



December 9th, 2023 Second Saturday Chat Transcript

[Participant] : Greetings from the traditional lands of the Coast Salish People (Vancouver, Canada).

[Participant] : Hi from SanDiego

[Participant] : Greetings from Tucson.

[Participant] : Greetings from Victoria BC

[Participant] : Greetings from the traditional land of the Buffalo people.

[Participant] : Hello from Springfield, MO!

[Participant] : Greetings from England

[Participant] : Hello from Blue Springs, Mo.

[Participant] : Hello! I am Kate; joining from Boston. I still grieve Marcus Borg's death, so glad he lives on in these discussions.

[Participant] : hello from Maryland

[Participant] : Hello from Sheila in Aberdeen S. Dakota

[Participant] : Greetings from Iowa!

[Participant] : Greetings from Cape May, NJ! 😊

[Participant] : Greetings from Muncie, Indiana, America's Hometown!

[Participant] : Good Morning from McMinnville, OR

[Participant] : Greetings from Sarnia, Ontario, Canada

[Participant] : Good morning from toasty Houston

[Participant] : Hi from Boise, ID

[Participant] : Snowing in Minnesota, good morning.

[Participant] : Greetings, from occupied land of the Ramaytush Ohlone people, administered by the City of Palo Alto California.

[Participant] : Las Vegas

[Participant] : Hello from a balmy December day in Michigan, the ancestral and contemporary land of the Anishinaabe peoples

[Participant] : Raleigh, NC

[Participant] : St Paul MN

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[Participant] : Durham NC on a lovely day

[Participant] : pat milliren in Port Angeles, WA

[Participant] : Happy Holy days to all from Salt Lake City.

[Participant] : Hi to all from Oklahoma, which means “red man” and describes our politics as well. Great to see Brandon and Jack, two important voices in my theological journey 😊

[Participant] : Thank you so much for adding Closed Captioning!!!

[Participant] : If Jesus were to tell parables for our time, what would the parable topics be? He would probably use current media, but what would he say?

[Participant] : Utopia?

[Participant] : Fan Fiction? Sort of...

[Participant] : It occurs to me that a response of "Then sings my soul" is in response to the theopoetics of the story, where it meets heart and mind. It's not so much a statement of belief, but one of the soul's echo to the song first heard.

[Participant] : “And in the activity of poetry too, there is a tendency to place a counter-reality in the scales — a reality which may be only imagined but which nevertheless has weight because it is imagined within the gravitational pull of the actual and can therefore hold its own and balance out against the historical situation. This redressing effect of poetry comes from its being a glimpsed alternative, a revelation of potential that is denied or constantly threatened by circumstances. And sometimes, of course, it happens that such a revelation, once enshrined in the poem, remains as a standard for the poet, so that he or she must then submit to the strain of bearing witness in his or her own life to the place of consciousness established in the poem.”

—Seamus Heaney, *The Redress of Poetry*

[Participant] : From your perspective, is there a distinction between spiritual and supernatural?

[Participant] : I am a scientist and Christian mystic. I can see the divide between naturalism and theopoetics. For me, that distinction is irrelevant. I look at stories like Jesus walking on water and ask, what does this tell me about responding to stuff in my life?' If I am to be a committed Christian (doing as Jesus would do), then I look for people sinking in the water (life) and do what I can to save them from drowning. I believe that God is in how we respond to whatever life hands us. Please comment on how that view factors into levin (times when the understanding of God is unclear??) or the typical teaching from the pulpit when considering Jesus walking on the water is about Jesus helping us walk us, rather than us being like Jesus and helping other.

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[Participant] : Or rather, if supernaturalist frames of reality are not to be believed, how would you describe spirituality? What are the trans-material dimensions that are available to us as humans?

[Participant] : Reacted to "'And in the activity..." with ❤️

[Participant] : what is Brandon's last name, please.

[Participant] : By leaving behind the idea that the supernatural is against nature instead of being trans-natural. I have no appetite for the supernatural because the natural itself is super 😊 This is what quantum physics is teaching us.

[Participant] : Scott

[Participant] : thank you

[Participant] : Another Irish poet to bring into the conversation: Micheal O'Siadhail.

[Participant] : Since supernatural theology is dangerous then how do we respond in ways that transform that paradigm?

[Participant] : Plenary question—if the story of the Israel v Hamas war is told a hundred years from now, what would the theopoetics of that narrative sound like? What would we have learned, or not learned, about terrorism and what a truly religious respond to it might be?

[Participant] : Great question from Robin

[Participant] : EO Wilson identified: we have paleolithic brains, medieval institutions, and godlike powers.

[Participant] : The "post-human" condition, I'd say, is NOT inevitable, but it takes quite a bit of comprehension to intelligently counter the movement toward General AI.

[Participant] : Great conversation!

[Participant] : I must leave for another event. Thank you for this day.

[Participant] : Another important recent resource, "Circles and the Cross: cosmos, consciousness, Christ and the human place in creation" by Loren Wilkinson.

[Participant] : The western mindset seems to be set on the commodification of what we touch, what we see, what we need.

[Participant] : As referenced by Brandon Scott, the Native traditions are generally more respectful in their engagement with the physical world, whereas from the inception of European-settled communities in north America, we have been bent on getting what we could

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from the resources of the biosphere for our comfort and lifestyle. IMO, this needs to be addressed and shifted at the cultural level.

[Participant] : "Danger" due to the inflated assumptions of the State of Israel.

[Participant] : Thank you for this wonderful conversation today!

[Participant] : So grateful for this brilliant conversation, and comforting to hear confirmation of my own journey. What the guests have shared builds into our own limited background.

[Participant] : Question -- I believe both Brandon and Jack started out as Roman Catholics? Could they both address Pope Francis and what he's been trying to do, (with great pushback from the US bishops), and do they think there is reason for hope.

[Participant] : I don't think we can say that we (Earth/humanity) are insignificant. As far as we know we are the only species in the universe that has built devices like the Webb telescope, that wonders about why is there anything? but also is capable of building both a Taj Mahal and the gas ovens of Auschwitz.

[Participant] : Thank you for this discussion today. I believe the Christian Church (DOC) is moving beyond Deconstruction. However, there are many people that are not even in Deconstruction let alone going beyond. We must reach these people! We are trying in Springfield, MO!

[Participant] : Reacted to "I don't think we can..." with ❤️

[Participant] : An illuminating conversation Thanks to all

[Participant] : We are Wayfarers

[Participant] : Micheal O'Siadhail addresses God as "Madam Jazz" and writes about the endless improvisations we are capable of and invited to.

[Participant] : One of the best of the Second Saturday conversations. Thank you!!!

[Participant] : Provocative discussion. Radicalism at its best.

[Participant] : What is the role of the current progressive christian movement in taking on the very dangerous autocratic politically activated christian right?

[Participant] : Curious that five pounds of meat can see four million years into the past just by gazing at the night sky.

[Participant] : I have to remember that... the "primary purpose of God is to remind us we are not" YUP!

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[Participant] : Having just retired I still have empathy with those struggling in the pulpit with this Jesus issue as I did. Thank you for this wonderful discussion.

[Participant] : While I do like the label "People of the Way," I'm quite comfortable to be labeled a "Progressive Christian" because I'm of that tradition — even if the "Christ" image, for me, is not at all like the 2nd person of the Trinity, but a God-touched extraordinary human being.

[Participant] : Thank you.

[Participant] : Thank you

[Participant] : Thank you from Malaysia. Bye.

[Participant] : I have enjoyed this conversation, thank you all 🙏

[Participant] : Wow. Thank you for this conversation. I'm struck by the idea that Jesus talked more about community than about God. My job is community engagement for the ACLU of Oregon. I believe that being community - especially across difference - is critical to save our democracy. You've now planted seeds for me to consider that being community is key to our salvation. Salvation for this world, not the next one if it exists.

[Participant] : "grok" is from Heinlein's Stranger in a Strange Land.

[Participant] : Stranger in strange land — grok

[Participant] : Great discussions. Thank yu, Marianne

[Participant] : grok is from Robert Heinlein in a scifi story Stranger in a Strange Land

[Participant] : Empire used/co-opted Jesus and Christianity in service of expanding empire.

[Participant] : Again, EO. Wilson said we have paleolithic brains, medieval institutions, and godlike powers.

[Participant] : Jack's statement brings to mind for me James Baldwin's quote, "We can disagree and still love each other unless your disagreement is rooted my oppression and denial of my humanity and right to exist."

[Participant] : Please put names of those authors here in chat.

[Participant] : Daniel Schmacentenberger (interviews on YouTube)Nate Hagens (mostly podcasts)

[Participant] : Tristan Harris

[Participant] : fabulous conversation today - thanks so much 🙏💕

[Participant] : I'm always dismayed when we talk about how insignificant we are when considering ourselves scientifically, specks of dust in a gazillion universes, etc. Why do we stop

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there? I think God is so great that it's true that the even the fall of one sparrow matters to God. It doesn't matter, then, how small we are.

[Participant] : I believe firmly that we are the ones we are waiting for.

[Participant] : There are groups within Churches and outside. Seek one,, Start One.

[Participant] : For a hopeful take on humanity read Humankind by Rutger Bregman.

[Participant] : The risks are REAL. The Metacrisis is larger than a single mind/person can understand.

[Participant] : Yeah Brandon you nailed it

[Participant] : Very important topic, from Ruth White and accentuated by Brandon Scott. What is there now for coping with the isolation of being human now? Yes, agree, our capitalistic society makes this worse.

[Participant] : Brandon I'm 82 also and have had that same thought that I'll be gone, but then there are my children and grandchildren. Sigh.

[Participant] : Mutual aid is real and happening in the cracks. People are taking care of each other. Real justice rather than charity.

[Participant] : Those who have been raised in the era of internet-based technologies already are "wired" to understand the extent of the interconnectedness of everything.

[Participant] : `We are talking about going back to like the small communities searching for meaning and an alternative culture (not Roman) like the first and second centuries communities following Jesus.

[Participant] : Thanks, Jack. Micro-communities. I just visited one yesterday. A retirement home, in Quaker tradition, and the focus is all about community. Not just care taking, but flourishing, thriving community.

[Participant] : They may not be part of religious communities. Their praxis is deeply rooted in social justice.

[Participant] : Really helpful discussion. Thank you all. This is a micro-community too.

[Participant] : Thanks to Brandon and Jack. This conversation is actually hopeful. Thanks to Marianne for convening, holding the space.