

PANENTHEISM: A WAY OF SEEING GOD'S PRESENCE IN THE WORLD

Noreen Herzfeld

Reuter Professor of Science and Religion

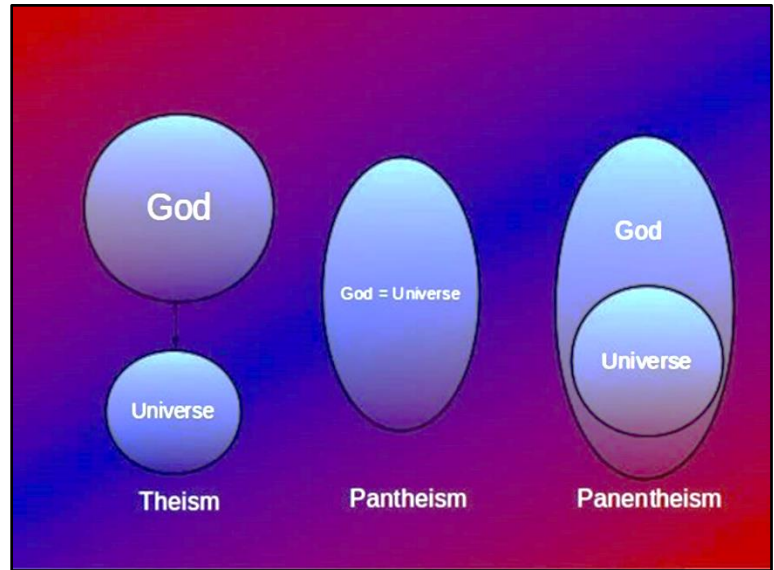
St. John's University

Road Map

Part 1: How does God relate to the world?

Part 2: What about the problem of evil?

Part 3: What am I called to do or be in a panentheistic world?



Biblical Citations

Transcendence

- Job 38:4 "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?"
- Isaiah 45:25 "Truly, you are a God who hides himself."
- Isaiah 55:8 "My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD."

Immanence

- Jeremiah 23:23 "I am a God near by . . . and not a God far off."
- Psalm 139 "Where can I go from your spirit, or where can I flee from your face? If I climb the heavens you are there, if I lie in the grave, you are there. If I take the wings of the dawn and dwell at the sea's furthest edge, even there your hand would lead me, your right hand would hold me fast."
- Gospel of Thomas, 77 "Cut the wood in two, and I am there; lift up the stone, and there you will find me."
- Qur'an 50:16 "He is nearer to you than your jugular vein."
- Qur'an 57:4 "He is with you wherever you are."

Panentheist

- Acts 17:27 "In Him we live and move and have our being."
- Colossians 1: 15-17 "in him . . . through him and for him . . . all things hold together."

Further Reading

Rohr, Richard (2019); *The Universal Christ*

Oord, Thomas (2021); *Open and Relational Theology*

Clayton, Phillip and Arthur Peacocke eds. (2004); *In Whom We Live and Move and Have Our Being*

Barks, Coleman (1995); *The Essential Rumi*

Ladinsky, Daniel (1999); *The Gift: Poems by Hafiz*