

February 14th, 2026 Second Saturday Chat Transcript

[Participant] : Recently I had a conversation with someone and I said that God is not a supernatural being. That did not go well. However, I followed up with the following information and that smoothed things over. If by "Ground of Being" you mean that God is not just one "thing" among other things, but is Being itself, then you are actually in perfect alignment with mainstream Catholic dogma. St. Thomas Aquinas, the Church's most influential theologian, argued that God is not a substance in the way a tree or a human is. He called God *\(Ipsum\ Esse\ Subsistens\)*—subsistent being itself. In this view: God is the source and sustainer of everything that exists. God does not "have" life; God is Life. Without God's constant "holding" of reality, everything would cease to exist. For Aquinas God is the pure act of being and for John Duns Scotus God is a mode of being that we all share.

[Participant] : I love that song.

[Participant] : My sound is very choppy. The music is difficult to understand. Am I the only one?

[Participant] : My audio is fine

[Participant] : Thanks. It must be me then...

[Participant] : Mine is also bad. Loud, harsh and choppy.

[Participant] : My sound is perfect...

[Participant] : my sound is crazy...I'll be back

[Participant] : If your sound is not great it is most likely your internet connection.

[Participant] : Hello from Milwaukee.

[Participant] : Hallo from Ingerland

[Participant] : Hello from Saint Joseph MO

[Participant] : I'm back and can hear well

[Participant] : Welcome to Second Saturday. We are so glad you are here.

[Participant] : Hi from Paul & Carol living about an hour NW of Toronto (Ontario, Canada)

[Participant] : Hello from Vancouver Island off the west coast of Canada

[Participant] : And I'm in the other Vancouver--in Washington.

[Participant] : Mine was loud and a bit choppy

[Participant] : Greetings from western Pennsylvania!

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[Participant] : "The ground of being."

[Participant] : Radical theology was discussed in a number of mainline protestant churches in the 1960's. Ministers then were schooled in seminary with Tillich, the Niebuhrs, Bultman, etc. Of course, those who stayed in churches rejected being faced with Reality.

[Participant] : , and moved to cultural liberalism or fundamental evangelism. .

[Participant] : Another German word: *mitsein*. Withbeing. All being is withbeing.

[Participant] : don't forget you can turn on close captioning

[Participant] : Life as a koan?

[Participant] : Reacted to "Life as a koan?" with ❤️

[Participant] : The "impossible to imagine" makes me think of book *The Giver* -- and the question of how do you explain/describe color if you have never seen anything beyond black and white.

[Participant] : Thich Nhat Hanh coined the word "inter-being," we "inter-are."

[Participant] : What does the future really matter vs the now?

[Participant] : Now creates the future.

[Participant] : stephens.braun@gmail.com for further discussion

[Participant] : There may not be a future - only many nows

[Participant] : Look, if we don't acknowledge that we live on a planet with limited resources, then there will be consequences. We could say that God is the Great Limiter - note Tillich essay on *The Escape From God*

[Participant] : Radical theology replaces belief with trust.

[Participant] : Jesus is a functional icon (among other things) that opens the window to the EVENT.

[Participant] : What a GOOD NEWS expression so needed in our contemporary world!! Thanks, Jack Caputo, M. Borg, & Marianne!

[Participant] : Process theology (or philosophy) sees reality not as things, but as events. All is motion.

[Participant] : Everything that begins will. end.

[Participant] : One thought that helped when I left home to go to college was "Whatever happens (now or past) can never not have happened."

[Participant] : The temporary nature all that we love is what gives it value.

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[Participant] : How we give worth to this ultimate reality "in whom we live, move, & have our being" in our worship, when that symbol we've gathered to worship, seems to me, following on with J. Caputo's radical theology, simply takes me back to the tradition of Society of Friends, after 80+ years of Anglican worship, to silence, awe, and letting our lives speak!

[Participant] : please spell name of this poet and name of this poem

[Participant] : God is a verb Continually creation the cosmos and our earth (Gaia) we are responsible to participate in creation with God, the cosmic Christ.

[Participant] : With You poem text:

<https://library.biblicalarchaeology.org/sidebar/pamela-vermes-poet-and-scholar/>

[Participant] : I deeply appreciate Marianne's humility and transparency.

[Participant] : Curious. How many have been with Marianne, Marcus, Sarah, and Dom on pilgrimages?

[Participant] : Appreciate you and your efforts to make Jack's work more attainable! Thanks Marianne

[Participant] : I think children are naturally radical theologians and we are reminded of this when we are with them.

[Participant] : For me ...Marianne , You're not rambling. I need to hear about the God of possibility over and over again! We've all grown up with such a small, confined God!

[Participant] : If we take the view that God is the Infinite unfolding of Life, then it follows that we have no choice but to participate in this unfolding. Is this an invitation to participate consciously, with intention?

[Participant] : I iltoowould like the name of the poet

[Participant] : Gratefulness.org is now called Grateful Living. grateful.org.

[Participant] : Why is there something rather than nothing? Why is that something dynamic rather than static? Why is that something totally fair/equal for all? Not questions to be answered but mysteries to be accepted.

[Participant] : Intoomwould like the name of the poet.

[Participant] : Me too!

[Participant] : This is a link to the poem. If you click on it now, it will (probably) open your browser. OR you can SAVE the Chat and open it later: With You poem text:

<https://library.biblicalarchaeology.org/sidebar/pamela-vermes-poet-and-scholar/>

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[Participant] : Thanks.

[Participant] : All of you should have seen my middle school students' brains twist when I told them that there is more stuff in what we call the nothingness of space than there is in what we call the something of the universe. One of my most loved moments of my teaching life. Messing with kids minds.

[Participant] : Note the date of this he Call

[Participant] : Being of the age when being foggy, confused, spacey is fact of life, I view it as my just desserts. And I love dessert.

[Participant] : What's the best book on deconstructing the Nicene Creed? How to translate rigid and literal terms and "beliefs" into poetic symbols relevant for today?

[Participant] : All this is so much like Spinoza panentheism We and everything is in God and God is in us Three ways of thinking imagination rational thought and intuisum Yes Ground of being and the closest we get is through silence. Ald God s eternal wisdom which has manifested itsel f in all things but most in the human mind and most of all in Christ Jesus Claire Carlisle has written on Spinozas religion

[Participant] : It is as if the mind rests in something God

[Participant] : Panentheism follows from Acts 17:28 "in him we live and move and have our being"

[Participant] : Focusing on Jesus as a wisdom teacher seems to be a practical approach to living a life of holiness and love that feels attainable and doable.

[Participant] : Thank you for such a generative and generous presentation and conversation.

[Participant] : "To die into God" for me means dying to whatever separates us from Him. Ego and Pride.

[Participant] : Jesus illuminates while refusing to require the Christian beileif of one mediator

[Participant] : i.e.. that salvation only thru Christ

[Participant] : And that the eternal essence of each person (already in God) the eternal essence of each person is eternally in god

[Participant] : Thank you for this lively discussion, Marianne and Jeff and all

[Participant] :

<https://canterburypress.hymnsam.co.uk/books/9781848254688/the-splash-of-words> The Splash of Words Believing in poetry Mark Oakley recommended

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[Participant] : joyful communion with others is our highest happiness we enjoy one another in God

[Participant] : love the idea of the Street where you live

[Participant] : Amazing idea to have me rethink "The Street Where You Live" in a much more expansive way. THANK you for that ❤️

[Participant] : Singer please?

[Participant] : Perry Como

[Participant] : When I was working with the RCIA inquiry program for those that were catholic curious, I had may modern songs that I used as "my unusual hymns." Trogs, Tears for Fears, Everly Brothers, lot of Nate King Cole and his daughter. Fun.

[Participant] : fruits of the spirit

[Participant] : To Mariannne and Jeff - use my email to discuss the poem I posted and to receive the video of that talk I gave some time back. You said it aloud once (your email) but i didn't get it that way. thanks

[Participant] : Love is the work and becoming of deep relationally which goes well beyond the human.

[Participant] : Building on "who knows what's the come", the call is to create the kin[d]om of God in the here and now, rather than as a reward for a hoped for someday. There's plenty for us to do to love and care for one another and all God's creatures and care to for creation/be good stewards of God's creation.

[Participant] : Thank you for that quote. I didn't know it and want to LIVE it.

[Participant] : Thank you all

[Participant] : I'd like a copy of that benediction.

[Participant] : with deep gratitude

[Participant] : 😊

[Participant] : Thank you, Marianne and Jeff. Blessings to all.