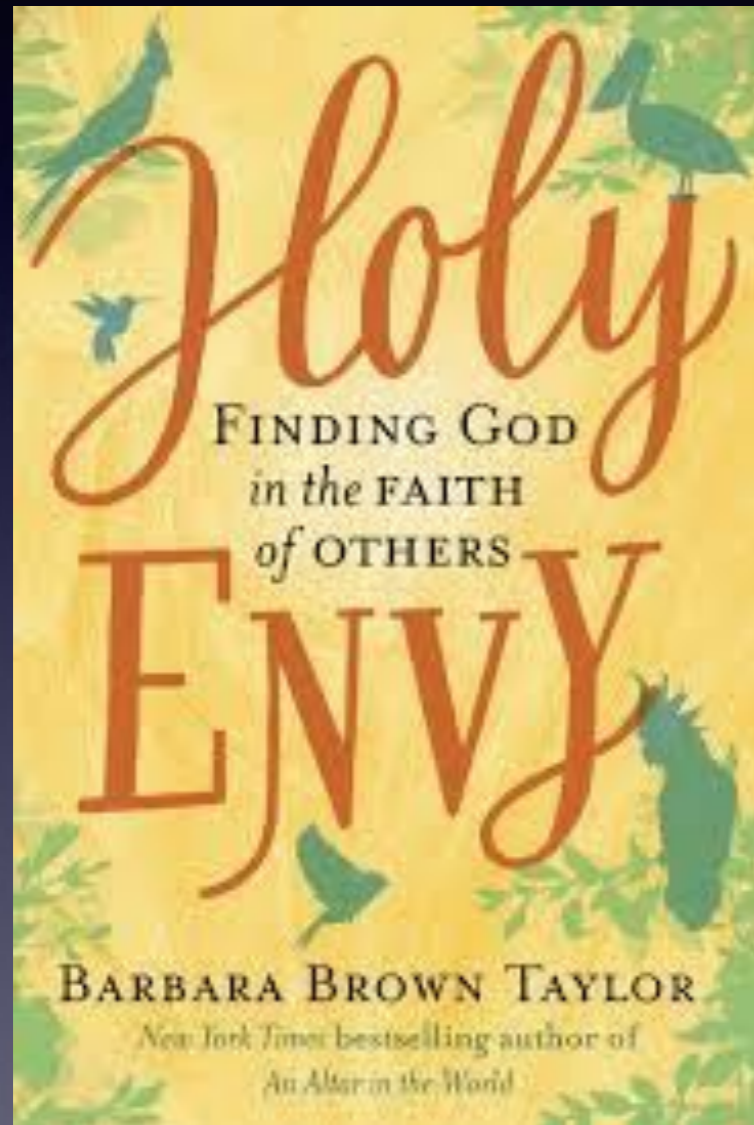


# Holy Envy



Holy Manners Bookstudy 43

ACTS  
Fall 2019

St David's United Church  
Calgary

## Holy Envy - Session 9

### Welcomes & Intros Housekeeping



- Book title suggestions for our Winter Series
- “Holy Envy” Study Group Service – Sunday, January 27th
- Reflection sheet handout for monastery visitors (Wayne)
- Thanks to Brenda for accompanying people at the monastery
- Invitation to the next group of monastery visitors (Brenda)



# Opening Reflection

Mike Grammer





## **Presentation - Wayne Session 9 - 18 Nov 2019**

### **Ch 10: Divine Diversity**

### **Ch 11: The God You Didn't Make Up**

As we come to our second last session of this study, we begin to realize that the journey we have been taking is a circular one. In many ways, our encounters with other faiths has brought us back to the faith where we first began.



## Focus on Chapter 10 **Divine Diversity**

- A chapter focus are the terms “Unity” and “Diversity”.
  - While most of us were raised to believe our religion was the one true faith we have discovered truth in a diversity of faiths.
  - “Unity” has been surpassed by “Diversity”.
- 
- - discuss



But that is only partially true. Our journey has been circular in nature, and we find ourselves rediscovering our old truths in a new way.





## Focus on Chapter 10 **Divine Diversity**

Taylor writes -

“A great, though challenging gift has been to look at my faith through others’ eyes. It helped me to see something new – and not to leave, but to rediscover my own tradition.” (p. 175).

- - discuss



We shall not cease from exploration, and the end  
of all our exploring will be to arrive where we  
started and know the place for the first time.

(T. S. Eliot)

[izquotes.com](http://izquotes.com)





## ariadne's thread

i was early given a ball of thread  
and i grew adept at untangling  
but of course also at entangling

i now remember, now notice  
the first purpose of the gift was  
not to untangle but not to be lost

i find a familiar thread in the dust  
and trust that it leads home  
to clarity, confidence and comfort

out of the ancient labyrinth  
away from the devourer  
away from confusion

a gentle knowing has descended  
a gift from mercy - in old directions

Short version of the old myth.

The treasure of the Labyrinth in Crete was guarded by a beast, the Minotaur. Every year 14 youth were sacrificed to the beast. They were dropped off at the Labyrinth entrance and got lost inside and devoured by the beast. But Princess Ariadne was in love with Theseus, and devised a way for his escape. She gave him a sword to kill the beast and a ball of thread tied to the entrance to find his way back out of the Labyrinth. They succeeded, for a bit, because myths go on forever.

ariadne by [martinacelcilia](#)

on approaching the labyrinth's centre



## Focus on Chapter 10 **Divine Diversity**

“How important it is for people of faith to make space for difference at the heart of our tradition.” (Jonathan Sacks)

- - discuss



## Focus on Chapter 10 **Divine Diversity**

We need stories from deep within our faith tradition, and new understandings of them so that the unity of the Creator is found in the diversity of creation (p. 176-77)

Two Significant Images from the chapter – Babel and Pentecost. Compare Jewish (Genesis) and Christian (Acts) stories





At Babel:

Humanity started as a unity - one language

Human pride caused God to confuse a single language into many.



At Pentecost:

Diverse humans came together, drawn by great signs and wonders

The Holy Spirit is poured out on all humanity, bringing them together.



## Focus on Chapter 10 **Divine Diversity**

For Christians a new understanding is that – while there is strength in human spiritual unity there is richness in human diversity.

We need to claim both truths in our time, but now God seems to choose variety over uniformity (p. 182).





## Focus on Chapter 10 **Divine Diversity**

- Following Mary Jo Leddy – Unity vs Respect for Diversity in Canada today.
- And “What is the story you are working on?” (p. 184)



Focus on Chapter 11  
**The God You Didn't Make Up**

- Wayne recalls an insight from a L'Arche Community leader –
- “I always end up living with the person I'd be last to pick if I had a choice.”
- - Wayne unpacks this as he introduces the direction this chapter is taking us on our journey of “holy envy”



Focus on Chapter 11  
**The God You Didn't Make Up**

Encountering the faiths of others can bring out both the best and the worst in ourselves and others. It is not an easy exchange, but we really have no choice today.





Focus on Chapter 11  
**The God You Didn't Make Up**

**The way our faith story unfolds -**

“My view of God is my own creation” (p. 189)

“Then I begin learning the language of other religions” (p. 189)

“I kept being drawn to the God I liked” (p. 190)

“Learn what you can about other faith languages, but, in the process, be authentically human.” (p. 191)

“Stereotyping people can be a substitute for reality (p. 197)



## Focus on Chapter 10 **Divine Diversity**

“How important it is for people of faith to make space for difference at the heart of our tradition.” (Jonathan Sacks)

- - discuss



Focus on Chapter 11  
**The God You Didn't Make Up**

Summary Thought –

The supreme religious challenge is to see God's image in one who is not in our image. - Jonathan Sacks (p. 200).

- Discuss





Focus on Chapter 11  
**The God You Didn't Make Up**

The God you don't make up is the authentic humanity you can experience when encountering "the other."

Taylor says that one of the ways to discover God/authentic humanity is to "love God in the person standing in front of you" (or)

The L'Arche leader's comment: "I always end up living with the person I'd be last to pick if I had a choice." This is actually God at work in human dynamics.

An authentic human encounter/conversation an the opportunity to discover God.



Focus on Chapter 11  
**The God You Didn't Make Up**

The God you don't make up is the faith of the other you are able to cultivate in yourself while coming to the human terms both of you share.

“The supreme religious challenge is to see God's image in one who is not in our image.” -  
Jonathan Sacks







Time now. Please return.

RABBI SACKS  
ON  
THE POLITICS  
OF HOPE



Rabbi Jonathan Sacks - The Politics of Hope

7m

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7BvLp4VdW1A>



Guest  
Speaker

Usha  
Sharma





# Closing Discussion

# Next Readings

**Session 10 - 25 Nov 2019**

**Ch 12: The Final Exam**

**Epilogue:**

**Church of the Common Ground**

**Study Website**

[sduc.ca](http://sduc.ca)



Closing

Deb  
Charnuski