

A SPIRITUALITY OF COMMUNION

a "hidden wholeness" Thomas Merton

An Aboriginal woman said a few years ago: "We Aboriginal people are spiritual people struggling to be human. You white Australians are humans struggling to be spiritual".

If the Enlightenment focused on **knowledge** , and one of the marks of Post-Modernism is **information** (and more and more of it) - can we recover the **wisdom** of the ancient spiritual traditions?

Stand at the crossroads, and look,
and ask for the ancient paths,
where the good way lies, and walk in it, and
find rest for your souls. Jeremiah 6:16

Such wisdom offers us deep connectedness "from the very first... [we are] otherwise engaged in Spirit" - never abandoned, never alone . We live "eccentric" lives - where the centre is not in ourselves, but in an Other. Beneath the fragmented surface of our lives there remains - a "hidden wholeness".

Carl Jung offers an arresting image. "Life has always seemed to me like plant that lives on its rhizome. Its true life is invisible, hidden in the rhizome. The part that appears above ground lasts only a single summer, then it withers away - an ephemeral apparition ."

The "magic" of a powerful image is that it will "release the emotions and move us on". "Images are forms of transport. They get us going. They move us on." (Anselm Gruen)

What images "move you on" or keep you stuck?

What images bring you to life and fill you with hope'?

What are the images that you live by?

called by name

living out of your depths

coming home

being your true self

inner flame

immortal diamond...

Philip Carter is a retired Anglican Priest. He was the inaugural president of the Australian Ecumenical Council for Spiritual Direction (AECSD). He ran the Julian Centre in Adelaide, an independent and ecumenical centre for spirituality, from 1997-2009.

Contact: juliancentre@gmail.com