

July 24, 2020

God's Backside

At family camp one summer, a four-year-old said to me in all seriousness, "My butt is broken." Not quite understanding, I said, "Really?" And he said, "Yes, it has a crack in it!" and burst out laughing.

In the book of Exodus, Moses asks God to "Show me your glory," and God shows it in a most unusual way: "I shall place you in the cleft of the rock and shield you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I shall take my hand away, and you will see my backside, but my face will not be seen." *You will see my backside.* It is an interesting passage about our inability to look directly at God because it's more than we can handle. Richard Rohr has written, "Our knowledge of God is indirect at best, and none of our knowledge is fully face-to-face. God is always and forever a mystery. All we see is the 'backside' of God."

Sometimes we might think there is a "crack" in it when the whole concept of God seems archaic or broken. But now is the time to examine what faith in a divine spirit means for you. How do you experience God? Has God been present to you during this challenging time? If not, why? How has your spiritual practice nurtured your soul and opened your eyes to seeing God?

In mystery,

Paula