



July 21, 2019

Pantheism Revisited.

When I was in Rome for the year of Priests, one of the places I visited was the Pantheon, a building originally dedicated to all gods. It was built between 25 to 27 B.C. but burned down in 80 A.D. It was later rebuilt 125 A.D. by Hadrian, who having travelled a lot, wanted to cater to every known god, pantheon meaning all gods. There is a hole in the roof where the smoke from animal sacrifices escaped. That hole is still there even though, now it is a church dedicated to the Virgin Mary and all martyrs. There is a rumor that Pope Boniface 1V transferred “cartloads” of martyr relics and buried them in the floor of the building. But I am getting away from my main thought.

In the Western world the view of history is linear, but in Asia it is perceived as cyclical. Belief systems that existed in the past return to be cherished again by a new generation of people. In my opinion Pantheism has resurfaced as the New Age Movement. New Age is somewhat a synthesis of a whole range of beliefs and thoughts about god.

It may include, create your own reality, witchcraft, transcendental meditation, tarot cards, silva mind control, nontraditional healing, enneagram and uses of, holistic medicine, astrology, reincarnation, satanism and other cultic behaviors, concepts related to evolution, thinking of the potential of humans as without limits, unusual spiritualities, uses of yoga, ideas of a cosmic Christ and so on... If you are New Age you are cool.

Watching a program on TV about Myth, a professor indicated how relevant and in tune with life and death are Catholic ideas. We are able to ritualize in a sacred way the core experiences of human existence.

I ask you all to avoid the seduction of pseudo religious movements. Yes, the signs of the zodiac in the newspaper may provide you with a laugh, but they should not form the basis of real faith. I am a Capricorn (goat) myself whatever that might say about me!!

Like St. Paul we only follow Christ.

“... neither death nor life, no angel , no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8.39.

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