

Teilhard and Cosmology

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The common thread of Christian mystics is that union with the source of my True Self, once it is even fleetingly glimpsed, does not in any way diminish the flame of “I” burning in my soul. In fact, “I” am enhanced, expanded, and more nuanced with every experience of being united with something greater than myself.

If we are faithful to a contemplative practice, we come to know within ourselves the false-self parts of our mental make-up, *which have to be seen to be tamed and, when seen, yield to a new depth of meaning: our True Self. Many Christian mystics have come to know that the True Self is felt as a mystical connection to the We and the Divine in an ineffable union.*

Creation and Evolution. What we know about our world matters to our spiritual path. Our origin and the origin of matter matters! Evolution is becoming critical to our understanding of who we are in relation not only to each other but also to the place in which we live. Our understanding of evolution, as developed by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, is redolent with divine purpose and offers a theology which is as relevant today as when he lived in the first half of the 20th century. *Teilhard’s was a vision of humanity in union, a union that enhances and completes us in creative ways.*



The Noosphere. Who I am is very different from who I thought I was decades ago. I am faced with being “us” every day. What happens anywhere in the world is on my screen instantaneously. There are so many more of us. Not just in terms of quantity (I can’t even begin to understand the difference between 3 billion humans when I was a boy to the 7.3 billion human beings walking the earth today). In terms of diversity, there are so many different kinds of people. There are religious differences, gender differences, economic differences, racial differences. All this diversity I see every day on my screen if not in person.

The Cosmos. Also, who I am in relation to the cosmic universe is so very different than 50 years ago. Now we can see with scientific observation the very large scale of the universe as well as the very small scale of the universe. If you travel into and through the infinitely small, will you emerge into the infinitely large? We will ask this question.

We can now observe our movement on the earth orbiting the sun in relation to the moon and planets, as a solar journey in galactic space, creating a field of energy that is replicated in the living forms we encounter in our daily walks.

Redemption and Omega. How we see the whole and our place in it matters. We have a unique role to play: human ingenuity and creativity are our means of progress, we are techno-sapiens. Teilhard de Chardin offers a redemption theology: participation in evolution as becoming the body of Christ, toward an Omega point. Creativity is the action of non-dual being.