

***Laudato Si'* Mysticism 10**

DEEP INCARNATION

Scripture scholars use terms like 'deep incarnation' to indicate that Jesus' roots are not on the surface level of things: instead they are embedded in the earth which began so long ago. St John does not say that the Word was made *man* or was made *human*; he goes deeper and says that the Word was made *flesh*. Flesh meant '*all that is created*'. Under divine guidance, matter evolved so that at the right moment, Jesus emerges as a child of the earth, as Mary and all of us are. The Gospels can emphasise that Mary's child is 'of the Holy Spirit' because the Spirit has been active in creation from the beginning, and is responsible for our coming-to-be. So what is said of Jesus refers to us too: as his siblings we all share in his 'success story'. *Deep incarnation* also implies the deep divinisation of our material world.

We can imagine matter quivering with excitement as it plays its part in the long history of Jesus' coming-to-be. Hopkins says, 'The earth is *charged* with the grandeur of God'. Think of an electrical charge pulsing through matter, and you are not far from what physicists say about the liveliness and potentiality of matter. The Pope says:

'The destiny of all creation is bound up with the mystery of Christ' (99).

To find God we do not have to look outside the cosmos, but *within*. St Matthew insists that Jesus is Emmanuel; 'God-with-us'. He is the quickening element in this world of ours, at levels that we can only guess at. He is far more with us than we with him. He was already present in every aspect of creation from the beginning. Creation came to consciousness after billions of years, and then, just very recently, Jesus emerged, the definitive presence of the divine, the fulfilment of all that had gone before, and the promise of what is still to come. Through his resurrection, all is already rising and is directed to its fulfilment when *God will be all in all*. Then the divine will suffuse all of creation, like the glow of a perfect dawn: 'deep resurrection' is the destiny of the cosmos. No wonder creation can clap its hands and look forward to sharing in the glory of the children of God!

- Brian Grogan SJ