

Scripture for April 6, 2008
2nd Sunday after Easter

Reflection from John Surette, SJ

“Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way”...on the way...it was that seven mile trip the two disciples of Jesus were making from Jerusalem to Emmaus.

I want to speak about “our hearts burning within us” in this 21st century by calling your attention to two other trips that are much longer than seven miles. The first trip, the first “on the way” is the fourteen billion year old journey that God’s Universe has been making. The second is the adventure of life that each of us is making...our personal “on the way.”

First, the journey of God’s Universe... our scientists have determined that its journey began some fourteen billion years ago when out of a creative nothingness it flared forth into existence. The flaring forth contained God’s promise of much more to come. And so it happened, over eons of time, the much more to come was realized as the Universe unfolded galaxies, stars, planets, solar systems, Earth, life, and all of us gathered here this morning. We are the first



generations of humans ever to know the Story of this great unfolding, a Story that has been given to us by the best of modern Science.

It is the Story of fourteen billion years of creative emergence. It is a Story that contains all other stories. It is an unfinished

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story. There is much more to come as God's Universe continues to unfold "on the way" into its future.

This morning I invite all of us to allow the truth of this Great Story to wash up on the shores of our consciousness and into our souls. If we can do this, we will become mystics with a small "m". If we can do this, we can identify with the two disciples on their trip to Emmaus in saying "Are not our hearts burning!"

The second "on the way" is the adventure that is your life and mine. We do not make this trip alone. God's promise of more to come pulsates throughout the Universe and therefore resonates within all of us who are children of God's Universe.

And so it should not surprise us that we are never satisfied. We carry deep within ourselves an endless aching need for the much more to come. Each of us is an unfinished symphony. Our hearts are restless and whenever throughout life's adventure we experience this restlessness we are experiencing God's promise of much more to come. The Universe's yearning for much more to come and our individual yearnings for much more to come are one yearning, not two.

So, our individual life adventures are not separate from the Universe's adventure but are part of it. Our individual and personal "on the way" for whatever number of years is part of the Universe's "on the way" of 14 billion years. We do not journey alone. In fact, it is impossible to journey alone. We journey with everything and everyone that has gone before us and is with us now. They are all companions on our journey.

I invite all of us to allow these truths to wash up on the shores of our consciousness and into our souls. If we can allow this to happen we will become mystics with a small "m". If we can allow this to happen, perhaps we can identify with the two disciples on their trip to Emmaus in saying "Are not our hearts burning!"

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