

Prayer and Solace

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Chapter 3- Prayer without Language

Modesty of expression, therefore, must be the hallmark of theological language. P. 62

“The **apophatic tradition** arose early in the history of Christian thought. Emphasizing the importance of reaching “beyond” (apo) every image (phasis) one might use to speak of God, the movement emerged as a prophet critique of theological presumption.”

Chapter 3 Footnote 5 on page 246

“Unsayings”

“Speaking away”

Continuing page 62....

The continuing exercise in theological deconstruction, known as the way of negation or via negative....

Its bold proclamation that ‘less is more’...came to be applied not only to the wordiness of theologians, but also to the complexity of one’s life.

It played a double role of nurturing humility in the academy and encouraging an emptiness of self in Christian living.

Exodus 20:21, “God dwells in thick darkness.”

Exodus 24:15 “Hidden behind an impenetrable cloud.”

Four step pattern of Christian prayer:

Lectio- the practice of spiritual reading

Meditatio- ruminative reflection

Oratio- praise and intercession

Contemplatio- a deep silence