

Patience with Matters of the Heart

Sometimes we have unresolved matters of the heart. Rainer Maria Rilke, a Bohemian-Austrian poet, wrote:

have patience with everything unresolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves as if they were locked rooms or books written in a very foreign language. Don't search for the answers, which could not be given to you now, because you would not be able to live them. And the point is to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps then, someday far in the future, you will gradually, without even noticing it, live your way into the answer.

(Letters to a Young Poet, p.34)

For those unresolved matters of the heart, consider the role of patience. What does it mean to “live the questions now”, so you can “live your way into the answer”?

In the scripture we read:

For now we see in a glass darkly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. (1 Corinthians 13:12)

As we explore the matters of our heart, how does trusting in the dynamic presence of God make space for us to “know and be known”, and to “see face to face”?