

# RELIGION (B)

## ALONE ON EARTH

It's very frightening, if you sit down and think about it; how alone we are on this planet.

We humans know most things about this planet - the make up of it, the extent of its resources. We also know we control it. *We also know that there is no real physical external authority to turn to if things go wrong.* We are left totally alone to make decisions that will help or hinder the health of our planet. And that is a MAJOR responsibility for that encompasses not only the health of humans but also the well-being of all wild life, flora and fauna. More simply put - the welfare of all of God's Creation of which we humans are a very minor part. *So we alone, individually and collectively, are responsible for what happens on earth.*

And as individuals, it is no good hiding your own responsibility behind the great shield of governmental responsibility because governments, however large and powerful, are made up in the end of simple individual humans like you and me.

And it's even worse if you wash your hands of all responsibility because you think you won't be around when things get bad.

So sit down and think again and think it through. It must seep into the dullest brains, both how alone we are and what a great responsibility sits on our shoulders.

**ESPECIALLY AT THIS TIME!** Just remember that human nature doesn't change and that the basic forces of greed, power and fear always have and always will control humans. So, willy nilly, we surely will be making the same mistakes in the future as we have done in the past.

Now combine that knowledge with the thought that the tools of trade we humans play with today, both at war and at work, are a hundred times more lethal to nature than they ever were before. And compound that again with the sheer numbers of humans around today!

**AND YOU MUST BE LEFT WITH THE CONCLUSION** that any big mistake made by man today will pose much more of a threat to the life of this most beautiful of planets than any mistakes of the past.

WE ALL KNOW just how much of Creation we have already destroyed, and what little amount left we have to play with.

*We must know that with our human frailty, we should no longer be left alone on earth. We do need an outside hand to guide us on our way.*

So again we say WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? Well it may sound extremely corny to you, but you go out and find your God. Now your own God may take on many forms, but essentially your God is anything you draw strength from FOR THE GOOD.

In most cases people find, or re-find, their gods with the help of the great religions whose words and teachings guide man along his way, generally for the good and in whose practice great strength and hope is received in time of hardship. The 'good' practices of these religions should be adhered to, rather than the dark side of religion which centres on bigotry, fanaticism, militancy and personal power. These, even in the religious context, are simple manifestations of the dark side of man, which is the very thing that religions are meant to counter.

OR, your own personal God may be found in an entirely different direction, for instance in the strength and beauty of nature. Like the fantastic colours seen in the trees on a autumn day, or the thunderous crashing of giant waves on the ocean shore.

OR, your God may be found in seeking simple perfection in your daily job, whatever that may be - whether it's mending the car, being a railway porter, or being an honest and fair municipal administrator.

So your Gods may take many forms or combination of forms. And provided they give you strength and guidance for the GOOD in every day life, they must be GOOD GODS.

AND HOW DO YOU FIND YOUR GOD? It helps to go to a place where you can be alone and quiet - Yes, leave all the 'props' of modern day life behind, get away from the TV, turn off the walkman, leave business and family for an hour or so and go to a quiet place. Churches are great places to go to; they are quiet and give an atmosphere of timelessness and continuity. They help you shed the mantle of harassed or hyped modern man quite easily. Or, take a walk through the countryside - but above all, find a quiet place away from sights and sounds of modern life.

AND THEN just ponder a little, not too much. It's more a question of being in contact with, or feeling nature, and getting to know yourself a bit more than actually thinking or rationalizing. Lightly ponder why you're here, where you came from, your relationship with other living things, your responsibilities, what's good and what's bad. But nobody, however much of a

genius he is, can think about these things for too long. Maybe another way of putting it is to describe it as an exercise in becoming more familiar with the natural world as opposed to the man made world. And certainly don't put pressure on yourself to find your God in a hurry - just enjoy the calmness and tranquillity - and try to make a habit of 'getting away for the odd half hour'. *Eventually, in most cases, the better side of you will come to the surface and seep out in some unexpected way.* It may be the vaguest of feelings, the tiniest light at the end of the tunnel, but if you recognize it, cling on to it and build on it, for that will be one of your own 'Gods for the Good' helping you on your way.

AND SO! back to the heading of this chapter - ALONE ON EARTH. Well, we certainly are alone if we blindly follow the path of material self interest to the exclusion of everything else. *But if, along the way, we all reach out a little and look, take time off and find our own little Gods of Goodness, then we humans won't be quite so alone on this planet.* We'll have a very real outside hand of goodness to help us on our way, and that goodness can be pooled by each and everyone of us into the make-up of our governments, our economy and of our own back yards.

We'll have someone holding our hand, helping us to prevent mistakes, individual and collective.

We won't be alone anymore, and we'll be more inclined and ready to help rather than hinder *God's Creation*.

P.S. Another side advantage to be gained from this exercise of 'quiet contemplation' or searching for your *Gods* is that you may, with a bit of luck, get to know your true self a bit better.

You may find out that your true self is in fact different from the 'designer human' image that has been forced on you by constant bombardment from the radio, TV and the media advertisers. If you follow what others want and not what you yourself really want, you are negating the real gift of life, which is fulfilling yourself as an individual. If you always do what the image makers want you to do, you might just as well be born and disposed of in the same way that a piece of plastic is forced out of a tube, moulded and discarded. Your only advantage over plastic is that you are, no thanks to you, biologically degradable.

P.P.S. It could be that finding your true self and finding your *Gods* are very closely related!