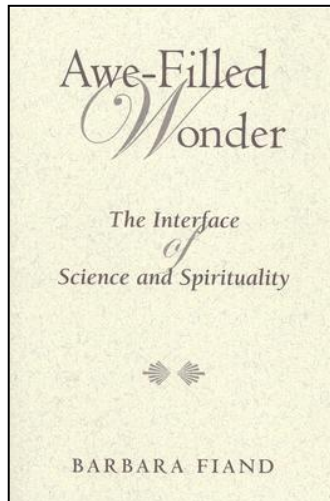


BOOK REVIEW

Fiand, Barbara. *Awe-Filled Wonder: The Interface of Science and Spirituality.* New York: Paulist Press, 2008.



In the 2008 Madaleva Lecture in Spirituality, Barbara Fiand - a sister of Notre Dame de Namur, retreat director, writer, and lecturer - explored the startling, yet increasingly important connections between science and spiritual transformation.

This book, from the text of the lecture, reveals the expansion of consciousness that is being opened up by extraordinary scientific discoveries, especially in quantum physics and cosmology.

Fiand invites her readers to look at spirituality in the context of contemporary time, to employ the best insights of science, to use this new vision as a way to dialogue, to explore and to take back ownership of their own spiritual journeys.

She acknowledges that the insights of science can be "overwhelming as well as unsettling", but believes that, if the fear of stepping beyond the boundaries of traditional science and religion can be overcome, "the sense of mystery and awe inspired by these insights and discoveries can be most rewarding".

In this context, writes Fiand, it is important to recognize that all human longing for ultimate mystery is rooted in the context of the time in which it arises. It formulates its vision out of the language and symbols of its age in order to present a time-relevant approach to that which, in spite of all human striving, nevertheless remains holy mystery. Everything that can be spoken about God is metaphor, and metaphors are relative, culturally, socially, religiously and historically. The metaphors of yesterday cannot be used unthinkingly to explain or describe the realities of today, especially in the face of huge advances in science.

Fiand begins the first part of the book "The Interface" by looking at the moments of revelation in the story of the universe, then moves to a discussion of the spiritual challenges posed by science. In the second part "Refocusing the Quest" she explores these implications for the search for God, and then discusses briefly the place of Jesus Christ in this story.

This is a creative and challenging book, with the potential to change forever - in a positive and exciting way - how the reader looks at the universe, life and God.