
JOHN MORIARTY

Since John's death his numerous attributes have been celebrated by many. But tonight I would like to share with you my thoughts on his soul's journey from Paradise lost to Paradise regained which was truly heroic.

When he was sixteen he read Darwin and Einstein and realized that the geological eras lasting millions of years through the Azoic, Proterozoic, Palaeozoic, Mesozoic, Cenozoic and Quaternary eras actually existed.

He has often described this as the point where he fell out of his story or lost his faith.

John went through University and his teaching years in Manitoba an atheist.

During this time he was asking profound questions about the great absolutes, life and death, good and evil that neither philosophy nor literature was able to answer.

So at the age of 33 on Spy Wednesday, he gave up the whole academic world and returned to an Island off the West Coast of Ireland and later moved into the mainland where he worked as a gardener.

During this period John spent a lot of time sitting by the rivers and on the mountains of Connemara reflecting.

He was meditating without knowing it and one day had an experience so vast that it shattered him to his very core, his then world of the intellect and senses collapsed.

In this experience he saw that other Metaphysical realms existed.

John had no words to name this new birth that had taken place in him, in a sense he was like an embryo without a womb.

He searched desperately for help and got it in the person of Fr. Norbert a Carmelite who became his life long spiritual adviser and confessor. He listened to John's condition and being the wise and holy man that he is realised that John now needed the protection of a prayerful environment.

He arranged for him to spend a year in their Carmelite Monastery in Oxford where he participated in the formation and prayer life of the community as well as gardening for them.

At the end of the year Fr Norbert told John he was now ready to go back out into the world as he had built up his spiritual body sufficiently to protect and enable him to function in safety.

From this time on prayer became an integral part of the rest of his life.

He then studied the great Religions of East and West and it was the mystics in them who named his experience on the mountains. These and in particular St John of the Cross and St Teresa of Avila became his life long guides.

As he journeyed through the great Avatars and their teachings John finally came home to the realization of the monumental event that was and is the Incarnation of Christ.

He described His role visually in the geological eras, as laid down in the Grand Canyon.
(PTO)

John saw the religious leaders of the world, Buddha, Krishna, Zoroaster, the Hebrew prophets etc, stand on different levels or strata of the Canyon. They watched Jesus pass all of them as he descended to its very floor. He then cupped his hands and in them held the water that mirrored the whole of evolution.

He drank it and in so doing redeemed all of Creation – elemental, plant, animal and human life.

John's realization of the redemptive power of this event became an overwhelming passion in his life – especially during his final years.

In his last public words on radio a few weeks before his death he said "Christianity is a great religion, give it another chance".

In the end John found answers to his searching, not so much in human speculation but in Divine Revelation.

May I say in conclusion, Death is not extinguishing the light, it is only putting out the candle because the dawn has come. We are here this evening to celebrate John's dawn.