

In the process of reaching maturity and autonomy most of us do strive for security by trying to organize the universe around ourselves. And most of us learn only through the suffering and estrangement which attend egocentricity that this way leads not to security, but to an endlessly precarious and ultimately fruitless attempt to twist reality into meeting our private specifications. . . .

We reach our highest freedom not by asserting our own interests against the world, but by devoting ourselves in fellowship to a way of life which reaches personal fulfillment along with, and partly *through*, the fulfillment of others. We reach security only by a trustful acceptance of the full truth about ourselves and others, not by evasion of it. Healing power is latent in men because it is latent "in the nature of things." Hence it is not surprising that men and women have found in Christ the supreme disclosure of what coincidence between human beatitude and divine love means.

Christ is Saviour as He opens, for each man, the way whereby that individual can move toward such coincidence. This involves moving forward into a deepened recognition of failure, impotence and need at many points. But the divine forgiveness which He discloses always has been and always will be accessible to men. We experience divine forgiveness as that "making right" of our lives which occurs when we turn away from fighting ourselves, and others, and the truth itself, and turn trustfully toward the divine power which surrounds us and can work through us. This experience of reconciliation, despite past failures and unsolved problems in the present, makes men actually more lovable, more discerning, more capable of devoting themselves to goods which enrich all humanity.

DAVID E. ROBERTS,  
*Psychotherapy and a Christian View of Man*

*Those things held me back from You,  
things whose only being was to be in You.  
You called; You cried;  
and You broke through my deafness.  
You flashed; You shone;  
and You chased away my blindness.  
You became fragrant;  
and I inhaled and sighed for You.  
I tasted,  
and now hunger and thirst for You.  
You touched me;  
and I burned for Your embrace.*

St. Augustine,  
*Confessions*

The agonizing moments through which I have passed during the last few years have also drawn me closer to God. More than ever before I am convinced of the reality

of a personal God. True, I have always believed in the personality of God. But in the past the idea of a personal God was little more than a metaphysical category that I found theologically and philosophically satisfying. Now it is a living reality that has been validated in the experiences of everyday life. God has been profoundly real to me in recent years. In the midst of lonely days, and dreary nights I have heard an inner voice saying, "Lo, I will be with you." When the chains of fear and the manacles of frustration have all but stymied my efforts, I have felt the power of God transforming the fatigue of despair into the buoyancy of hope. I am convinced that the universe is under the control of a loving purpose, and that in the struggle for righteousness man has cosmic companionship. Behind the harsh appearances of the world there is a benign power.

MARTIN LUTHER KING,  
*The Strength to Love*

*Beneath and above the shifting sands of time, the uncertainties that darken our days, and the vicissitudes that cloud our nights is a wise and loving God. This universe is not a tragic expression of meaningless chaos but a marvelous display of orderly cosmos. . . . Man is not a wisp of smoke from a limitless smoldering, but a child of God created "a little lower than the angels." Above the manyness of time stands the one eternal God, with wisdom to guide us, strength to protect us, and love to keep us. His boundless love supports and contains us as a mighty ocean contains and supports the tiny drops of every wave. With a surging fullness He is forever moving toward us, seeking to fill the creeks and bays of our lives with unlimited resources.*

MARTIN LUTHER KING,  
*The Strength to Love*

I SOUGHT MY GOD - BUT GOD I COULD NOT  
SEE. I SOUGHT MY SOUL - BUT MY SOUL  
ELUDED ME. I SOUGHT MY FRIEND AND  
FOUND ALL THREE.