

An aerial photograph of a large, circular hedge maze. The maze is composed of dense, green hedges forming a complex, winding pattern. In the center of the maze is a small, round stone building with a conical roof and a wooden door. Several people are visible walking along the dirt paths within the maze. The surrounding area is a grassy field with some trees in the background.

Beholding, Inhabiting, Cherishing Place

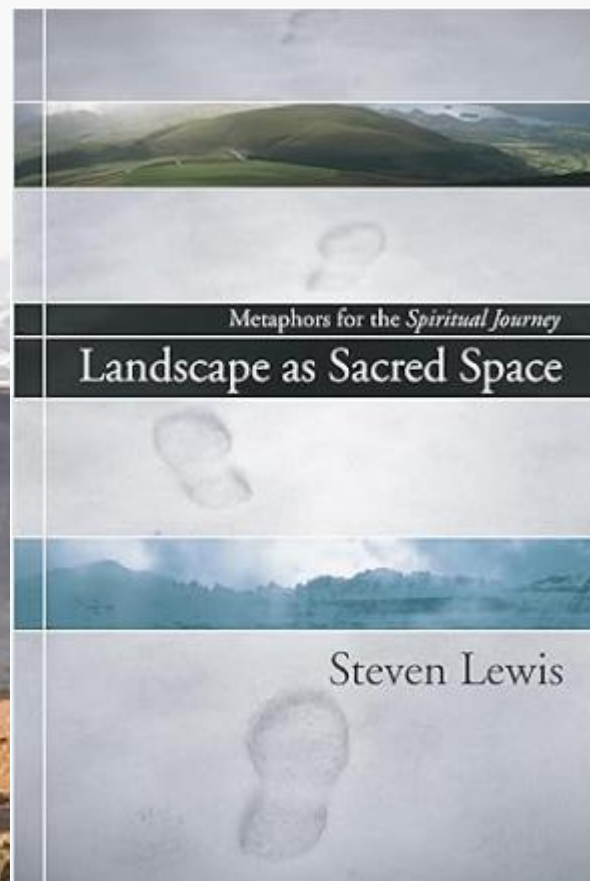
The Journey School

October 3rd, 2024

Be Here Now



Orienting Ourselves in the Spiritual Landscape





Mountaintop Spirituality



Desert Spirituality





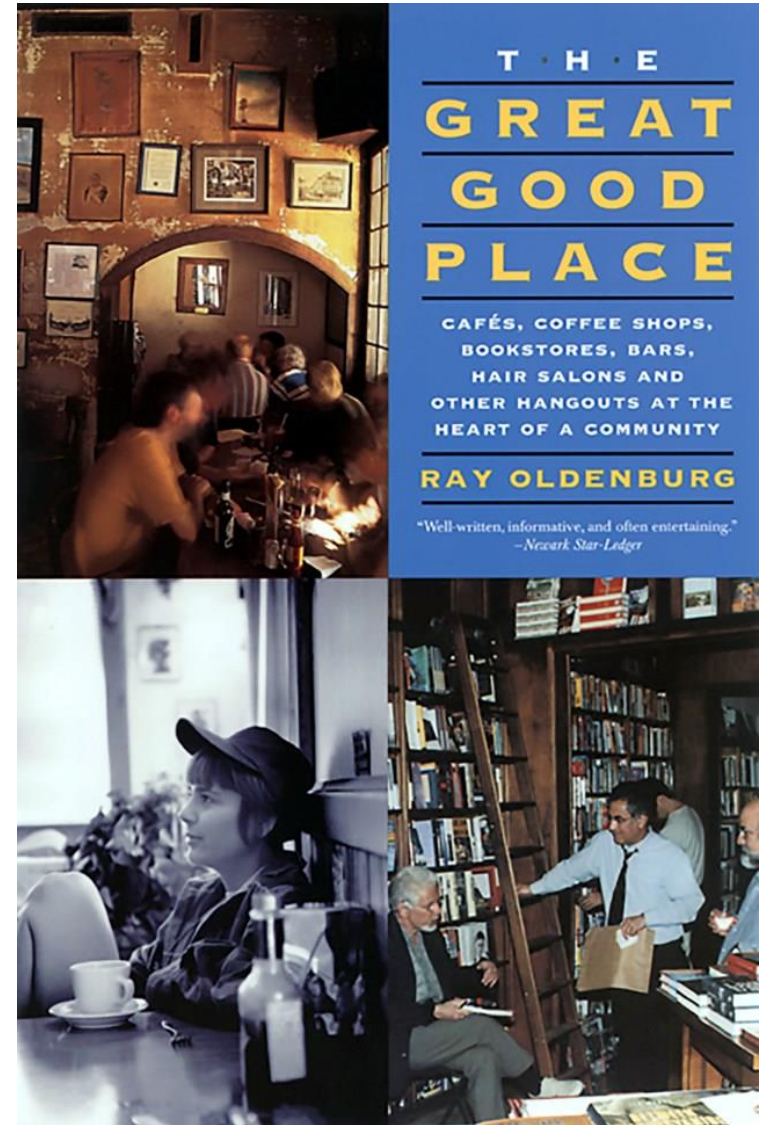
Valley Spirituality



Part I – *Beholding* Place

Our Various “Places”

- **First Place**
 - Our home and the people we live with.
- **Second Place**
 - Our workplace, where we might spend most of our time away from home.
- **Third Place**
 - Anchors of community life that facilitate more creative interaction.
 - A place where you can “relax in public, where you encounter familiar faces and make new acquaintances.”



The Emergence of a “Fourth Place”



Finding Our Place in the Here & Now

- *Look*
- *Listen*
- *Touch*
- *Smell*
- *Taste*
- *Feel*



“Gestures of Approach”

- Pausing before entering a space
- Lighting a candle
- Creating a small altar or sacred space
- Purification actions
- Burning incense or using essential oils
- Bowing or offering a gesture of reverence
- Sitting in silence
- Using natural elements
- Opening the windows
- Saying a blessing or prayer for the space
- Mindful listening
- Touching the earth or ground



A thin place, photograph by jikido

Love everyone,
serve everyone and
remember God.

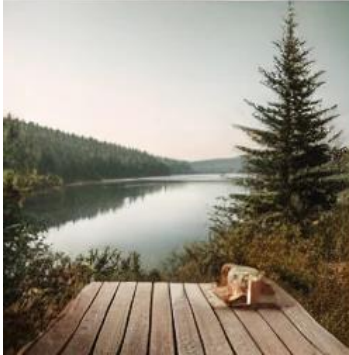




Part II - *Inhabiting* Place



Being Rooted in Place, *Physically & Psychologically*



Traditional Monastic Vows

THE PATH OF LIFE



CYPRIAN SMITH OSB

- Stability
- Conversatio Morum
- Obedience



Photograph by Diego Delso: *Church of the Monastery of Jesus, Setúbal, Portugal*



Agios Triadas Monastery in Meteora, Greece

Stability for Contemplative Householders

"The vow of stability which the monk takes is simply a way of preparing the ground so that the Holy Spirit can act and confer the gift of inner stability, which is a quality of the heart, an attitude or disposition of the mind ... The way to find it lies in acceptance of where we are, acceptance of ourselves, and deep, earnest prayer. That will lead us into the Interior Castle, and ground our lives upon the Rock." – Cyprian Smith, OSB

- Cultivating Inner Stillness
- Transformation Through Endurance
- Faithfulness to Our Commitments



Part III – *Cherishing* Place

Cherishing Our Home

“A home is not simply a building; it is the shelter around the intimacy of a life. Coming in from the outside world and its rasp of force and usage, you relax and allow yourself to be who you are. The inner walls of a home are threaded with the textures of one's soul, a subtle weave of presences. If you could see your home through the lens of the soul, you would be surprised at the beauty concealed in the memory your home holds. When you enter some homes, you sense how the memories have seeped to the surface, infusing the aura of the place and deepening the tone of its presence. Where love has lived, a house still holds the warmth. Even the poorest home feels like a nest if love and tenderness dwell there.”

- John O'Donohue



Cherishing Our Collective Home

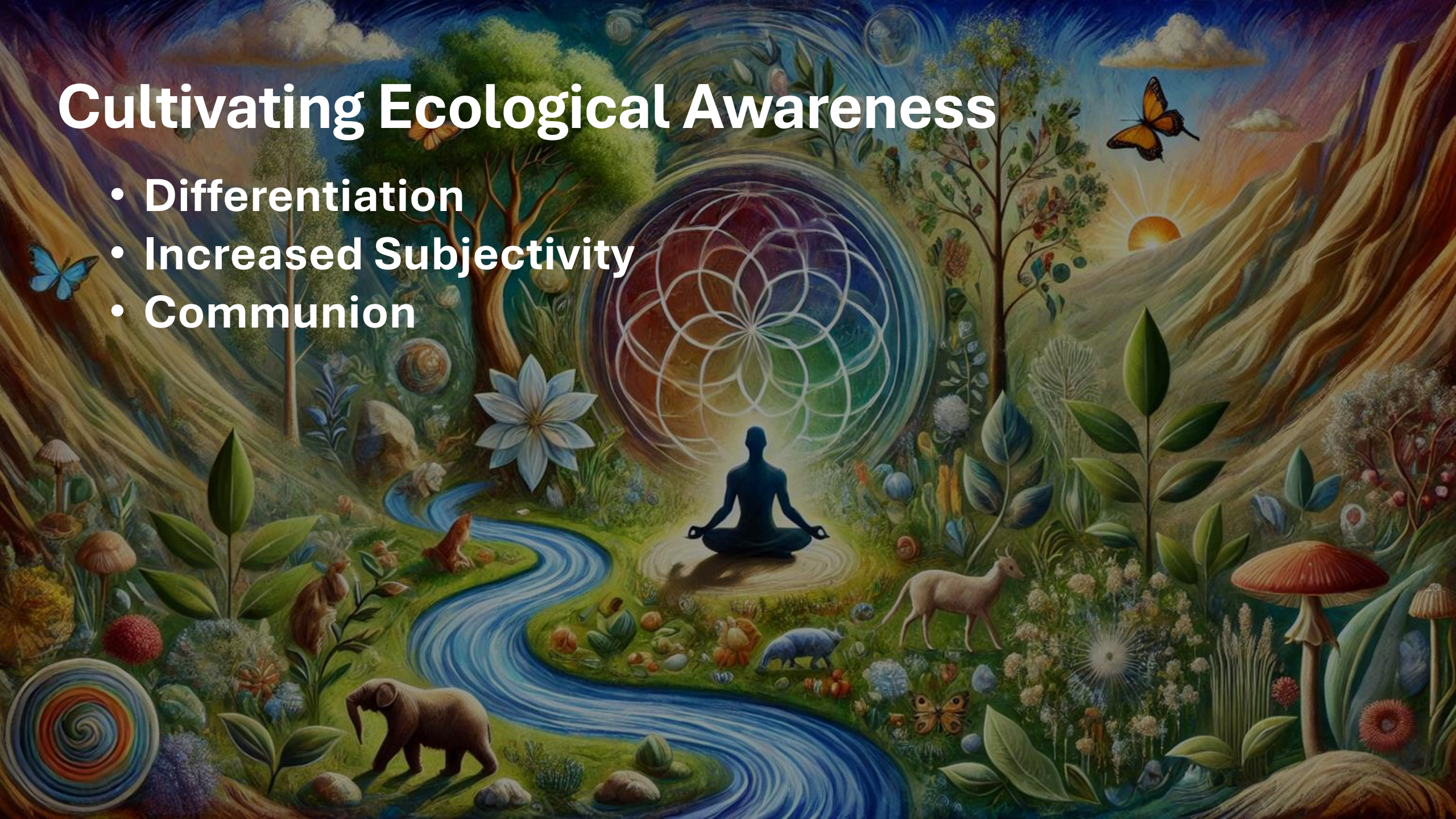
“The world is not something we participate in; it is something we are, in the same way that God is not a divine being we participate in, God is what we are in the ineffable depth of our existence.”

- Ilia Delio



Cultivating Ecological Awareness

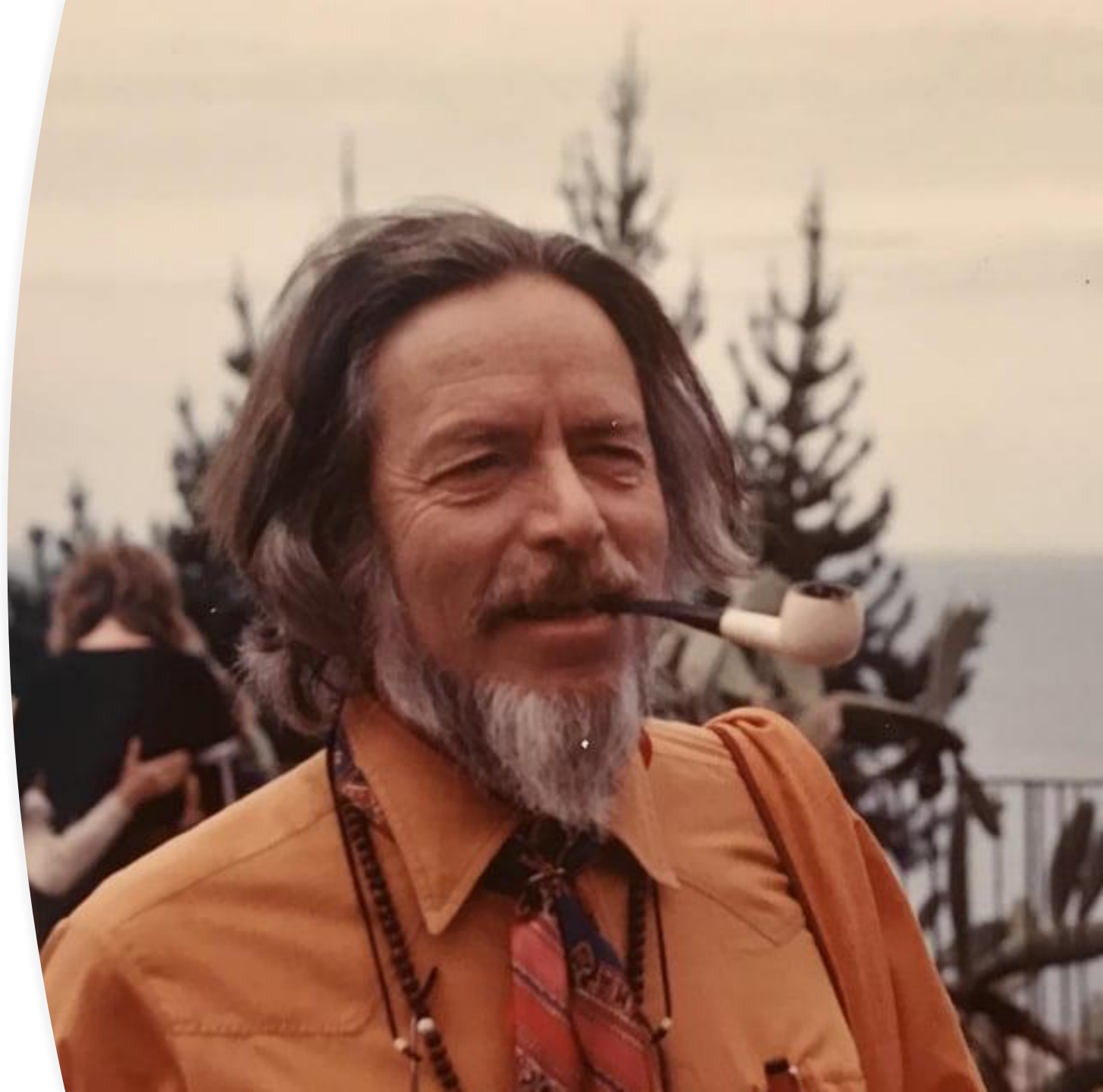
- Differentiation
- Increased Subjectivity
- Communion



Differentiation

"For every individual is a unique manifestation of the Whole, as every branch is a particular outreaching of the tree. To manifest individuality, every branch must have a sensitive connection with the tree, just as our independently moving and differentiated fingers must have a sensitive connection with the whole body. The point, which can hardly be repeated too often, is that differentiation is not separation."

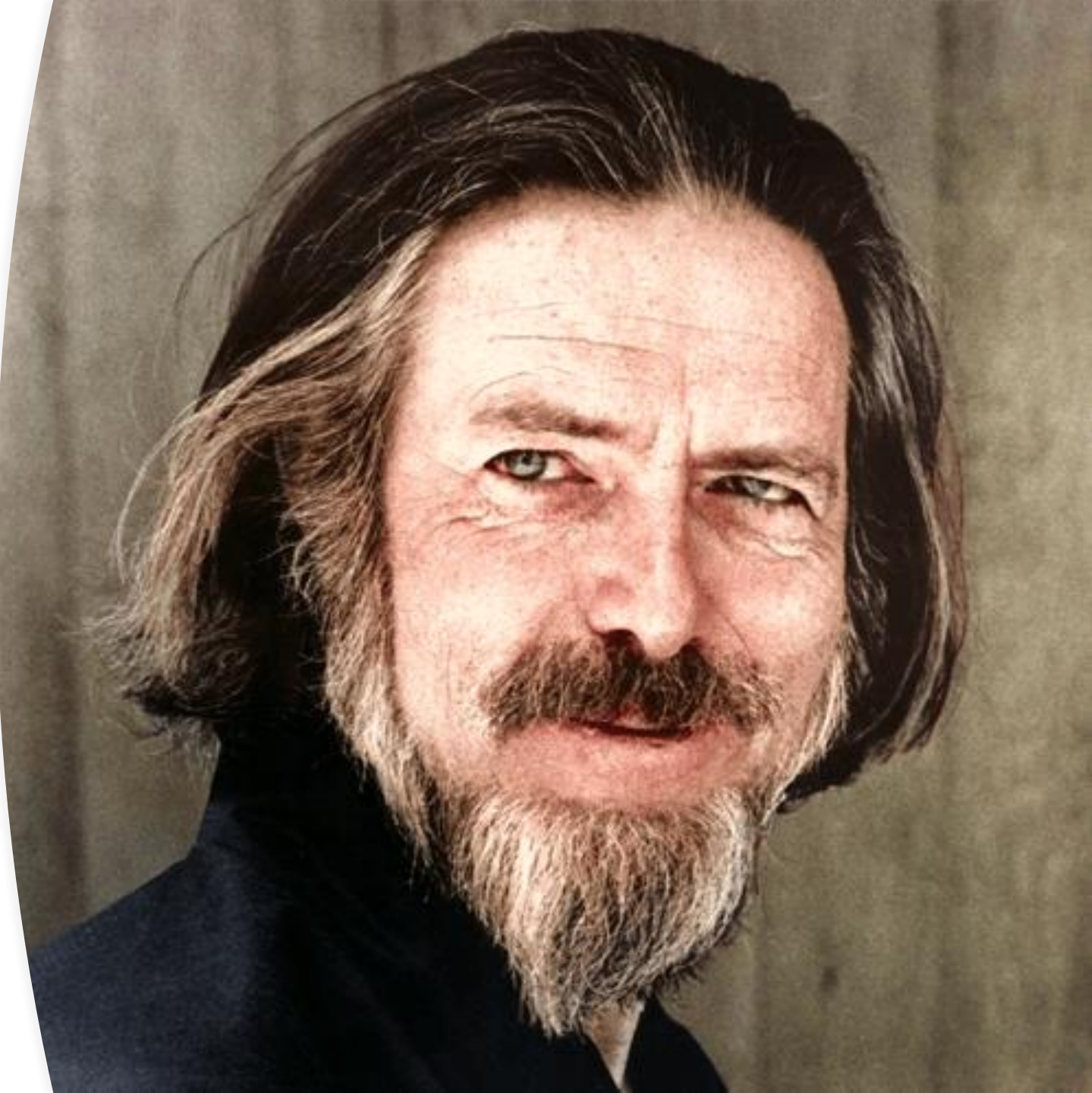
- Alan Watts



Increased Subjectivity

“Through our eyes, the universe is perceiving itself. Through our ears, the universe is listening to its harmonies. We are the witnesses through which the universe becomes conscious of its glory, of its magnificence.”

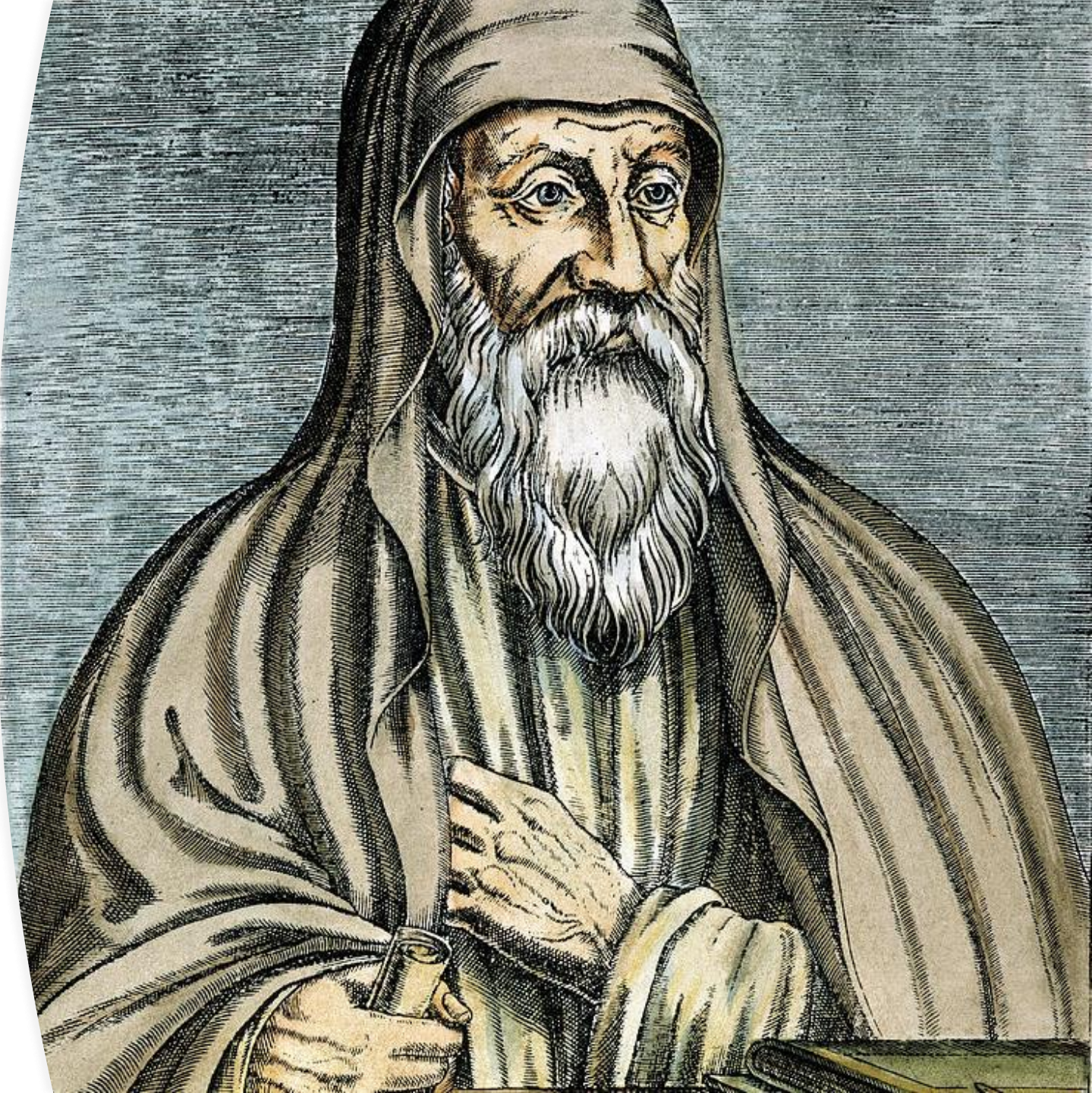
- Alan Watts



Communion

“Just as our one body is composed of many members which are held together by one soul, so I think that the universe ought to be thought of as an immense, complex organism held together by the power and reason (logos) of God as by a single soul.”

- Origen of Alexandria



Communion

“There is no philosopher of any reputation ... who does not hold that the world and its spheres are in some way animated.”

- Giordano Bruno

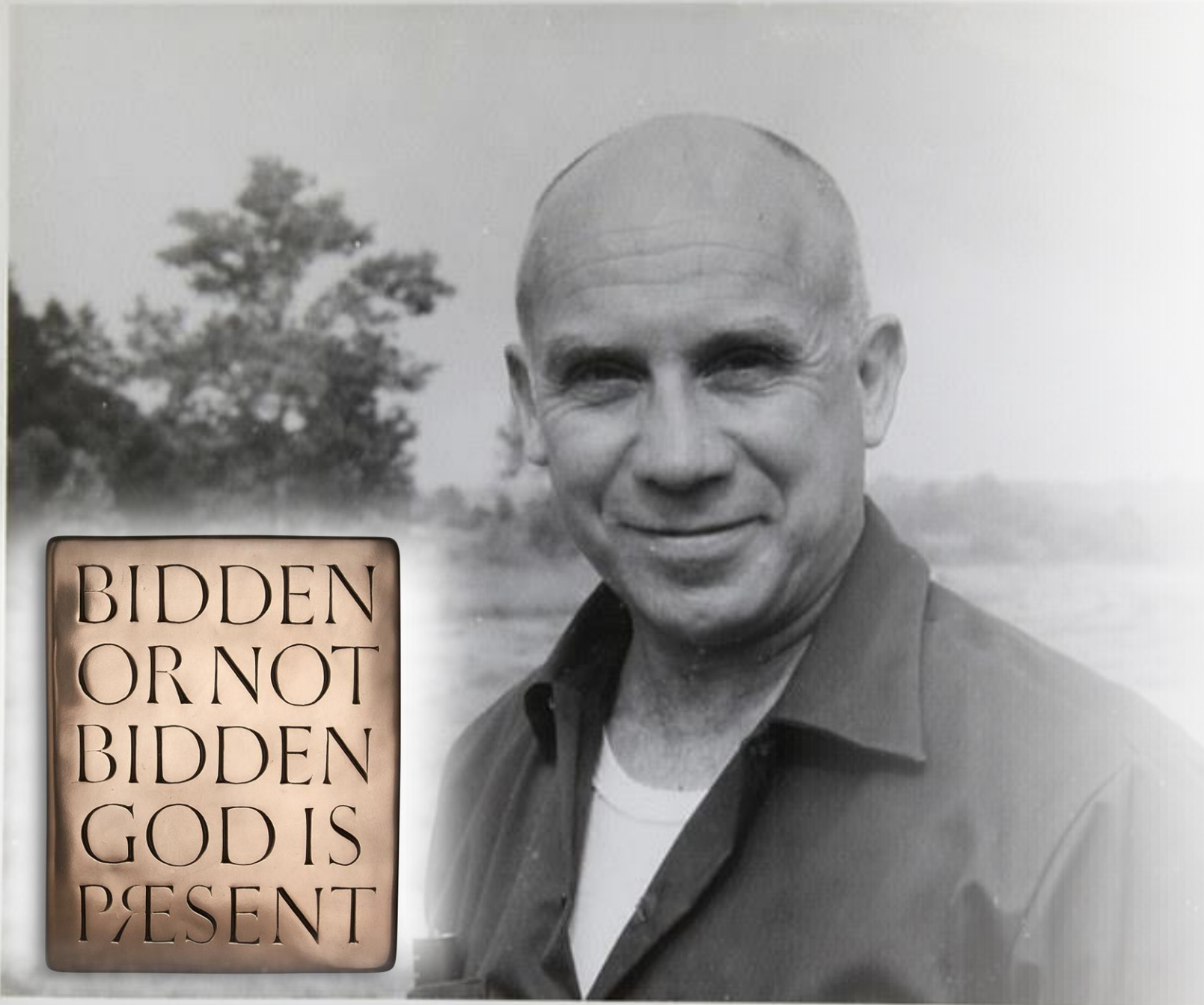


Communion

“We humans are evolution made conscious;
hence, our choices for and in the world
shape the future of the world.”

- Ilia Delio





Life is this simple:

We are living in a world that is absolutely transparent
and God is shining through it all the time

This is not just a fable or nice story.

It is true.

If we abandon ourselves to God
and forget ourselves,
we see it sometimes
and we see it maybe frequently.

God shows Godself everywhere,
in everything,
in people and in things and in nature and in events.
It becomes very obvious that God is everywhere and
in everything and we cannot be without God.

It is impossible.

The only thing is that we don't see it.

- Thomas Merton