

**Poem:** Hear words of the Spirit in *Drifting* by Mary Oliver

I was enjoying everything: the rain, the path  
wherever it was taking me, the earth roots  
beginning to stir.

I didn't intend to start thinking about God,  
it just happened.

How God, or the gods, are invisible,  
quite understandable

But holiness is visible, entirely.

It's wonderful to walk along like that,  
thought not the usual intention to reach an answer  
but merely drifting.

Like clouds that only seem weightless.

but of course are not.

Are really important.

I mean, terribly important.

Not decoration by any means.

By next week the violets will be blooming.

Anyway, this was my delicious walk in the rain.

What was it actually about?

Think about what it is that music is trying to say.

It was something like that.

For the insights into mystery shared by Mary Oliver.

***We give thanks.***

*A meditation on transformative spirituality* by Richard Rohr

Catholic monk and mystic Wayne Teasdale (1945–2004) recognized the wisdom in many religious traditions and helped to cultivate respect and understanding between faiths.

Each great religion has a similar origin: the spiritual awakening of its founders to God, the divine, the absolute, the spirit, Tao, boundless awareness. We find it in the experience of the rishis in India; the Buddha in his experience of enlightenment; in Moses, the patriarchs, the prophets, and other holy souls of the biblical tradition. It is no less present in Jesus' inner realization of his relationship with his Father, who is also our Father. And it is clear in the Prophet Mohammed's revelation experience of Allah through the mediation of the Archangel Gabriel.

Everything stems from mysticism, or primary religious experience, whether it be revelation or a personal mystical state of consciousness. . . . We need religion, yet we need direct contact with the divine, or ultimate mystery, even more. Religions are valuable carriers of the tradition within a community, but they must not be allowed to choke out the breath of the spirit, which breathes where it will.

For example, most Christian churches barely mention the mystical life, keeping the focus of prayer on the level of worship and devotion.

By allowing inward change, while at the same time simplifying our external life, spirituality serves as our greatest single resource for changing our centuries-old trajectory of violence and division. Spirituality is profoundly transformative when it inspires in us the

attitude of surrender to the mystery in which “we live, and move, and have our being,” as the New Testament reminds us. People’s hearts must change before structures can change. This change is the basis of genuine reform and renewal.

For the Spirit speaking in our lives.

***Thanks be to God.***

Reference:

Wayne Teasdale, *The Mystic Heart: Discovering a Universal Spirituality in the World’s Religions* (New World Library: 1999), 11-12.

Adaption of Teasdale by Richard Rohr

<https://cac.org/daily-meditations/transformational-spirituality-2019-08-05/>

**Gospel:** Listen for words of faith in the Gospel of Mark 9:2-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three tabernacles, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"

Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church:

***We give thanks for the word of God in scripture,  
we honour the word within us,  
we seek for the word around us.***