

You Opened the Door

Who are you letting in?

"So from any religious perspective there's reason to worry about a society where structures have broken down and a mass of people are going searching without maps, or playing around in half-belief, or deploying, against what remains of Christianity, symbols that invoke multiple spiritualities at once.

Some element of danger is unavoidable. The future of humanity depends on people opening doors to the transcendent, rather than sealing themselves into materialism and despair.

But when the door is open, be very, very careful about what you invite in."

Ross Douthat

Ross Douthat joined The New York Times as an Opinion columnist in April 2009. His column appears every Tuesday and Sunday. Previously, he was a senior editor at The Atlantic and a blogger on its website. He is the author of "The Deep Places: A Memoir of Illness and Discovery," which was published in October 2021. His other books include "To Change the Church: Pope Francis and the Future of Catholicism," published in 2018; "Bad Religion: How We Became a Nation of Heretics" (2012); "Privilege: Harvard and the Education of the Ruling Class" (2005); "The Decadent Society" (2020). He is a devout Catholic who lives with his wife and four children in New Haven, Ct.

I consider myself incredibly lucky in so many ways. The biggest is my faith, in Him in all His wondrous Triune-ness. I credit my parents for passing the one true faith on to my sister and myself. I do not know how either one of us could do it without Him.

When I was a tad 'younger', like four decades or so ago, I began to delve deeper and deeper into my religion. Aside from reading the likes of G.K. Chesterton, C.S. L Lewis, St. John of the Cross and anything else I could get my hands on, I also looked at other faiths, not because I was interested in them but because I wanted to find or see common ground amongst all those of us of faith, much like Thomas Merton did with his visits to the Dali Lama. I read the Koran, the Bhagavad-Gita (Hindu), Siddhartha (the Buddha), avoiding the 'New Age' imitations of religion as I saw them for what they were, false gods.

I rejoice in my God, His Son, and His Magnificent and most Holy Spirit. He is the God of everything, whether it is in suffering we do not understand (until we finally *get* 'that' part of Jesus when He was one of us). I rejoice in our great history as the church universal, despite the many things uncatholic that happened under various Church Leaders over almost all the centuries since He was here. I rejoice in the wonder and omnipresent beauty He pours into our world on a daily basis. A snow covered trail can be as meaningful to me as the incredible sunsets we see. When the sea rages in wild talk as I walk the shores and the thrill of His power feels me with Love for Him and for everyone I know and many I don't, I am also amazed when it goes silent as the wind, the breath of the planet, shuts down. Those are the times I remember Elijah and when God spoke with him not in a raging fire, storm or earthquake but in the deep silence that followed.

This is just one of many reasons why I believe the Bible is the living Word of He Who made all. It transcends all other written words and one finds many many parallels to today and so many words and examples to live by. And as far as who I 'let in the door', my guardian angels are the best of gate keepers and...

The faith of my fathers and my mothers and all those who came before them fuels me to let only Him in and all those He loves...