

IGNATIAN EXERCISES FOR SEEKERS

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Introduction

Autobiographical: Exercises at Union
A work in progress: is it possible?

1. WHAT IS A SEEKER AND WHO ARE THEY

- a. Who is a seeker? Attempt at a definition.
- b. Is it good to be a seeker?
- c. How widespread is the experience of being a seeker?
- d. The seeker in all of us.

2. CAN THE EXERCISES BE OFFERED TO SEEKERS?

- a. Spirituality includes those who are not religious.
- b. Jesus as human being is able to be appreciated by all.
- c. The problem of a language that can be appreciated by theists and non-theists

3. EXAMPLES OF ATTEMPTS TO ADDRESS SEEKERS

- a. Introductory comments on the nature of these reflections
- b. Seeking Principles and a Foundation
 - Human existence is freedom.
 - What nurtures freedom in self and others is good.
 - Freedom is most itself when not weighed down with attachments
 - To find purpose and meaning in existence one has to choose
- c. The Call of the King
 - The only place to find transcendence is in the world: Jesus of Nazareth or some other place.
 - Ignatius represents Jesus on the model of a king, and it does not work today.
 - But he also presents Jesus as a leader who appeals to human freedom with a divine cause.
 - Jesus' actions represent what God is like.
 - Jesus' actions provide a template for complete human freedom
- d. Finding God in All Things
 - A creation spirituality is transformed in the context of a personal God revealed by Jesus.
 - Creation and existence become personal gifts that call for gratitude.
 - The horizon of this spirituality are the reasons for gratitude
 - Its substance consists in action motivated by the fundamental moral attitude of gratitude.