Flourishing with the Divine

The House of God

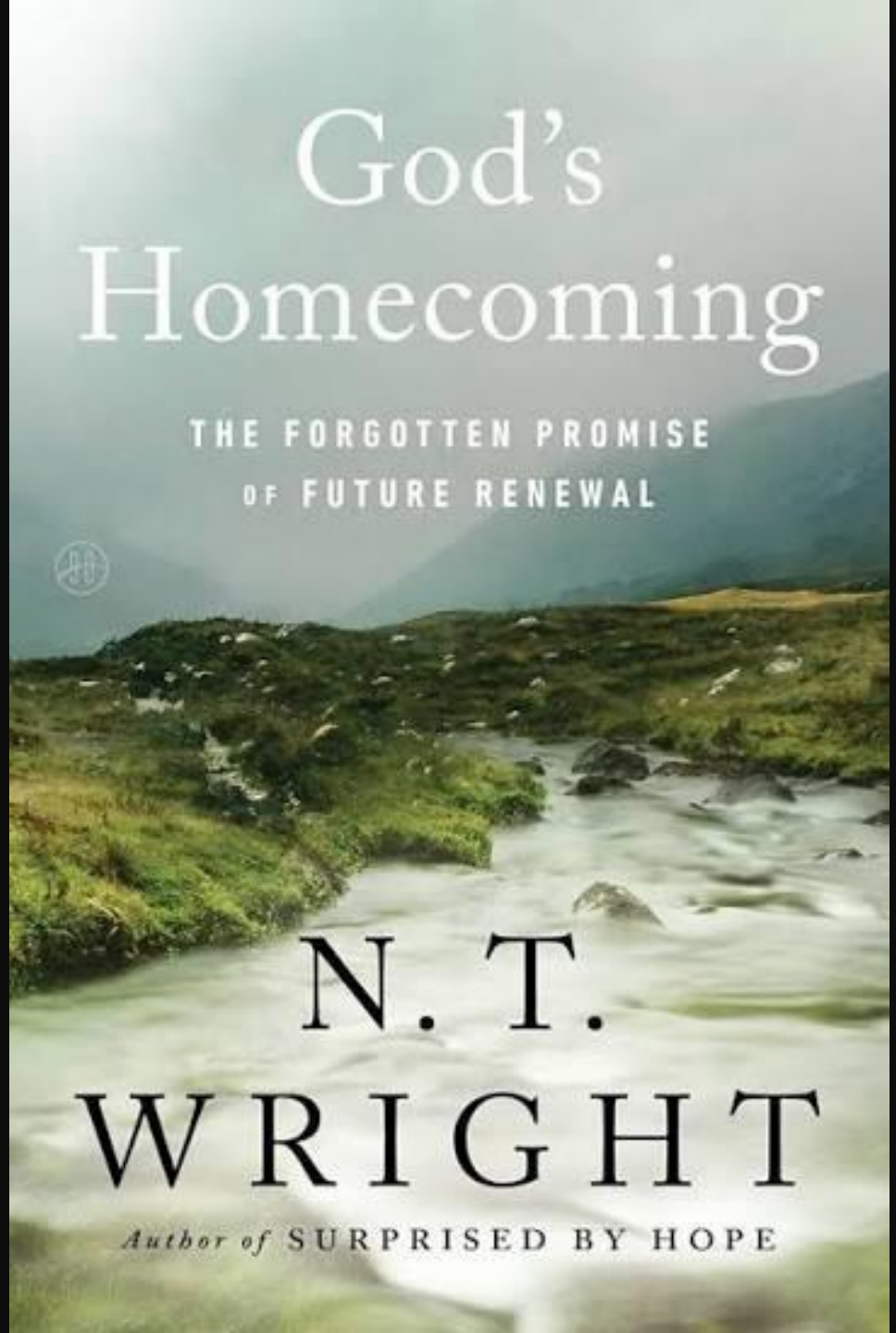


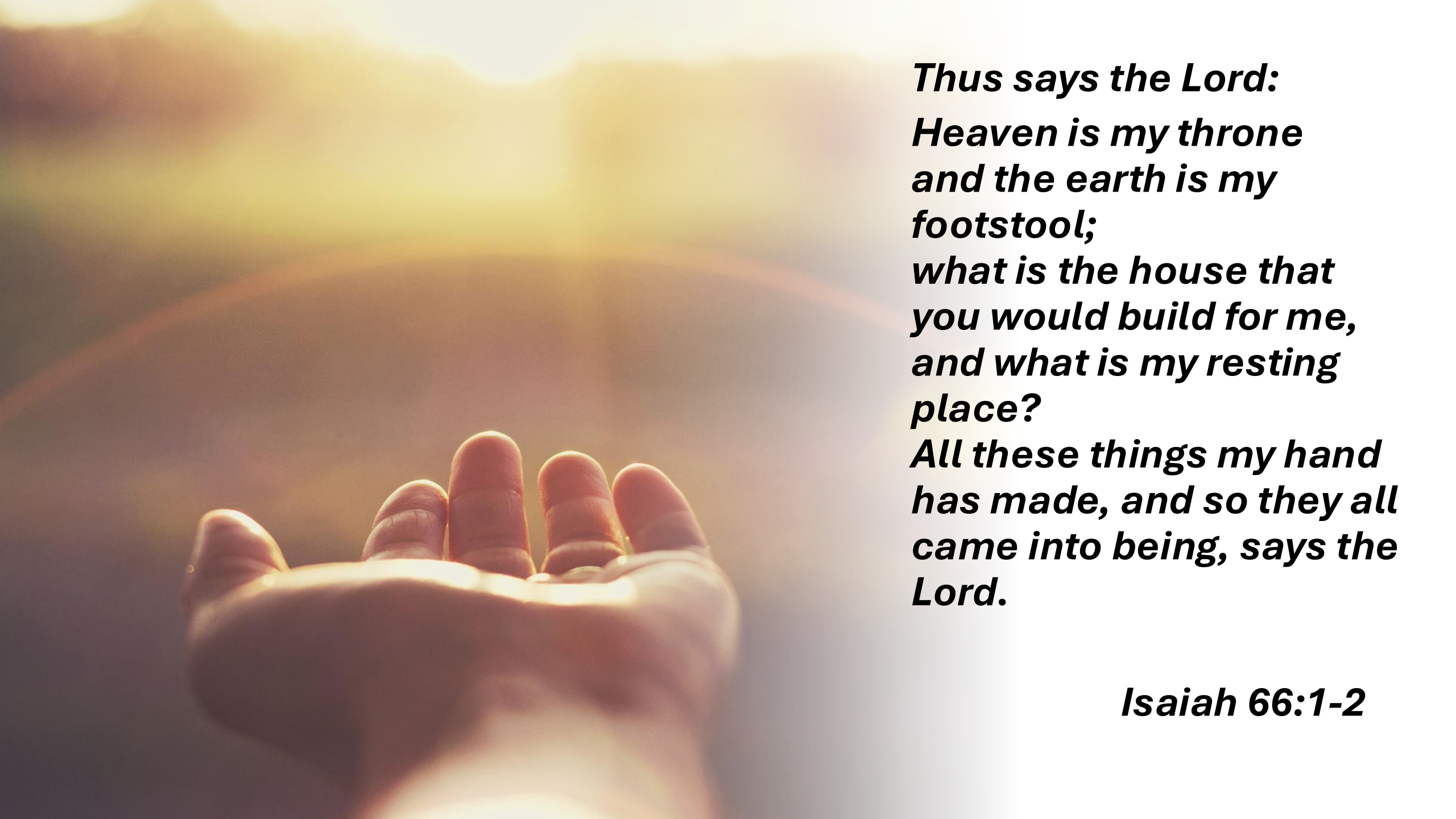
Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it.” He was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.”

Genesis 28:16



“The great story the Bible tells, from Genesis to Revelation, is about God’s purpose and promise to come and live with us.”





Thus says the Lord:

Heaven is my throne
and the earth is my
footstool;
what is the house that
you would build for me,
and what is my resting
place?
All these things my hand
has made, and so they all
came into being, says the
Lord.

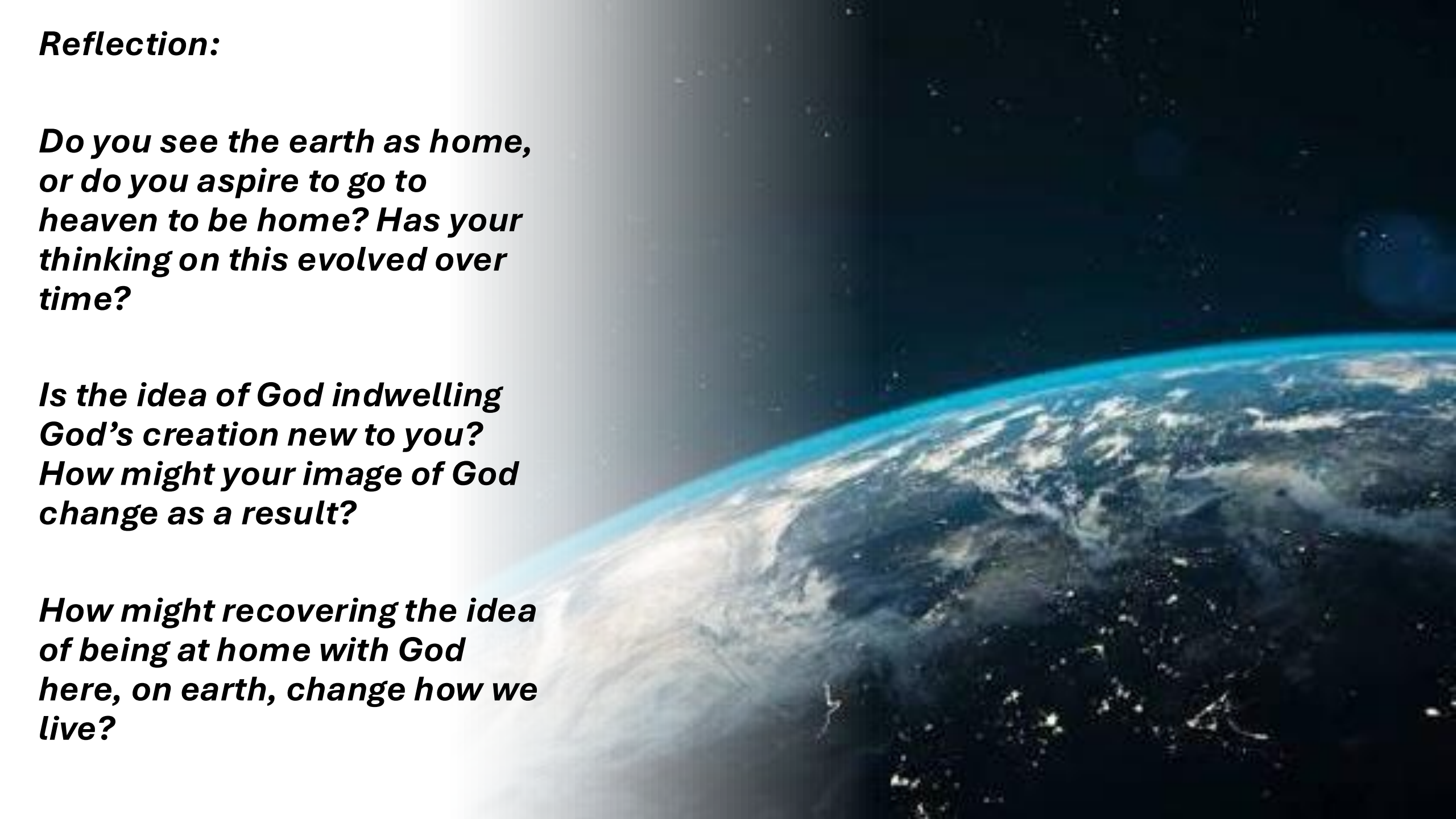
Isaiah 66:1-2

Reflection:

Do you see the earth as home, or do you aspire to go to heaven to be home? Has your thinking on this evolved over time?

Is the idea of God indwelling God's creation new to you? How might your image of God change as a result?

How might recovering the idea of being at home with God here, on earth, change how we live?



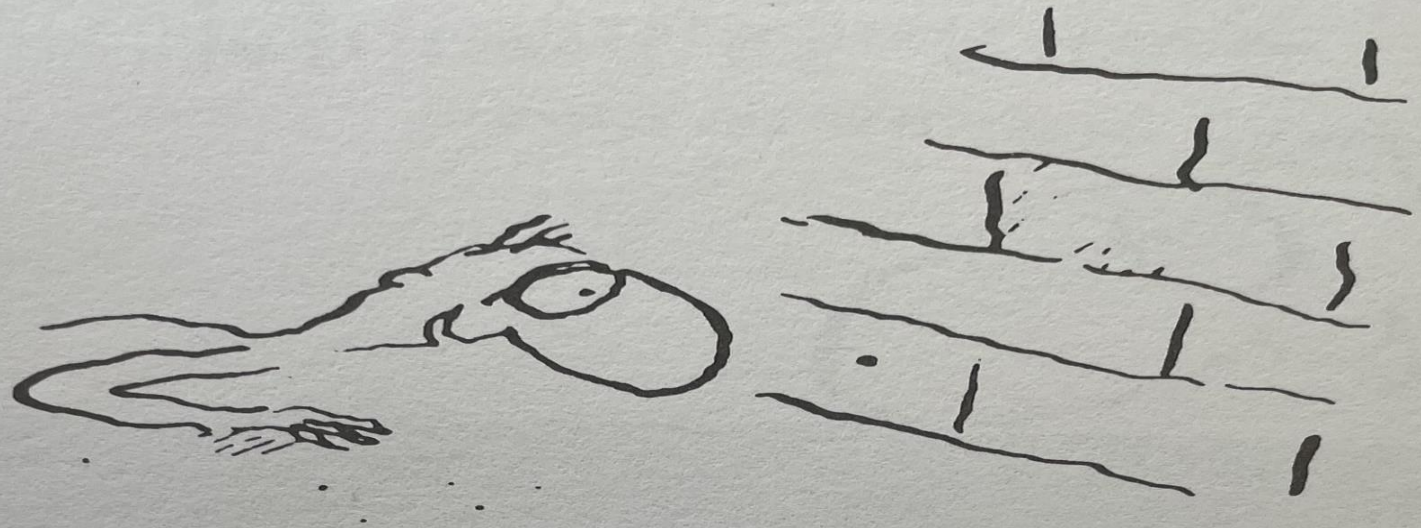
oh .... my goodness..
it's so beautiful..



just a tiny piece
of gravel in the brick..
but it's so perfect..



it gleams.

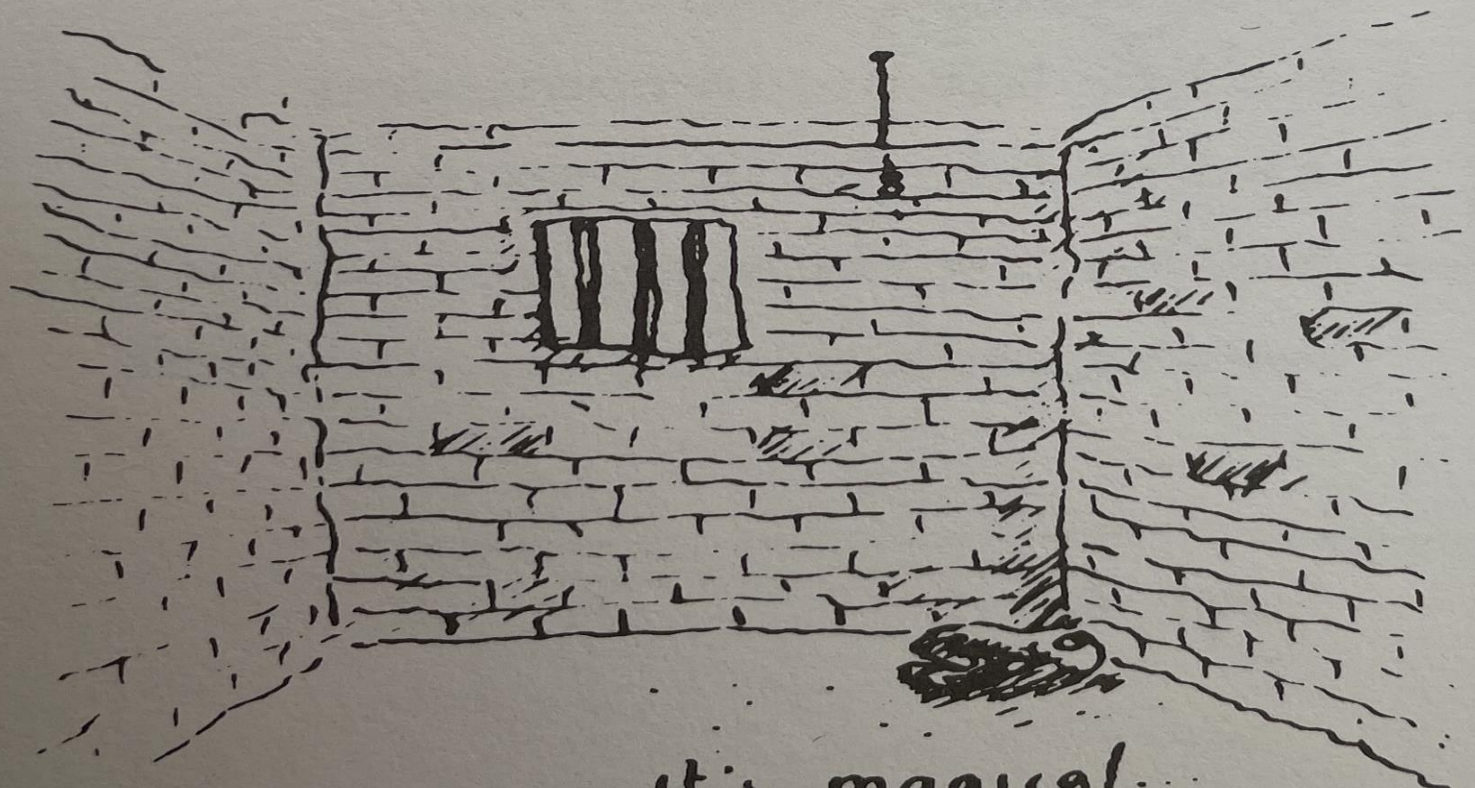


I see heavenly colors... my head swims... my vision blurrs...





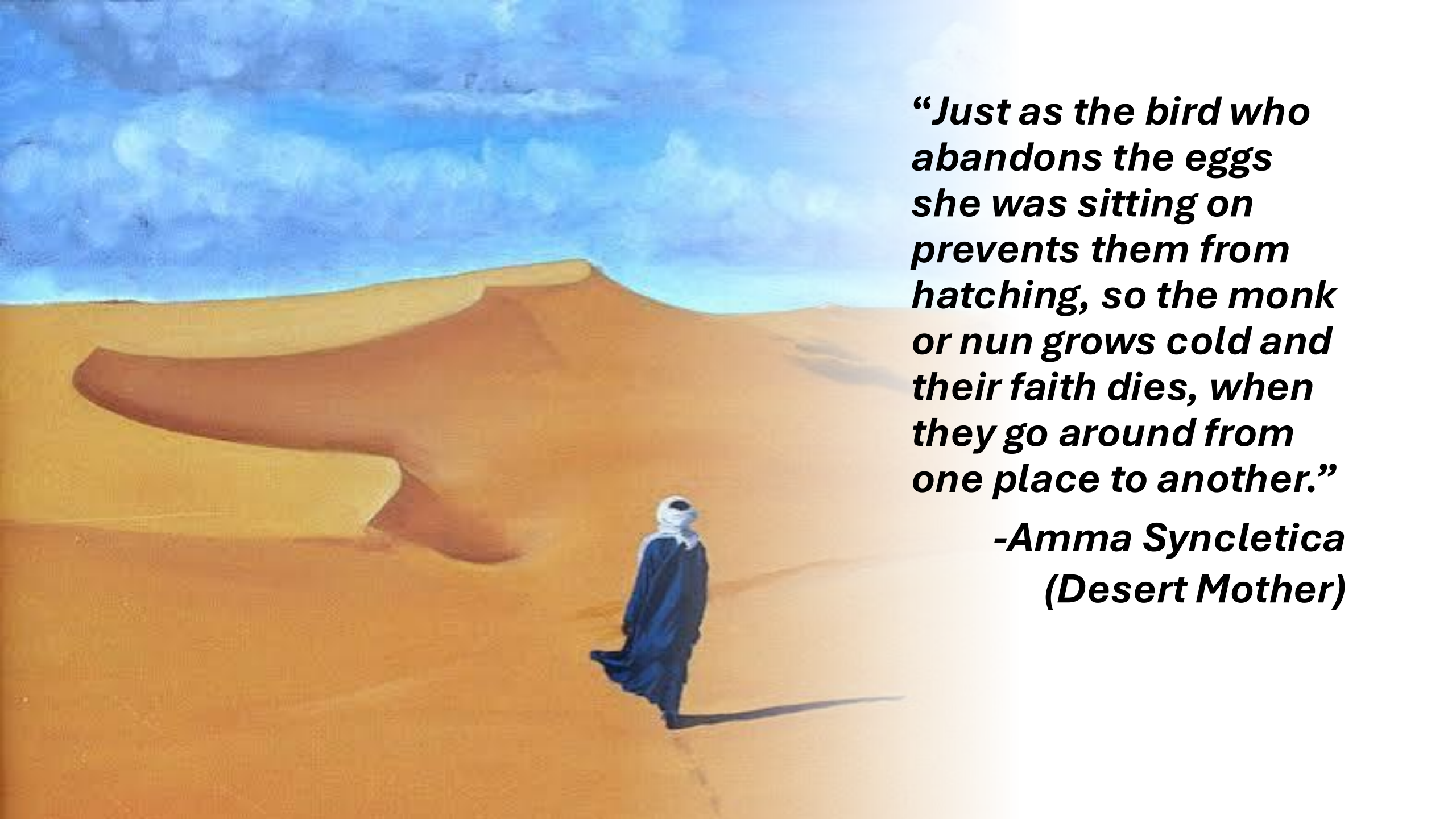
I see the universe...
...everything makes sense..



“Go, eat, drink and sleep, only do not leave your cell, and it will teach you all you need to know”.

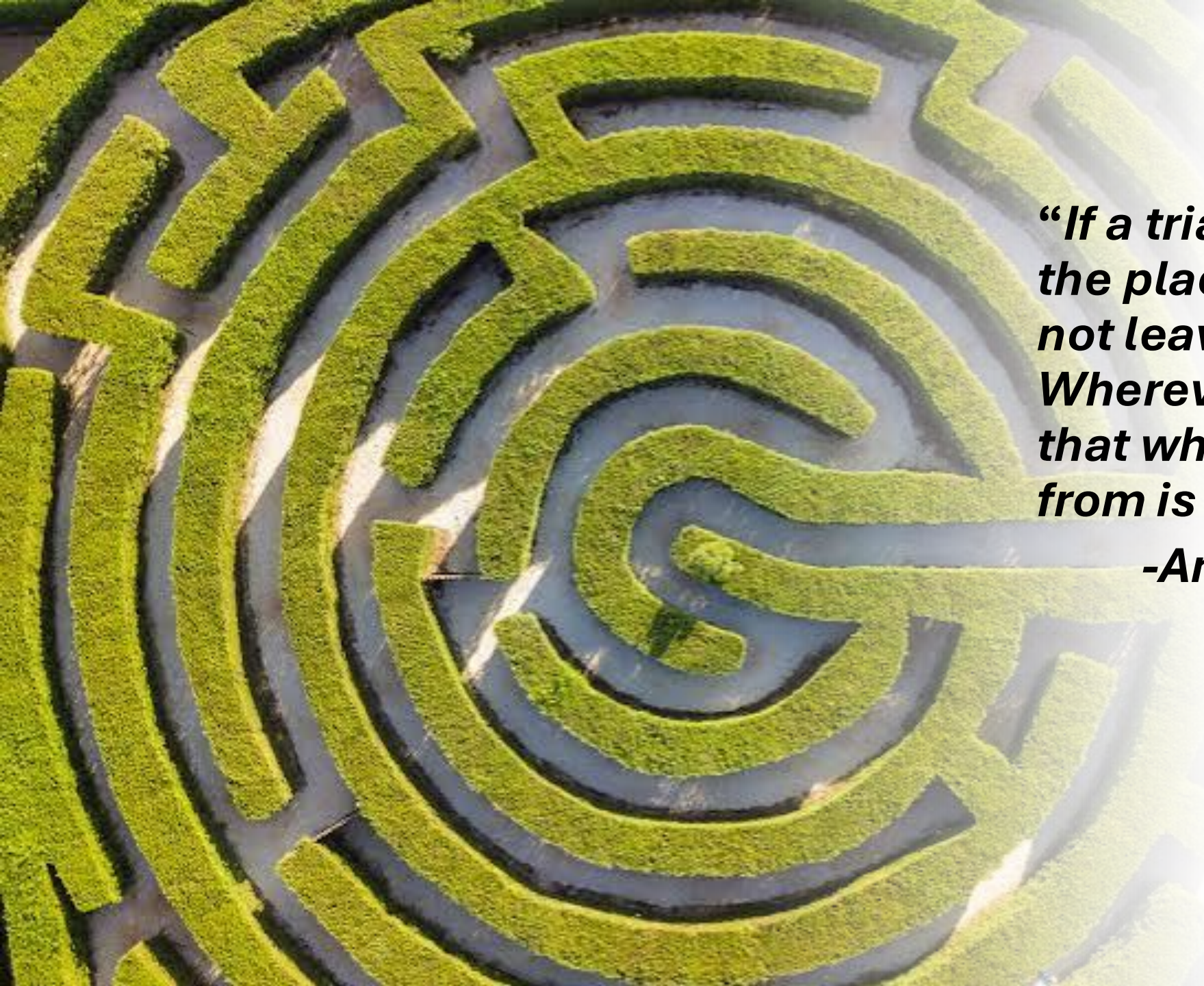
-Abba Arsenius





“Just as the bird who abandons the eggs she was sitting on prevents them from hatching, so the monk or nun grows cold and their faith dies, when they go around from one place to another.”

-Amma Syncletica
(Desert Mother)



“If a trial comes upon you in the place where you live, do not leave that place. Wherever you go, you find that what you are running from is ahead of you.”

-Anonymous Monk



Little Prince: “I am looking for friends. What does that mean -- tame?"

Fox: "It is an act too often neglected," said the fox. "It means to establish ties."

Little Prince: "To establish ties?"

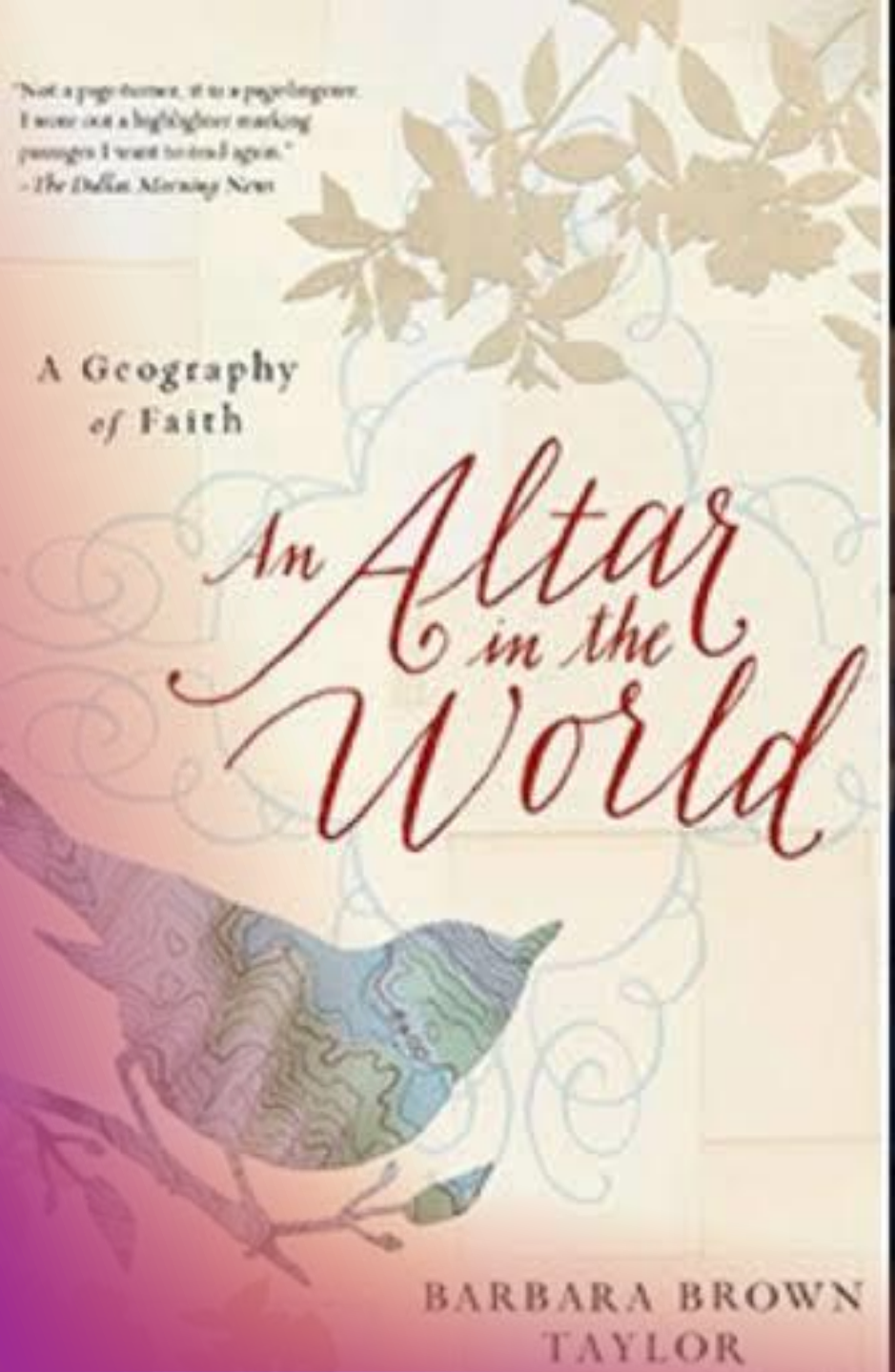
Fox: "Just that," said the fox. "To me, you are still nothing more than a little boy who is just like a hundred thousand other little boys. And I have no need of you. And you, on your part, have no need of me. To you I am nothing more than a fox like a hundred thousand other foxes. But if you tame me, then we shall need each other. To me, you will be unique in all the world. To you, I shall be unique in all the world....

The fox gazed at the little prince, for a long time.

Fox: “Please — tame me!” he said.

Little Prince: “I want to, very much,” the little prince replied. “But I have not much time. I have friends to discover, and a great many things to understand.”...

Fox: “One only understands the things that one tames,” said the fox.





"No one longs for what he or she already has and yet the accumulated insight of those wise about the spiritual life suggests that the reason so many of us cannot see the red x that marks the spot is because we are standing on it.

The treasure we seek requires no lengthy expedition, no expensive equipment, no superior aptitude or special company. All we lack is the willingness to imagine that we already have everything we need. The only thing missing is our consent to be where we are—"

An Altar in the World xvii



“Human beings may separate things into as many piles as we wish—separating spirit from flesh, sacred from secular, church from world. But we should not be surprised when God does not recognize the distinctions we make between the two. Earth is so thick with divine possibility that it is a wonder we can walk anywhere without cracking our shins on altars”.

-Barbara Brown Taylor

“Our life was no longer out there somewhere, waiting to be found. It was right here, all around us”.

-Tish Harrison Warren, *What Grows in Weary Lands*







Wendell Berry “Stay Home”

I will be standing in the woods
where the old trees
move only with the wind
and then with gravity.
In the stillness of the trees
I am at home. Don’t come with me.
You stay home too.

Reflection:

Where is your “cell”? Or, what place could become your “cell”?

Have you ever stayed in a place when it might have been easier to go? What did you notice as a result?

Have you ever been tamed by one of God’s more-than-human creatures?

Stay in the cell of your body.





The Peace of Wild Things,

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron
feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.