

roads. In the confusion of new ideas and the rejection of the old we can see that our old concepts of God are being replaced by new ones based on a deeper self-knowledge, a knowledge of man the individual and in historical community. The God of the future will be closer to us than ever before. When the pains of first discovery are over we can expect to have experienced something the like of which has not been seen since the early days of the great religions. God has not yet deserted his people.

GEOFFREY PONTON, O.P.

THE LIVING ROCKS: INTRODUCTION TO BIOPHILOSOPHY FOR TECHNOLOGICAL AGE MAN, by A. Harry Walters. *Classic Publications*, hard bound, 25s.; paper bound 10s.

The first section of this book purports to be a commentary on the beginning of Genesis (what the second section is supposed to be is anyone's guess) which will bring 'Technological Age Man' to religion, and in order to do this Mr Walters uses all his experience as 'Consultant and Associate Lecturer, Dept. of Food Science and Technology, Borough Polytechnic'. Mr Walters does warn us in the first chapter that 'Much else has come in and got itself included in what follows and will show to the world the depths of my ignorance' (p. 4), and there follow a hundred and eighty pages of sentimentalism written with a rhetoric like treacle; at times the pages seem quite sticky with verbiage. He writes a gracious introduction in which he thanks, among others, 'Mr Akarawit Sumawong, through whose kindness I was able to meet a Wise Man from the East . . . and Michael Williams who told me about a Mate's life at sea and taught me about the sextant' (p. ix). The author tells us that Mr Anthony Woollen had said, 'Had this book been published four hundred years ago, you would have been burned at the stake'. (p. ix). An enlightened age.

Mr Walters performs a feat which few other men could achieve; for a whole chapter he discusses 'Horizontalism and Verticalism' without actually telling us what Horizontalism and Verticalism are. His insights on the world include, 'Today, every scientist and technologist, when he leaves the Horizontalism of the university and enters industry, can feel at once the rotation of the axis to Verticalism, and then become aware of the Other Face in the Big Act' (p. 113). However the theologian and the scientist 'do represent the opposite poles of the same process, a yang and a yin, and they might find it possible to join forces' (p. 126). As Mr Walters himself says, 'The obscurity in the writing persists' (p. 81). GEOFFREY TURNER, O.P.

"To my doppelgänger, it seemed as though I was in some sort of vacuum within the Old Order, quite disconnected from the upheaval, the simmering cauldron of revolution, in the Technical Age . . ."

Does this not sum up the situation in our own society among the technically orientated and those who are influenced by them? Contemporary theologians e.g. Congar, de Chardin have recognised these symptoms in modern man and now in THE LIVING ROCKS an eminent microbiologist spells out clearly the bio-philosophy which equates Christian thought and behaviour with technical and scientific achievement. For him there is no conflict. Every theologian, every parish priest, every curate will want this book so that they too can pass on to their flocks the real – not the pseudo – assurance that is needed.

THE LIVING ROCKS

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