

Worship Sharing 2/23

What is this path?

“What is the Quaker faith? It is not a tidy package of words which you can capture at any given time and then repeat weekly at a worship service. It is an experience of discovery which starts the discoverer on a journey that is life-long. The discovery in itself is not uniquely a property of Quakerism. It is as old as Christianity and considerably older if you share the belief that many have known Christ who have not known his name. What is unique about the Religious Society of Friends is its insistence that the discovery must be made by each man for himself. No one is allowed to get it second hand by accepting a ready-made creed. Furthermore, the discovery points a path and demands a journey and gives you the power to make the journey.”

Elise Boulding 1920-2010

“Deep within us all there is an amazing inner sanctuary of the soul, a holy place, a Divine Center, a speaking Voice to which we may continuously return. Eternity is at our hearts, pressing upon our time torn lives, warming us with intimations of an astounding destiny, calling us home to itself. Yielding to these persuasions, gladly committing ourselves in body and soul utterly and completely to the Light Within is the beginning of true life. It is a dynamic center, a creative Life that presses to birth within us. It is a Light Within that illuminates the face of God and casts new shadows and glories on the face of men.”

Thomas Kelly “The Light Within”

“A true Friends meeting for worship drawing individuals with varieties of temperament, talent, and background always manages to engender a climate of belonging, of community which is infectious and creative. The experience of “belonging” has remained with me over the years and it has grown in intensity and universally. This “giving out” of such a sense of community is the natural witness of a Quaker meeting which has in it the seed of life and creative experience”

Ranjit M Chetsingh

Queries

How do one or more of these quotes speak to your condition?

In what ways to you find Quaker practice a creative experience?

Is the deeper connection to community part of the path? Does “sinking into the seed”, per Fox and Pennington, take us to this place?

