



Frère John Martin

Youth Spiritual Quest

In the modern world, particularly in the European world, many young people distrust in systems like political systems, religious systems and school systems. They see spirituality as part of a religious system. The spiritual quest is often called into question by some youth. If there is a spiritual quest it takes place on social media.

There can be many reasons why spiritual quest is questioned by the youth. . One reason can be the influence of science which is predominantly atheistic. Science demolishes many traditional religious beliefs particularly biblical beliefs. So there seems to be a conflict between science and religion.

The second reason is the rise of many atheistic thinkers. Some of these thinkers are anti religions, anti-scriptures and anti- God. They are able to present the dark side of religions in a convincing way to this present generation.

The third reason is that Christianity which is a predominant religion in Europe is not able to present her beliefs in a convincing way. It does not appeal to the majority of the present youth. It is losing its hold on people, particularly on the youth.

This creates a spiritual vacuum. Life without higher or spiritual values falls into materialism-consumerism. Satisfaction of physical needs and personal ambitions take central place. Life after death does not exist. It has no meaning. But materialism consumerism does not satisfy the deep longing of the human heart and mind. Only spiritual life can satisfy the human heart and the mind.

So it is necessary to promote spiritual quest in people, particularly in the youth. For this, religions, particularly Christianity in Europe, need to update themselves. They should not live in the past but respond to the needs and the aspirations of people, particularly youth, to day.

There should be a genuine dialogue between science and religion, science and spirituality. Spirituality should be founded on scientific reasoning. It should satisfy the scientific questions. Religious leaders should listen to atheistic voices and accept their genuine criticism of God and religious beliefs and respond to their aspirations. The understanding of God should satisfy the atheistic criticism.

There is a need to open to a spirituality that goes beyond religious conditionings, religious systems. A spirituality that is liberating, that is intimate in people's lives, that contributes for unity, peace, freedom and universal welfare.

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