

8<sup>th</sup> October 2025

## Right?

**"Ah, what a dusty answer gets the soul  
When hot for certainties in this our life!"**

George Meredith, *Modern Love* (1862)

I was delighted to receive through the post last week the latest book by my friend, Peter Miller. Peter is a theologian, activist and writer who, with his wife, Dorothy (who died suddenly in 2021) has worked in many different parts of the world, is a former Warden at Iona Abbey, and later established the *Dr Dorothy Millar Charitable Trust*. Peter is a prolific writer, covering a wide range of subjects "relating to our connected world", and his bi-monthly "Candle in the Widow" reflections are a sustaining delight.

In his recent booklet, "Within the Weaving of the World: Reflections on my Christian faith in a time of wars, global suffering, fake news and spiritual searching", he begins a reflection on "Doubts and Questions" with this stanza from the work of the Israeli poet, Yehuda Amichai:

*From the place where we are "always right"  
flowers will never grow in the spring.  
The place where we are "always right"  
is hard and trampled like a yard.  
But doubts and loves dig up the world like a mole,  
a plough, and a whisper will be heard in the place  
where the ruined house once stood.*

As Peter reflects on these words, they help him to grown spiritually.

*I believe with [Amichai] that doubts and questions are at the core of my spiritual journey, for they enable all of us to be tender listeners, so that we can hear the whisper in the place where the ruined house once stood ... Longing for light, we wait with any open heart.*

From the horrors of the Israel-Gaza conflict to family tensions, from global politics to Church structures, from personal beliefs to creeds and dogma, are we not all longing for light? Should we not *a/ways* have an open heart? If we yearn for certainties, believing we are "always right", will our soul not get the "dusty answers" George Meridith warns us against? Or will we remain open to the whisper of truth where *our* ruined house once stood?

### **A prayer for today**

*Living God, as I yearn for certainties, teach me patience, and keep me listening. Amen*

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For copies of Peter's books and information about donating to the Dr Dorothy Miller Charitable Trust, contact Peter at, [ionacottage@hotmail.com](mailto:ionacottage@hotmail.com)

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