

Tuesday Reflection 26 January 2021

We sometimes forget that Christianity is a Middle Eastern religion which has its origins in that spiritually so fertile region. Given the topography of the region, the desert plays an important part in the story, and many are the stories in which the desert is either an active participant or provides a background.

The other day I came across a story which moved me deeply, and which I would like to share today:

A traveller was wandering through a town, searching for hope, when he came across a crippled beggar, then an old woman being beaten, and then the funeral of a baby. He fell into a spell of pain, distraught from the despair, famine and destruction he witnessed. He ran out of the town into the vast silence of the desert at night and screamed to God, “Oh why God? Why is there so much pain? Why is there so much oppression, so much injustice? Why don’t You do something?”

The man was crying as he was punching the desert floor with his fists, crying over and over again, “Why don’t You do something, Lord? Why is there so much war, and cancer, and hatred? Why must so many people starve themselves to sleep? Why must children be homeless? Oh God why don’t You do something? Why don’t You quench the flames of our sadness? Why don’t You bring joy where hope is lost? Why don’t You do something? Why don’t You just do something?!”

The poor man dug his knuckles into the hot sand and screamed until he fell into an ecstatic state, and heard the Divine reply, “I did do something. I created you.”

from: A. Helwa *Secrets of Divine Love*

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