

With God, all things are possible

One of the hymns within the TV programme “Songs of Praise” recently was “One more step along the world I go”. The last verse really caught my attention more than ever before.

“You are older than the world can be,
You are younger than the life in me;
Ever old and ever new,
Keep we travelling along with me”

I have been thinking about this, together with remembering that I said in a previous reflection that I wanted to look at that verse from 2 Peter 3:8 which says, “But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: with the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day”. I have read many commentaries on this verse, but it is still incomprehensible to me.

The concepts within both the hymn and that bible verse are similar in my mind in that two complete opposite properties are being equated, with those opposites both being possible at one and the same time. How can that be? That question led to the answer in my mind of Jesus saying, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” The ‘this’ he was referring to was about how hard it is for a rich man to get into the kingdom of heaven, and saying “I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” (Matthew 19:23-30). Whilst not relevant in the concepts of opposites being possible at the one and same time, it is relevant in the contemplation of that.

We can only think in human terms. However hard we try we cannot think any other way. The concept of opposites existing side by side in unity with each other just does not compute. I have a scientific mind and probably therefore inevitably maybe think in a more logical way than someone with an artistic mind does. I need things to make sense! I certainly cannot comprehend the concepts I am trying to understand given logical thinking. However, that is where faith comes in. Just because I cannot understand does not mean it is not possible. My very limited comprehension does not reflect on what is possible with God. I am therefore not going to struggle any more to understand in any sort of intellectual way, I am going to rest in God’s love and guidance and accept my limitations, and let my heart lead the way.

Whilst reflecting on all this, I have been reading “So What’s the Story” by Barbara Glass and Clive Marsh. There is so much in that book that is relevant to our journeys of faith, but pertinent to this reflection is one sentence – (bottom of page 117 if you have the book) – “So let’s live our own stories with courage and hope, knowing they will only be understood in God’s timeless perspective”. That sentence jumped out at me and has stayed with me. It gives me a sense of it being OK not to understand all those things I struggle with . Amen.