**The Dance of Breath and Clay** ( from Immortal Diamond – Richard Rohr)

This whole process of living, dying, and then living again starts with Yahweh “breathing into clay” which becomes “a living being” (Genesis 2;7) called Adam (“of the earth”). The point is that a drama is set in motion between breath and what appears to be mere clay (humus=human=Adamah). Matter and spirit are forever bound together; divine and mortal forever interpenetrate and manifest one another. The Formless One forever takes on form as “Adam” (and in Jesus “the new Adam”), and then takes us back to the Formless One again *as each form painfully surrenders the small self that it has been for a while.* “I am returning to take you with me, so that where I am you also may be” (John 14:3) says Jesus. The changing of forms is called resurrection, and the return is called ascension, although to us it just looks like death.

Buddhists are looking at the same Mystery from a different angle when they say, “Form is emptiness, and emptiness is form,” and then all forms eventually return to formlessness (spirit or “emptiness”) once again. This is observable and needs no specific religious label as such. Christians call it incarnation → death → resurrection → ascension, but it is about all of us, and surely all of creation, coming forth as individuals and then going back into God, into the Ground of all Being. That cyclical wholeness should make us unafraid of all death and uniquely able to appreciate life. “To God, all people are in fact alive,” as Jesus put it (Luke20:38). We are just at different stages of that aliveness – one of which looks and feels like deadness.

As hidden as the True Self has been from the False Self, so also has the Risen Christ been hidden from most of history. Not surprisingly, we cannot see what we were not told to look for or told to expect. If we were told to look it was for some divine object outside ourselves instead of realizing that the divine object is also within us. This is the staggering change of perspective that the Gospel was meant to achieve…. This realisation is the heart of all religious transformation (transformare = to change forms).

The Risen Christ represents the final perspective of every True Self; a human-divine one that is looking out at God from itself -- and yet knowing that it is God-in-you seeing God-who-is-also-beyond-you –*and enjoying both yourself and God as good and as united.*