



Home Sweet Home

The Rosebarn Chapel in my garden is both my earthly home and spiritual home.. here worlds combine to give me the inner peace at the end of a busy day that we all seek. Even the word 'home' psychologically makes most of us relax or feel safe. The phrase 'We're on home ground.' does the same. A few years back I remember making a home visit to Eric a longstanding patient. He was intelligent, liked to debate, willing to listen and was always searching for deeper answers to life, but religion wasn't his way or in his vocabulary. He was into science and his spirituality revolved around that... and far from making life difficult to understand, he found his study of atoms actually helped him towards an understanding of his journey as we grappled with stardust and God, though God was not a word he'd choose.

Eric's home was comfortable, and like most of us reflected a lot of his and his wife's character. However the harmony of home can be visually and physically jarred when you're sick and suddenly have to incorporate a hospital bed, a hoist and a commode. These mechanical interlopers, at first, are hard to accept. "I don't want THAT in my lounge!!"

The logic of medical aids was soon accepted, and after examining how clever levers were and discussing some design pitfalls... our exploration moved into 'what comes next?' as we looked at how he might understand his impending transition from Home Sweet Home to Spiritual Home.. Again his scientific approach easily encompassed a rationale for this. We know our bodies are quite literally a flowing garment of star dust spun long ago in the heart of suns...and Eric took that back a stage further, to a universe stored in a primary atom. Well, 'Why not?' as Barry Norman used to say when he critiqued the films on TV. Why should we not conceive of it as some sort of shining cosmic egg, as did the Orphic bards and Hindu rishis? Or why not as some sort of cosmic seed produced back in the very mystery of infinity? All religions have a Creation Story that tries to explain the beginning..

Throughout the world the search for mankind's spiritual homeland is often described as a place of origin and final destination, the source of our essential being, and the life-sustaining fount of wisdom and happiness. Were they not so universal, we might easily dismiss these phrases as comforting fantasies having no more reality than Dorothy's Emerald City in the Land of Oz. Amongst the variations, exaggerations and just plain myth there are remarkable consistencies in the essentials, giving us cause to wonder about the truth within the myth.

Around the time I was seeing Eric, one of our Consultants shared with me a book called Spiritual Intelligence.. a good read I have to say... and in a way, we too seldom consider the intelligence aspect energizing and informing our universe. Our ancestors called the mysterious source of consciousness spirit, from *Spiritus*, meaning "breath" and therefore life. It's this realm that humanity's enlightened ones have tried to connect to our lives here on this garden planet we also call home. I put this to Eric... could there be a spiritual atom?... a so called God gene? Eric stretched my grey cells and we should all be prepared to do that once in a while.

For most of us our spiritual home or whatever we want to call it, probably seems distant and unrelated to our day-to-day lives. So, must we head for Tibet or the heavenly Ganges encircling Brahma's gold city, to find true and enduring happiness? Maybe the 'River of Life' is a way of

saying that there is a continuous flow of inspiration from our homeland into every corner of our world and being that helps our mind and heart not to depend on geographical location... but even if we do there are still answers...

In the *Gospel of Thomas* the disciples say to Jesus, "Show us the place where you are..." Jesus' answer is, "Split a piece of wood and I am there... turn a stone and you will find me," and we come to realize how intimately connected we are with the farthest and innermost reaches of the universe. Whether like Eric you need atomic answers or like me, are simply happy to live with the mystery that's beyond my pea brain, seeking is an important part of the journey. For both us however there was an unequivocal shared agreement in the sentiment, 'There's No Place Like Home.' A preferred place to be when ill and perhaps when it comes to making our final transformation.. Hospice at Home enables both... and it feels like a good place to head for in the current development of the Hospice Movement... in the meantime I have to admit that Eric still spins my head..!!

Luv Lance.