



## 2. A Renaissance of Wonder

### **Rossing**

Photosynthesis - plants can transform the sun's energy into food!

We are all connected in this luminous web on earth!

Before there was any conflict between religion and science, there was wonder!

### **Dowd**

Wisdom traditions (religions) are regional collective intelligence

Now we need a global tradition to collectively determine what is real and what is important

Science is humanity's global collective intelligence

### **Matthew Fox**

Universe is a huge organism, unfolding amidst birth and death, and more

Our primary task as a species is to praise

### **Clayton**

As a person of faith, my task is to step out of comfort zones to places where understanding and experience is stretched, and my brain aches from the sheer complexity of it all!

As Christians, we follow one who wasn't satisfied only to stand up in the synagogue and interpret the Jewish texts, one who found himself on the streets of Jerusalem and in the countryside of Galilee, etc

### **Fox**

Awe - shuts you up for a moment so you can swim in the experience

Mysticism is the experiential dimension of religion

Godhead

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## **Bernard Brandon Scott**

Astronomy - iPhone app!

Vastness of universe, or preciousness of new life - religion is about the cultivation of such experience [of awe and wonder]

## **Clayton**

Quotes Ursula Goodenough:

"As a cell biologist... I experience the same kind of awe and reverence whether I contemplate the structure of an enzyme or the flowing of a signal transduction cascade as when I watch the moon rise or stand in front of a Mayan temple. Same rush, same rapture."  
Religious language... an inkling of something beyond... pointing towards something beyond ourselves

## **Dowd**

Scientific method keeps people accountable for their truth claims

## **Clayton**

What do you feel you must let go in light of the knowledge of science of evolution?

## **Dowd**

Belief and knowledge

We are in the early stages of what may eventually be called "The Evidential Reformation"  
Understanding [having a vision of] our Future through: Big History, Human Nature, Death and Chaos

Holding up evidence as divine revelation helping us to live in right relationship to reality [creation]

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## **Rossing**

Conflicts do arise between our deeply held traditions and the fast-paced unfolding of scientific knowledge

References E.O. Wilson:

We exist in a bizarre combination of stone age emotions, medieval beliefs, and God-like technology

...so is it any wonder that there are sometimes areas of conflict?

Or are there ways of rethinking and reframing our theology to create a less suspicious and contentious engagement with the challenges and discoveries emerging from the new knowledge and insights of science?

## **Dowd**

Evolution... we don't always think of the cosmos, or our thinking, or of so many other things that have evolved

"14 Billion years of grace!"

## **Fox**

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

-champion of mysticism and science

-ahead of his time

Talked about the "magic" of evolution, put together with the cosmic Christ and expansion of the universe

## **Dowd**

Teilhard identified the human story with the universe story - you can't talk about one without the other

Humans are the universe becoming conscious of itself

## **Sanguin**

Three core insights about the evolutionary world view:

1) everything is becoming, "we're on the move"

2) it's alive, "life knows how to do life"

3) it's purposeful

Quotes Chief Seattle:

"What you people call 'resources,' we call our 'kin.'"

Metaphysicians vs. Scientists

-metaphysics is a belief-system (so, saying "life is totally meaningless, it's totally random" is a belief-system, not science)

-as theologians, we have every right to interpret the facts that science is giving us

## **Clayton**

Emergence - the way the natural world works is to continually form more complex systems that begin interacting in different ways that produce radically new forms of phenomena and that give rise to new kinds of entities that have never existed before

## **Dowd**

"Nested emergence"

## **Rossing**

Dare we hold it all in wonder, even as a complement to scripture, and greet such revelation with greater openness?

*Closing*

"If Darwin Prayed" (Bruce Sanguin)

...we rest in holy longing

*Pastor Tyler's notes on the session*

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