

Perspectives

“God’s Mountain” is to people what “people’s mountains” are to fish; because living in the world, rather than in heaven, is a lot like living in the water, rather than on the land. It’s limiting; it lacks clarity and light, and those living in the water have no conception of what the world above the water line is like...or even if such a place exists. If just once, one of those fish would be willing to “stick its neck out,” so to speak, who can say what might happen.

In general, however, for a fish to get an undistorted view of the sky, while still in the water, would be to look straight up. At any other angle, the light from above is deflected or refracted, making the water line appear as a silver ceiling, the end of the universe, or a *vault*. Even so, it’s comforting to note that, like a fish, you can basically be anywhere in the water when you decide to look up. There’s no special place you need to be—a few that you might want to avoid, perhaps (like caves and such)—but, for the most part, any time and any place will do.

Of course, if you can’t accomplish any of this on your own, you must be “lifted up” out of the water by someone or something before seeing above the waterline. (Did you know that the words “to be lifted up” mean “to be forgiven” in the Hebrew language?) Then, if you suddenly find yourself in that bright, new place, you’ll discover that the eyes you have can really see. The tallest mountains, as seen from below the water, all had flat tops (they ended at the water line, you know), while those same mountains have become islands when seen from above. In addition, the tops of the mountains (in the light and air) support a totally

different way of life than the bottoms of those mountains found below the water line. Your ears can hear differently, too; and your sense of touch allows you to feel in a whole new way.

Each of us has certain beliefs, some of which are just as limiting as the water line is to a fish...and some of which are very...uplifting. In general, though, deliberately choosing to “move on” can be just as difficult for those who are secure in their beliefs as it is for those who are not. After all, an object that is (seemingly) at rest tends to remain at rest...no matter why that object was at rest in the first place...and, even though the foundation on which those beliefs are based is changing. Perhaps this is because nothing really stands still in this universe.

The land beneath our feet moves, whether we realize it or not: the continents on which we stand move about the earth, while the earth encircles the sun. Even the solar system journeys around the galaxy as the galaxy moves away from its point of origin. In a similar way, the foundations of our ideas are moving, too, sometimes without our even noticing. We may seem to be standing still (may even want to be standing still), but we are like the continents themselves: sometimes moving apart from one another, sometimes merging back together, again, in order to create mountains...or, metaphorically, an uplifting of new ideas.

In other words, there are times when we will be moved, whether we choose to be or not, while at other times, we can decide for ourselves when it is time to move on.

However, regardless of how, when or why we move, if we chose to move in the direction of God's Holy Mountain, our perspectives will begin to change in some unexpected ways. We might end up developing a new way of breathing...like growing lungs instead of gills...and discovering (like the dolphins) that we can never completely return to the water below without coming up occasionally for a breath of air. Or is it a breath of Spirit? I suppose it depends on the *vault* within which we've been living. Still and all, we know that, for a fish, taking the risk would be worth it; because the sight above the water line is so incredibly breath-taking that anyone willing to give up his old life in order to gain that new one couldn't help but come back and tell others what he had seen. Perhaps, this is why Jesus said,

"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." [Mt. 4:19]

(From an unpublished book titled "A House without Walls", by BL Jensen)