

16<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Hello everyone.

In conversation the other day I was led to think about some of the paradoxical things that are said of God. One of those that holds a bit of a fascination for me in particular is the idea that the God we think of as light is surrounded by a cloud of deep darkness. It seems strange when we stop to think about it but both of those images are used in scripture when talking about God, yet they seem to be mutually exclusive. How can a God of light also be a God who is shrouded by a cloud of deep or thick darkness?

I wonder if it has to do with how we approach God. In our readings from Exodus, which we have been following in Morning and Evening prayer for some time, the Israelites were happy to be led by the God who demonstrated his presence in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night. Often God would come down to meet with Moses, who would be obscured by the cloud, when he was meeting with God. Perhaps it's a way in which God shows us that He may be found in any place, light or dark. This is certainly true in my experience. God may reveal Himself to people when they are joyful or when they are in the depths of despair, through the light or through the darkness, which is why it's important to follow the Biblical injunction to 'laugh with those who laugh and weep with those who weep'.

We see both light and dark when we view the life of Jesus too. In John's Gospel (3.19) the birth of Jesus is seen as the light coming into the world and at the Cross the land is covered in darkness. Not necessarily the absence of God, as I used to think but perhaps the presence of God, demonstrating a closeness with His creation even at the worst of times.

Well, I'm not going to go on, this isn't a Theological book but just the sharing of some thoughts that may give you something to ponder too!

Tom

And finally... not a joke today but this...

I was sent this by Howard, if you follow the link you'll find an interesting video which takes up the story of a famous photograph showing builders having lunch on the girders of the skyscraper they were building. It made me feel dizzy!

Lunch Atop A Skyscraper

[www.youtube.com/embed/7QCYDzs\\_Q\\_yM](http://www.youtube.com/embed/7QCYDzs_Q_yM)

Sent by Canon Tom Page

Vicar: Ascension with All Saints

Chelmsford

(AwAS)