

## The Solace of Fierce Landscapes: Exploring Desert and Mountain Spirituality #7

### A Time for Prayer and Solace

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

#### Part II – Illumination, Chapter 4 Mount Sinai

“This chapter asks how a wild landscape image such as Mount Sinai functions in radical monotheism as a way of knowing and talking about a God of utter transcendence.” 101

“Jews and Muslims, as well as Christians have been drawn to the mountain where Moses entered into the cloud of darkness to a God of incomprehensible light.” P. 100

“Great cities are great because of great spaces. Ex: Chicago”

--quote from my brother-in-law

“Let there be spaces in your togetherness!” --Gibran

Lilly Foundation...“A reception is an extremely difficult moment for interaction. However, it may dramatize that the most important part of any gathering is the informal sidebar conversations that are encouraged to happen.”

How does Royal Lane’s campus offer space for God to be present?

“Speaking about Mount Fuji, Japan’s holiest mountain, “Delightful, in a way, / to miss seeing Mount Fuji / In the misty rain. Not seeing the mountain, being frustrated in one’s quest, can be far more riveting to the imagination than succeeding in beholding what one sought.” P. 103

Jesus is transfigured in the thick cloud of Mount Tabor (Mt. 17:1-9) and ascends into the heaven from the cloud-covered slopes of Mount Olivet (Acts 1:9-12). P.103

“What passage from a state of ‘knowing’ to a deeper way of ‘unknowing’ is symbolized for us in the experience of being enclosed by mountain clouds?”

Curious questions in narrative retreats.

“The stark metaphor of Sinai had a way of limiting the imagination, emptying the mind of preconceived notions and stripping the self to enable one to encounter a God beyond all one might anticipate.” p. 105

“The God of the psalmist is one who ‘looks upon the earth and makes it tremble,’ who ‘touches the mountains and they smoke..” p. 105