
Insights Into the New Age Movement

The New Age is an archipelago of movements, of popular Far East trends, of seductive mysticism, of idyllic harmony with the so called One (Panentheism = *God coming from out of you*). It continues to spread and to find a place within our fragmented society, a society that continues to fragment. The New Age gathers many people into a “spiritual unity” in which they are dedicated to the religion of the Self and therefore construct an **individualistic pluralism**. The Self has to melt into the **ONE**. This is the mystical that enables the absolute to be experienced. What’s more, God is not a reality who is in dialogue with the creation, but the spiritual energy that permeates the **ONENESS**. Ecstasy is sought after as the intoxication with the infinite, creating a harmony that overcomes all tension or stress, and obliterates the misery found within the finite realm.

Obviously, the greatest enemy of the New Age, even if it is not explicitly said, is the God of Abraham, the God of Jesus. Why? Because He is a God who becomes a fellow traveler. He is a God who is near, but not a God who disappears into the “Oneness”. All of creation is a work of His creating power that, even though it is permeated by His Love, is never mistaken for God. Hebrew and Christian mystics (not the Roman Catholic ones that lead to the escape from reason) don’t fall into this confusion.

This does not mean to say that there are not positive aspects within the New Age movement; however, the myth of “becoming one with the universe” and “being in harmony with everything”, typical of the religions where supreme, infallible hierarchies exist (the

infallible Pope of Rome, Father Moon, Say Baba etc.) which prohibit a personal faith through a free search, can give room to the most seductive and perverse escapes from reality. In this escape from reality a thousand apparent disharmonies, including the use of drugs, also manifest themselves.

The biblical faith in the personal God who creates, calls the individual by name, and by means of His Word and His Spirit frees and accompanies us, is also the best antidote against this ancient “sacred seduction”, disguised in modern and idealistic language. When someone no longer believes in anything he is inclined to believe in everything, especially in the illusions that arise to defend oneself from fear and anxiety. When someone moves from faith in the true God to a religion based on the promise of miracles, of Platonic and Aristotelian mysticism that is an opium and an escape from concrete, everyday reality, at first he is excited but then he experiences the emptiness of nihilism.

Jesus, our Lord, in distinction from the spiritualist religions, takes us by hand through the ongoing reading of His Word and Spirit (John 16, 12-14), and frees us from religious conditioning, creating in us a personal and mature faith. This makes us adults before God and ecclesiastical hierarchies and their mysticism, and enables us to fulfill our deepest genetic potential in order to become mature before God and before men.

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