

Oranges and Mangos

IS GOD WITH US ALL?

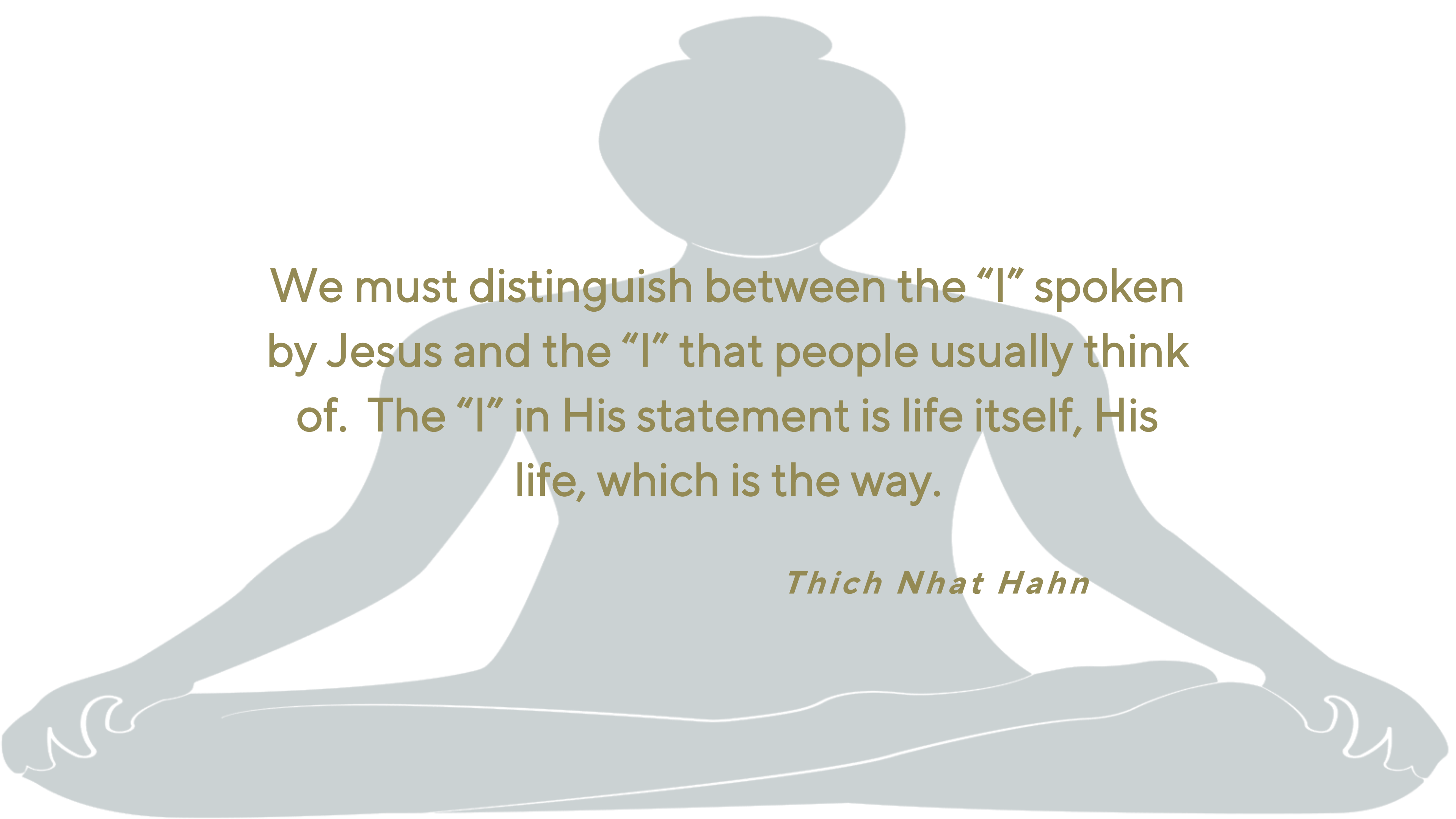


In our contemporary context of religious pluralism, we are pressed to ask, does God with “us” mean only us Christians? Do Christian claims about incarnation lock us into an unavoidable exclusivism? Does incarnation in Jesus of Nazareth mean that God’s self-revelation happened only in him and not in other times and places?

Dr. Anna Case-Winters.

⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 14:6 NRSV



We must distinguish between the “I” spoken
by Jesus and the “I” that people usually think
of. The “I” in His statement is life itself, His
life, which is the way.

Thich Nhat Hahn

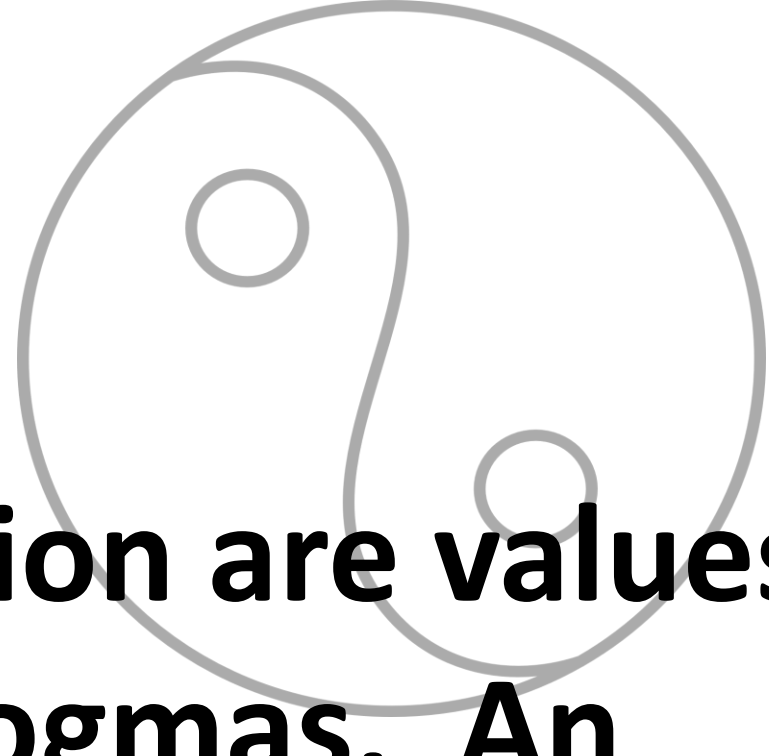
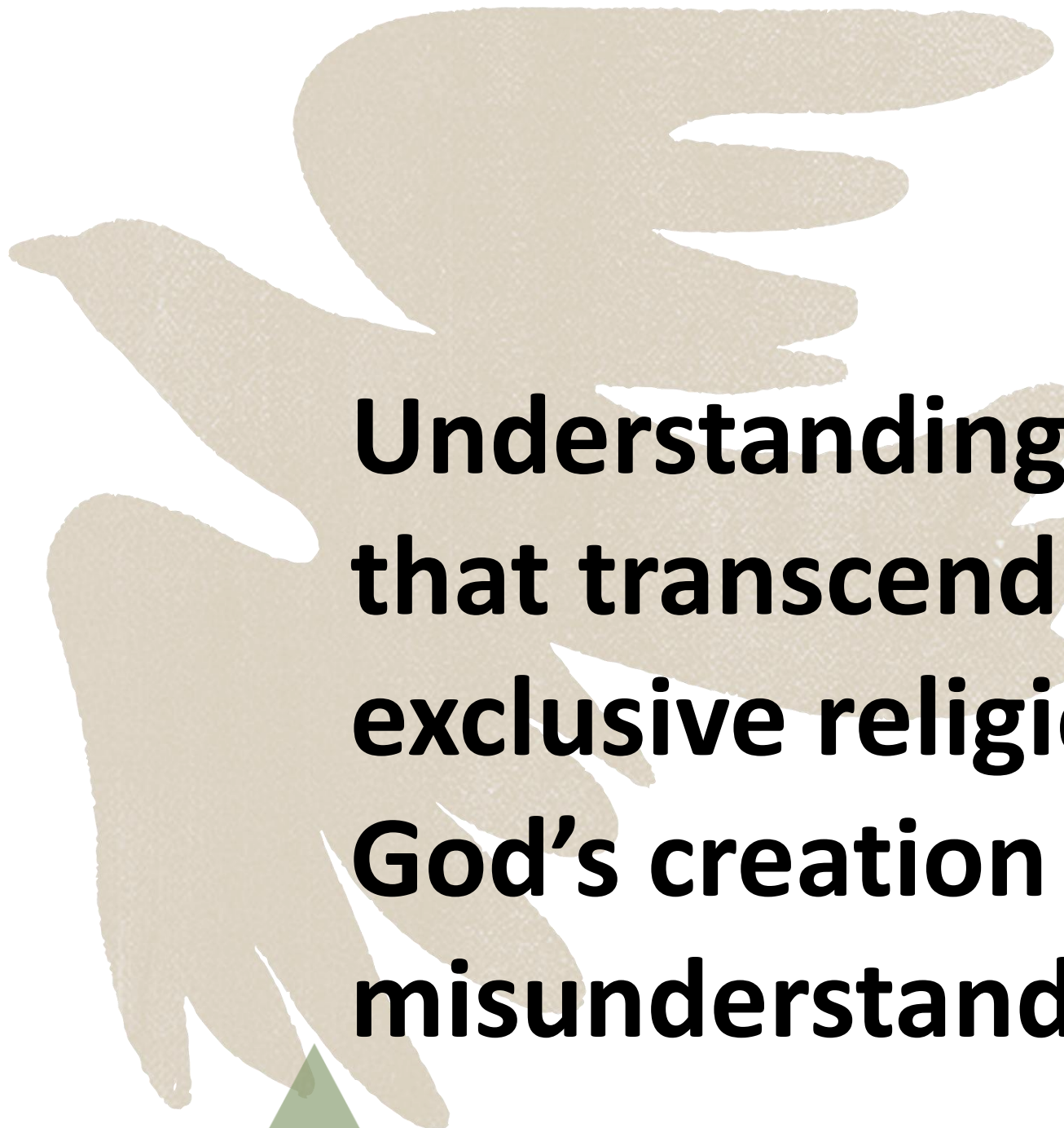
Christ –consciousness, God-consciousness,
Krishna-consciousness, Buddha-
consciousness –it’s all the same thing.
Rather than ‘Love thy neighbor,’ This
consciousness says, “You and I are the same
beings.’

Deepak Chopra

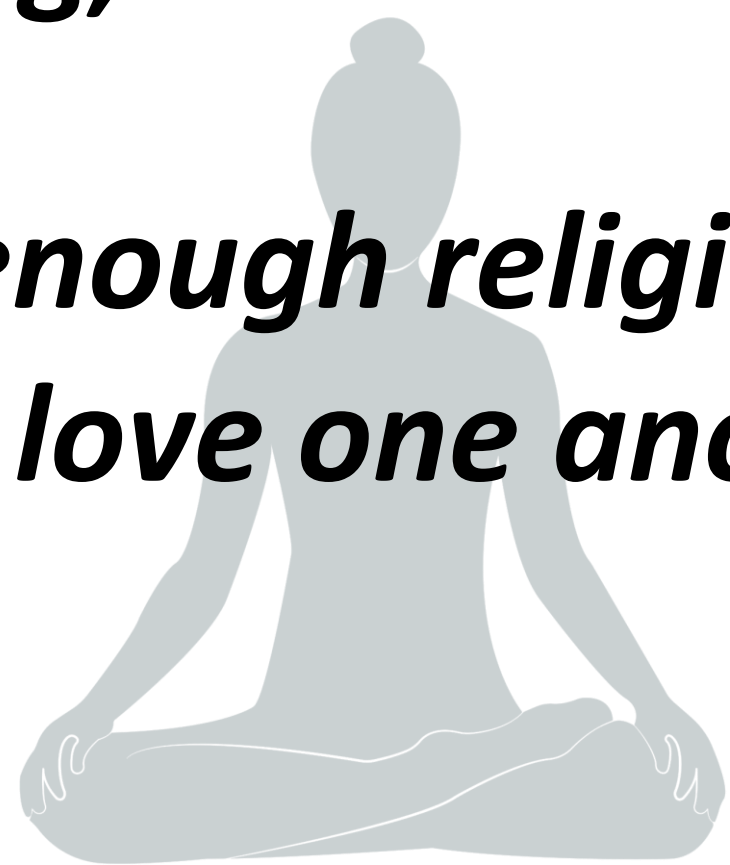


ROBERT'S VIEW

The life of Jesus and his teachings are the true identity of our Christ. If we are truly created in the image of God and share with our siblings the inner presence of the Holy Spirit, there is no place for exclusivism to salvation. God loves us all and there are many paths to Him. But studied closely, we see the paths are all the same at their deepest levels, love of neighbor, compassion and faith in our Creator.



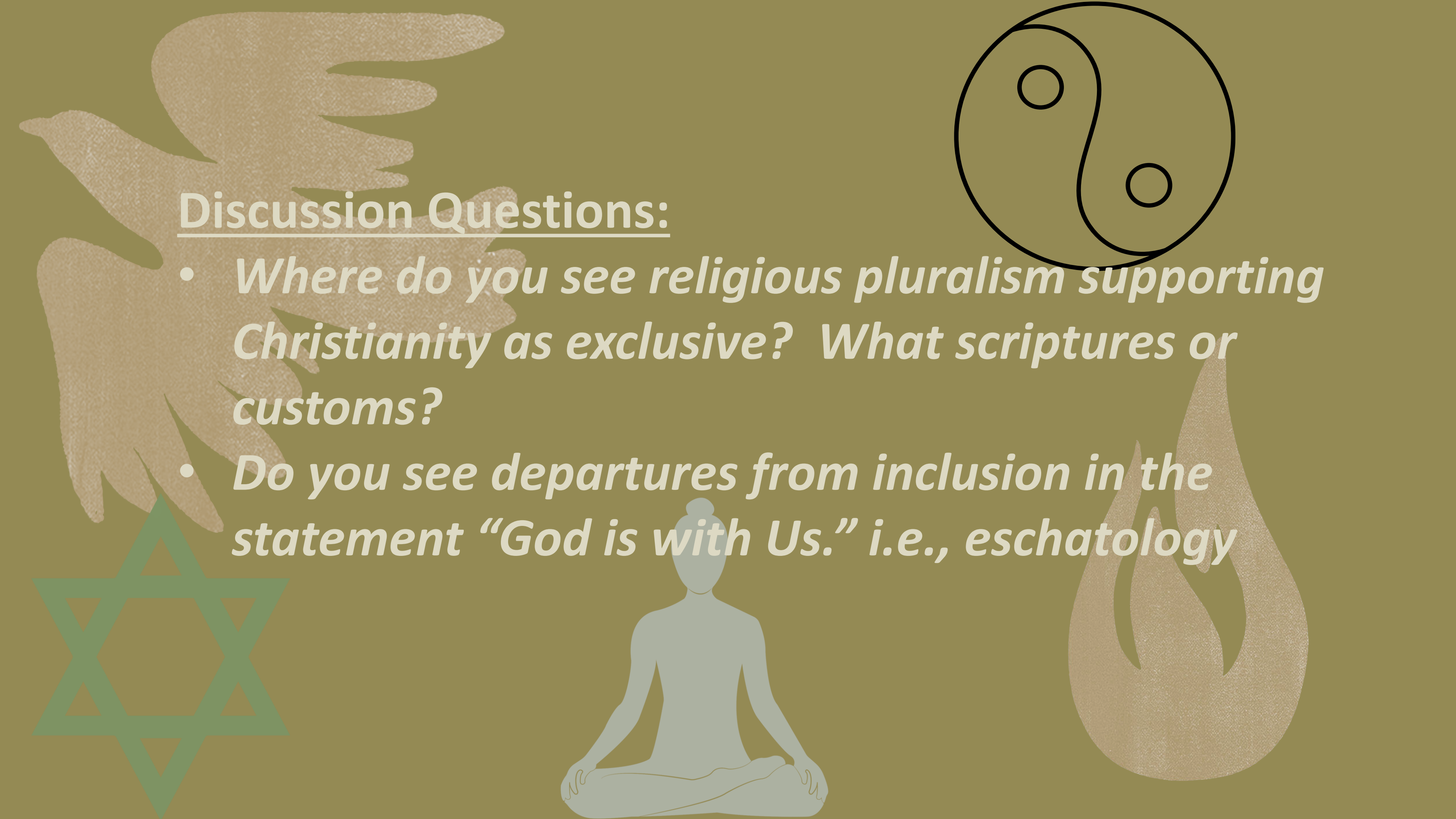
Understanding, love and compassion are values that transcend various religious dogmas. An exclusive religion does not lend to the harmony of God's creation and supports an environment of misunderstanding, chaos and destruction.



We have just enough religion to hate... but not enough to love one another.



Jonathan Swift



Discussion Questions:

- *Where do you see religious pluralism supporting Christianity as exclusive? What scriptures or customs?*
- *Do you see departures from inclusion in the statement “God is with Us.” i.e., eschatology*