

Addis Ababa,
Ethiopia.

An Ethiopian prayer.

14th February 1997.

...And what is this God?, I asked of the earth and it answered; " I am not He," and all things that are in the earth made the same confession. I asked the sea and the deeps and the creeping things, and they answered "We are not your God, seek higher".

I asked the winds that blow and the whole air and everything that is in it, I asked the heavens, the sun, the moon and the stars and they answered; " Neither are we the God whom you seek ".

And I said to all the things that throng around the gateway to the senses, " Tell me of my God since you are not He, Tell me something of Him ". And they cried out in a great voice- " He made us ".

My question was my gazing upon them, and their answer was their beauty. And I turned to myself and said- " And you, who are you? ".

And I answered; " A Man ".

Now clearly there is a soul in me, one exterior, one interior, and I sought Him by my body, from earth to heaven, as far as my being could cast its nets over the restless waters of the quest.

And seeing that all my bodies messengers delivered to it, they answered " We are not God ", " He made us ".

Now the inner man knows these things through the deeds of the outer man and, at last I asked of the whole existence of the universe about my God and it answered me; " I am not He, but He made Me "...

by
Inspired & adapted from
the writings of Zar'a Yacob, an
Ethiopian philosopher.

*adapted from the
parables of the
Ethiopian Zar'a Yacob*