

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT: AUGUST 2ND 2009

UN-KNOWING GOD AND SEEKING G-D

I came across a chapter heading in a book of Karen Armstrong's that I am reading. The heading read *The Unknown God*. I haven't read the chapter yet but it set me thinking about my need to un-know G-d! It seems that many of us need to un-know God, to be much less sure of the character and nature of God than we are wont to be. If we were less sure of our ability to describe and proscribe G-d we would be more open to experiencing G-d in new and different ways rather than always expecting God in the usual ways, places and activities. If we were to un-know G-d we would be more like the early searchers after the Holy One whose name was unknown, and even later was too mysterious and powerful to be spoken. G-d, written without vowels, as in the Hebrew style, would remind us we do not know all there is, and that we do not have G-d taped and shaped according to our preferences. Discovering G-d is, I have come to understand, a lifetimes search! I am learning to appreciate G-dness close at hand, and working, when tears come to my eyes unexpectedly, or the hairs on the back of my neck stand on end, or my skin prickles or I experience an overwhelming sense of oneness with another or the earth in some way. I am not always open enough to recognize G-d on these occasions, nor do I always pause long enough to notice what is happening. But this is part of my spiritual journey in faith. As I ponder the idea of un-knowing God I seem to have come closer to understanding the 'God is dead' debate that surfaced in the 1960s and has resurfaced recently. God is no 'thing' in the way we understand living beings and so does not 'exist' in any way our limited understanding can comprehend. It is ok then, for me, as I continue my faith journey into un-knowing God and seeking G-d, to let go the limited God that is shaped and contained by our human limitations of 'knowing' and 'existence'. **Susan Adams**