

AN INTERVIEW WITH ANDREW HARVEY

BD: How do we become that ardent tool through which the Supreme manifests?

AH: Only through repeated radical surrender, grounded in ever deepening humility.

BD: When you write “His reality is birthed into concrete expression.” How do you decide what is his concrete expression?

AH: You never decide, the spirit reveals and you must be prepared always to make mistakes and to get things wrong. What happens however, if your life is truly surrendered is that your mistakes will be corrected and grace will make of your getting things wrong a door into new opportunities for wisdom and growth.

BD: On the one hand you say that we are trapped by the outer materialistic world, but isn't that the “concrete expression?” Is a beautiful large home a “trapping” or a “concrete expression?” How do we look at people with everything and decide that they are trapped? Or expressing? God didn't make the Grand Canyon or the Night skies or the oceans, small and humble, he made them larger than life. How do we decide when it is a “trapping” or a “concrete expression?”

AH: So much of what passes for wealth and power are concrete expressions and unfortunately of illusion, addiction and the lust for status. This

has nothing whatever to do with the divine and everything with our loss of sacred balance and sacred humility.

Displays of exaggerated wealth in a time when two billion people are living on less than a dollar a day and the entire planet is blatantly burning in the fires of obscene and unfettered greed is I would think a sign of sad and dangerous spiritual ignorance. In my experience the rich and powerful only become truly happy when they understand 3 things: that their wealth and power are a divine gift and not theirs, that they are responsible in deepest sense to use those great gifts with humility and generosity and that the greatest joy is never in hoarding for oneself; either money or influence but to spend oneself lavishly and freely in the service of others. Those who wake up to these truths

irradiate their wealth and power with divine intelligence. Those who do not, drown in illusion and keep going a dark, sad, cruel world.

BD: What is one thing we the reader can do today to get on, stay on or get back to our path to express our divine?

AH: The one thing that we can do to get in contact with the is divine sit down, open your heart and know in the silence that you and the divine are one in eternal knowledge, awareness and bliss.



Andrew Harvey is an internationally renowned religious scholar, writer, and teacher, and the author of over 30 books, including the critically acclaimed *Way of Passion: A Celebration of Rumi*, as well as *Journey to Ladakh*, *The Return of the Mother*, *Son of Man*, and *The Direct Path: Creating a Journey to the Divine Using the World's Mystical Traditions*. He is also coauthor of the best-selling *The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying*. His work (*Mary's Vineyard: Daily Readings, Meditations, and Revelations*, with photographs by Erik Haunt) has been honored with the Benjamin Franklin Award and the Mind Body Spirit Award; and *A Journey in Ladakh* received the Christmas Humphries Award.

Born in south India in 1952, Harvey studied at Oxford University and became a Fellow of All Soul's College in 1973. He has devoted much of his life to studying the world's various mystical traditions while living in London, Paris, New York, and San Francisco. He has taught at Oxford University, Cornell, the California Institute of Integral Studies, and the University of Creation Spirituality. He is Founding Director of the Institute for Sacred Activism, which will be offering its first programs in 2009. www.andrewharvey.net

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if your life is truly
surrendered is that
your mistakes will
be corrected and
grace will make of
your getting things
wrong a door into
new opportunities for
wisdom and growth.**