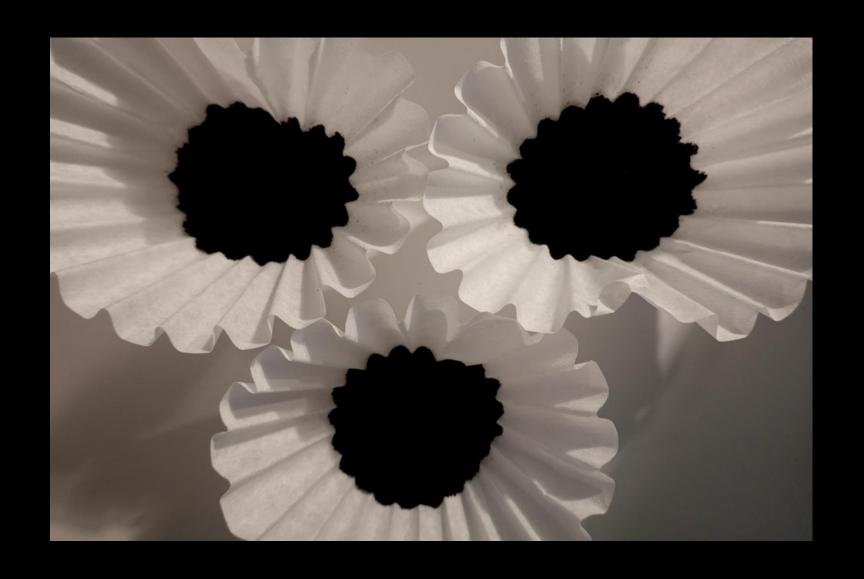
Each is aware of every other. The luminous quality of the radiance is overwhelmingly Divine in nature. It completely includes everything in its total oneness."

Dr. David Hawkins



"After Jesus, the greatest sacrament is another human being."

- Thomas Keating, *The Mystery of Christ*



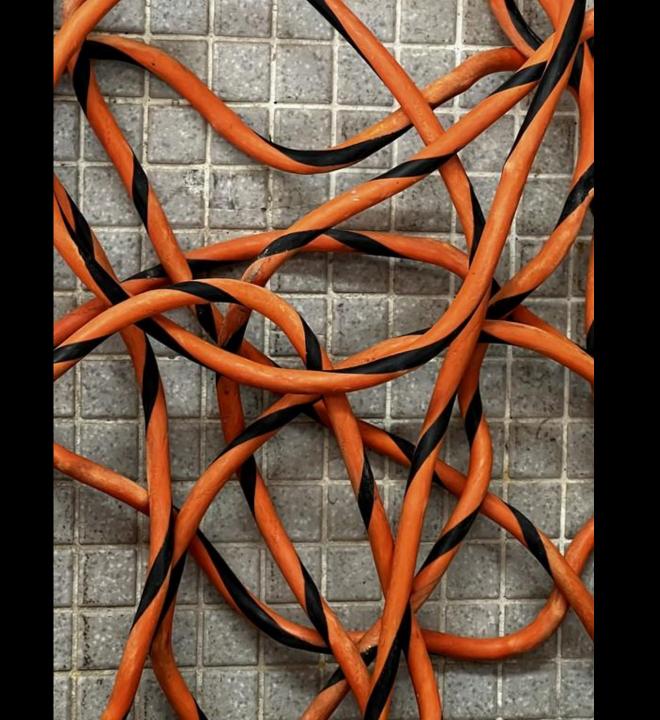
"Beauty
is a window
to God."

- Wayne Teasdale

"Listening" and sensing life as Lectio Divina + Vida divina













View 2.5-minute David Hawkins video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EkplptyAgfo

"Amid our marketplaces and crowded streets, our subways and skyscrapers, it is the vocation of the contemplative to embody a 'single great prayer' in order that they might season every hour with the salt of faith and shine on every person the light of love: that in every situation they may knead the leaven of hope, and in every place sow the seeds of joy. ... There is no need or desire for attention-grabbing spiritual feats, mystical fanfare, or grandiose epiphanies. There is only the sacrament of the present moment – the hidden, imperceptible, but endless ways in which they are present to God and God to them. The demands of daily life become a school of holiness where the contemplative is led to the patient realization that they are extensions of [Christ]... who even now walks in our midst as neighbor, friend, stranger, and enemy."

- Vincent Pizzuto, Contemplating Christ: The Gospels and the Interior Life











"You do not have to go to some mountain and wait for the Second Coming as some have done. Your goal is simply to live in the light—live as one awakened. Your homework is to be vigilant, sober, lucid, and aware. Watch for daily visitations from God. Anticipate all the blessings that take place each day rather than dreading things that may never happen.

- Macrina Wiederkehr, Abide