

As Far as I can tell ...

There's nothing but God no matter where you look. Anything that seems outside God's domain only seems that way as a transitional appearance.

My experience has been, anything in my life that seems to clash or draw my attention "away" from God is only something in which I've not yet fully seen Her.

When I allow myself to see into whatever thing seems "distracting," I come to terms with it and I discover that She is and always was in the midst of it. Then I find, there's that much more of Her and the little "me" is that much less bewildered.

In this there is an alchemy that turns all dross to gold and all bitterness to nectar. The sense is, God is hiding behind everything that seems to contradict Her. And She hides there INTENTIONALLY, only to reveal Herself again and again in places I would not have thought to look for Her. In this, She is allowing me to see more and more of Her, as long as I remain open to that process by which She continually allows me to find Her.

Jesus said, "I am the light that is over all things. I am all: from me all came forth, and to me all attained. Split a piece of wood; I am there. Lift up the stone, and you will find me there." ~ Gospel of Thomas

I can't find anything that isn't Grace.

The surrendering is Grace.

The struggling is also Grace.

And the little "me" that keeps you functioning in the universe,

that makes it possible for you to BE the Vastness

that ... is also Grace.

But then, accepting all that,

that's "surrendering to Grace," isn't it?

Sometimes we surrender to the fact that there is something to do;

and sometimes we surrender to the fact that there is nothing to do.

The mother surrenders to the labor of giving birth. She doesn't surrender to silence in that moment, she surrenders to labor. And then, when she sleeps with her newborn child, she surrenders to silence.

According to Sufism there are three journeys:

The journey away from God,

The journey back to God,

The journey in God.