

TRANSCENDENT LOVE

Spiritual love encourages flexibility of thought and attitude. It continues to embrace change and to assimilate new information. A healthy spirituality is ever searching, open to new experiences and ideas. Part of the wonder of spiritual mystery is often in seeing an old thing in a brand new way. This doesn't occur with strict, unthinking adherence to any kind of dogma.

We all know devoutly religious people who are profoundly rigid, intolerant, and mean spirited in their attitudes. They seem to suck loving energy like a vortex from those around them, while claiming a pipeline to God. Instead of contributing to society in word and deed, they are likely to be found engaged in feverish, solitary prayer or complaining bitterly about all the people less devout than they whom they judge mercilessly. They consider flexibility, loving tolerance, and openness to new experiences to be the devil's temptation. They have ceased learning and becoming, paralyzed by the chore of traveling down an ever-narrowing road...

Courage is required to face the unfamiliar and challenge the frightening. As you get older, it takes courage to remain open to new learning experiences, to question spiritual authority and the lingering ghosts of your childhood. It takes courage to walk alone through the cave with your flickering candle to reach the starlit sky.

Spirituality is not found in the mindless repetition of rituals or catch phrases from childhood to old age. It is not clean or tidy or fenced. Spiritual life is a ragged adventure full of mystery and surprise. At its best, it is a quest across an ocean of time fueled by curiosity and wonder. Spiritual love can be immersed in all the passion and sensuality that life and death and fiery creation deserve. And in the end at the beginning, astronomers and religious authorities agree. "Let there be light."