

### Leap in the Dark – Week Beginning 10/02/2014

Each morning we need to surrender our lives completely into the heart of God. This surrender is the essence of all great faiths. It is the dark leap. It has a raw and scary quality about it. Even Jesus hesitated. Most of us, too, shy away from such a challenge. Yet without that initial, blind and extreme act of trust, repeated as often as possible every day for as long as we live, all other routine rituals and pastoral performances will only, at best, boost our ego, at worst, poison our soul.

Jesus' words to the Pharisees still chill the hearts of those who are open enough to see and feel the shocking edge of his sharp insight. He hated clerical hypocrisy. In truth Jesus had little interest in religion at all, or in the trappings of it. His passion was for the utter authenticity of people's lives . . .

As another year gets under way, it is important to reflect on these things. In our anxieties we forget the 'one thing necessary', to enjoy that vibrant sense of freedom through a blessed trusting and a single-minded focus on the divine love in the very centre of our loves . . . 'The surrender to love will never lead us astray. And the power of that surrender releases the energy of God . . .

There can be no other way for us Christians to experience the abundant life before we die; no other way to do God's will; no other way to be broken and refashioned like Jesus on the terrible Cross; no other way to flesh again the wonderful Word of truth into our church which, in its necessary human fallibility .

There is something bold and breathtaking in the vision of Jesus. It is to understand this that we are created. And whatever elitist reasons we may have for our claims to special treatment by the God of truth, without the hard winter of personal and communal surrender, we will never carry the honest light of the summer sun.

We must enter the future fields of freedom not proudly through guarded gates with our special passes, but humbly, on our knees, in a company of fellow failures, quite unable to believe how, in our sins, we are so undeservedly loved and utterly cherished by a tearful and smiling God. A God who cannot resist a surrendered heart.

(Unmasking God pp 13 -136)