

The Religion to Which We Aspire

We aspire to a religion that is universally accessible,

not restricted ethnically or geographically or by gender or age or status, with no claim to secret knowledge, no exclusionary practices;

a religion that recognizes that, even in religion, change, evolution, and growth are possible, sometimes even desirable,

especially if done gradually, not abruptly, by consensus, not division, with no assumption of infallibility;

a religion that recognizes that God suspends neither the laws of nature nor the principles of logic, that we humans are responsible for our own fate,

that the only way that God can work in the world is through our hands, that bad things do happen to good people (and good things to bad people) – you don't always get what you deserve;

a religion that recognizes that death is part of the cycle of life,

and that our salvation must be found, if anywhere, in this world, not in the next,

and that salvation cannot be found person by person,

but is for the community as a whole, a whole that is larger than we think;

a religion that appreciates the value and lessons of myths and legends, that is enriched by metaphor,

but is wary of unrestrained literalism and is content to operate within history;

a religion that strives to incorporate and exemplify sound moral principle,

but recognizes that morality doesn't come out of the sky but from human experience and dialogue, over the centuries;

a religion that reminds us that we do not own this world—

we are its stewards: it belongs to generations yet unborn, it belongs, some would say, to God.