

Module 14: God of Love, by Mirabai Starr

This module is structured a bit differently than our previous modules *God of Love* is a powerful testimony to interfaith/interspiritual understanding of the Divine by a gifted teacher. We invite you to read the entire book if you can. If you are unable to do so within the time frame allotted, we have selected certain chapters as required chapters and others as optional chapters for your study and reflection.

As you read, we invite you to frame your reading in terms of your own spiritual formation and the spiritual formation of your seekers.

You have two options to choose from in this module:

Option 1: Write responses to the RQs and this will serve as your complete RE for Module 13.

Option 2: Write an RE in the form of a response to the entire book.

Due date: Monday, March 26.

Option 1: RQs: (Required reading chapters)

“Introduction” (read only)

In her chapter **“Toward the One”**, Mirabai Starr shares her experiences with "yearn[ing] to know the Unknowable". Do you have some early memories of connection with the Divine? Write a few of those down.

“Reluctant Prophets”: How would you describe being called to do what you do as a religious/spiritual/ethical person?

In **“Longing for the Beloved”**, Starr writes, "Death has been my own gateway to the numinous." She goes on to tell the story about the death of her 14-year-old daughter. She continues, "I didn't do it right away, nor was I able to sustain it when I did manage a breath of surrender. But gradually I learned to soften into the pain and yield to my suffering."

What has your gateway to surrender been?

“Radical Wonderment”:

Have you ever shared company with “divine doubters,” as Starr calls them? What role has doubt played in your spiritual formation, if any? And how has it informed your current experience and understanding of “faith”?

“Welcoming the Stranger”: What does it mean to you (in your unique spiritual understanding and practice) to “welcome the stranger”? Is this a normative thing for you or do you find yourself challenged by it? Explain.

“Still Small Voice”: Starr writes, “The contemplative life is not just a matter of pursuing a discipline of silent prayer. It is about creating a spaciousness in our days that invites an ongoing encounter with the Divine Presence.” She goes on to offer many ways that we can “put aside the thousand demands of

the world and offer ourselves the gift of being in the present moment...” (pp. 180-181). How do you respond to her invitation to greater contemplation? How are you encouraging your seekers to respond?

“Afterword” (read only)

In addition to these required chapters, choose **ONE** of the following chapters to read.

RQ: Consider, what is it about the particular chapter you’ve chosen that touches your heart? What part does it play in your ongoing spiritual formation?

“All Creation Praises God”

“Sacred Service”

“Mercy (Forgiveness & Reconciliation)”

“Indwelling Presence”

“Fire and Wine”

Optional:

You may also enjoy watching this video featuring Mirabai Starr talking about *God of Love*. It really captures her passion, spirit, and the essence of her teaching. (30 min.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ntldA6JNwMs>