



Letting go of our narrative

Anthony Doerr, the author of *All the Light We Cannot See*, has a new novel, *Cloud Cuckoo Land*, in which five storylines, spanning centuries, are ingeniously woven together until, finally, they are merged in a surprising way and become a story that heals, reconciles, liberates and redeems the characters.

I mention this because, recently, I bumped into someone who I used to accompany in spiritual direction. He looked exceptionally well and relaxed. Commenting on how he appeared, he related that, of late, aspects of his life had come together in an unexpected way – “convergence” was the word I suggested or “weaving” I had noticed these dimensions of him during direction, however he had such a fixed idea of who he was and what his life should be, he tended to ignore or underplay them. Then, with the pandemic, a reconfiguring was taking place. It seemed he had let go of his narrative, giving God an opportunity to weave his life into a new and exciting mix. His gifts and stories were integrating, leaving him surprised at himself, his creativity, energy, capacities and potential.

As I chatted to this fellow, I realized the same dynamic was at work in me. These past two years of Covid living have surprised me, I was also experiencing convergence.

The “Divine Weaver” never loses a thread of our life, past or present, unpleasant, insignificant or memorable. Once we abandon our notion of our life-weave, the Divine returns to the loom with gusto. So, how about crawling out from under the tapestry of your life, (the underside is mostly incomprehensible, messy, confusing and rather discouraging) and standing next to the Weaver? Behold your life as God does, rejoicing at the beauty and design the

two of you have created over the years. Then, perhaps we will realize that, with “God the Weaver,” nothing has been lost or forgotten and, like the *Cloud Cuckoo Land* novel, everything comes together, ingeniously and surprisingly. This beholding our life in the presence of God is contemplation or prayer, opening our eyes to the beauty in us and around us and becoming story or tapestry which heals, liberates, reconciles and redeems.

Blessings,

Michael

In looking back over the dreams of a considerable period, a man may sometimes discover in tiny scraps and fragments, even in single images, meanings to which he was utterly blind at the time. They were parts of a pattern that was slowly being woven.

~ Harold C. Goddard

She who reconciles the ill-matched threads of her life, and weaves them gratefully into a single cloth – it’s she who drives the loudmouths from the hall and clears it for a different celebration where the one guest is you. In the softness of evening it’s you she receives. You are the partner of her loneliness, the unspeaking center of her monologues. With each disclosure you encompass more and she stretches beyond what limits her, to hold you.

The Meaning of Shakespeare
(excerpt)

~ Rainer Maria Rilke

Michael news

The *Levanté* retreat inches ever closer to being launched. The dogged technical details have (hopefully) all been sorted. Collateral support materials have been printed and are at the ready.

We have been in contact with a few retreat centers to discuss this retreat’s unique format, as well as their scheduling opportunities. One thing is apparent, most retreat houses are clamoring for online content as Covid drags on, complicating or precluding in-person retreat participation.

We hope to be able to announce the first offering of *Levanté* in the coming weeks – stay tuned.

Flat rate shipping

We’ve revised our shipping charge structure to a new, simple flat rate, no matter how many items are purchased. All orders of journals and CDs will be shipped for a flat \$10 fee.

Journals continue to be popular, unique companions to the retreat recordings. Visit:

<https://hermitfish.com/retreat-journals>

CD sets of some of Michael’s retreats are still available for those who prefer this format. Visit:

<https://hermitfish.com/retreats-cd-sets>

Downloads of all 13 of Michael’s retreats (5 talks ea) are available. Visit:

<https://hermitfish.com/audio-retreats>

Thanks for your support

Michael is grateful to everyone for your continued prayers, good wishes and support. Donations to Hermit Fish, Michael’s 501(c)(3) nonprofit, are fully tax deductible. Gifts of any size are greatly appreciated. FID: 82-2489475

Visit: <https://www.hermitfish.com/donate>

Creative and logistical support for Michael, his *Buen Camino* newsletter and HermitFish.com website are provided by Enigma | LA, enigmala.com