

Contemplative Space May to November 2026

Session Five, Friday 18th Sept



Illumination from the Rothschild Canticles

Scripture reading

2 Corinthians 12:2–4

2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows. 3 And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows—4 was caught up to paradise and heard inexpressible things, things that no one is permitted to tell

Text for reflection

Maggie Ross 'Writing the icon of the heart' in 'Silence: a user's guide. Volume 1'

Heaven is without beginning and without end. It's when I'm not looking for heaven that heaven appears. It is, by definition, more than I can ask or imagine. It permeates all that I live, have lived, and will live, in weal and in woe. It suffuses the ordinary flow of our lives if only we will stop trying to cut it down to our size, to objectify it, to make it finitely less than it is.

And Meister Eckhart quoted in the same text:

It is not that we should abandon, neglect or deny our inner self, but we should learn to work precisely in it, with it, and from it in such a way that interiority turns into effective action and effective action turns back to interiority, and we become used to acting without any compulsion.

Closing Prayer

O God, who art neither above the clouds nor beyond the stars, neither here nor there,
Help us discover the heaven that is already folded deep within our own emptiness.

Let our selfhood dissolve, as we break through images and expectations into sacred stillness,
Where the eye with which we see You is the very same eye with which You see us

Amen.