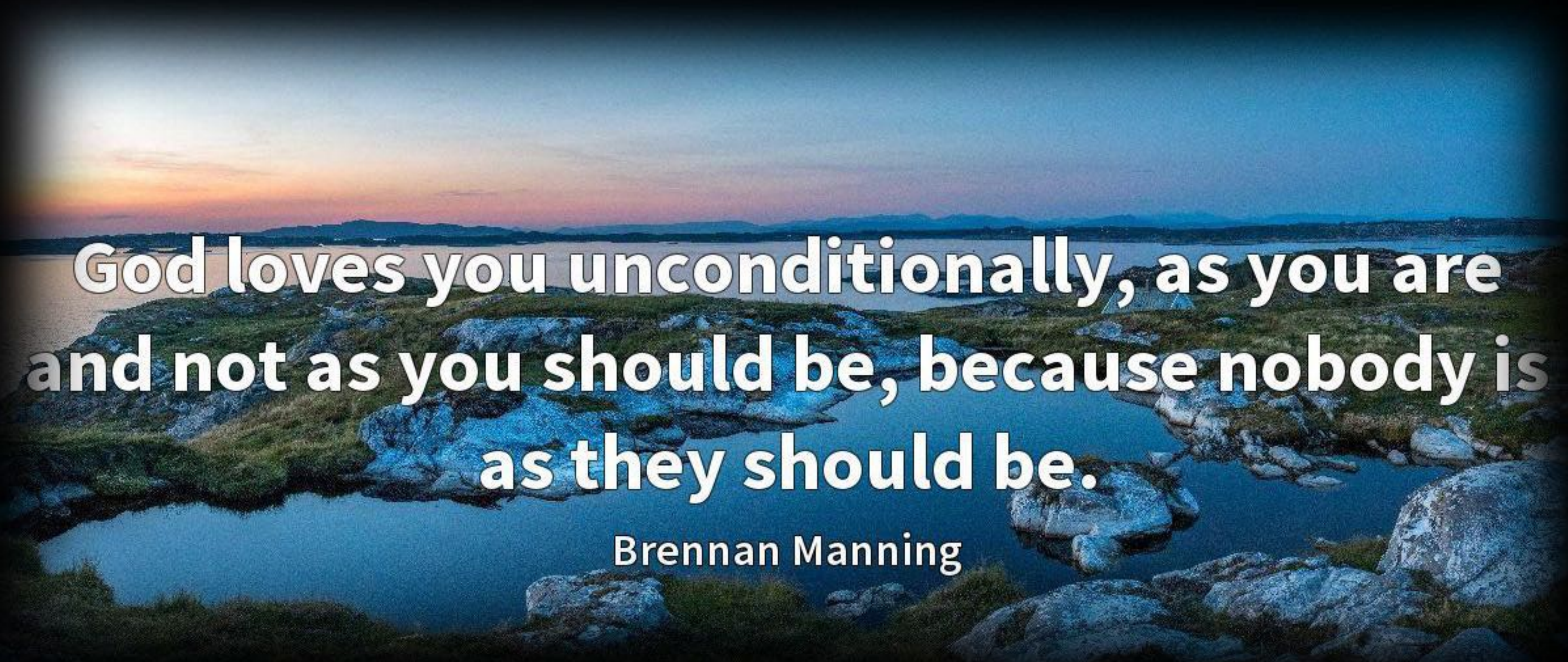


# “BELOVED, BROKEN AND BEAUTIFUL”

Finding Compassion and Forgiveness for Ourselves & Others  
- November 19th, 2023 -



**God loves you unconditionally, as you are  
and not as you should be, because nobody is  
as they should be.**

Brennan Manning

# GOD IS IN THIS STORY

Katy Nichole & Big Daddy Weave

(to play "*God is in this Story*" (Lyric Video), click link below)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R\\_zI1Iy5\\_EQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R_zI1Iy5_EQ)



*God's  
Unconditional Love*

“God never changes his mind about you.

He is simply in love with you.

What he does again and again

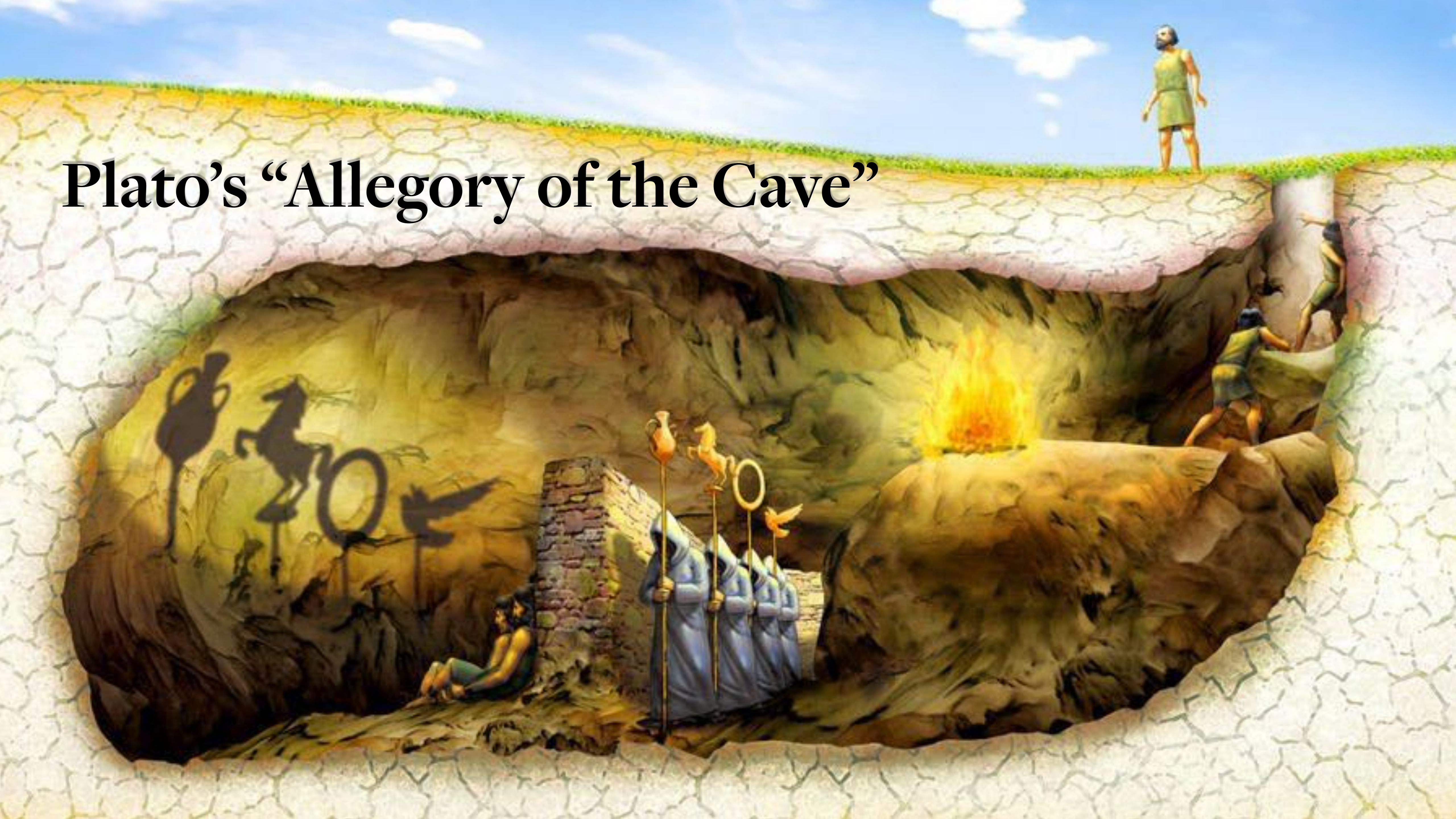
is change your mind about him.”

— Herbert McCabe on Twitter

A close-up photograph of a bird's eye, showing a black pupil and a highly iridescent iris with vibrant colors including purple, blue, green, yellow, and red. The eye is surrounded by white feathers and long, dark eyelashes.

WE DON'T SEE THINGS  
AS THEY ARE, WE SEE  
THEM AS WE ARE.

# Plato's "Allegory of the Cave"





Are we locked into seeing an 'Old Testament' shadow of God's nature instead of the one revealed to us definitively in Jesus?

*(Heb 10:1 The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves.)*

# Hebrews 10

*1 The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming —not the realities themselves.*



# Hebrews 10:5-10

**5 Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said:**

**“Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,  
but a body you prepared for me;**

**6 with burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you were not pleased.**

**7 Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about  
me in the scroll—**

**I have come to do your will, my God.’”**







**The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says:**

**“This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.”**

**Then he adds:**

**“Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.”**

**And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary.**

GO AND LEARN WHAT THIS MEANS:

*'I desire mercy,  
and not sacrifice.'*

JESUS



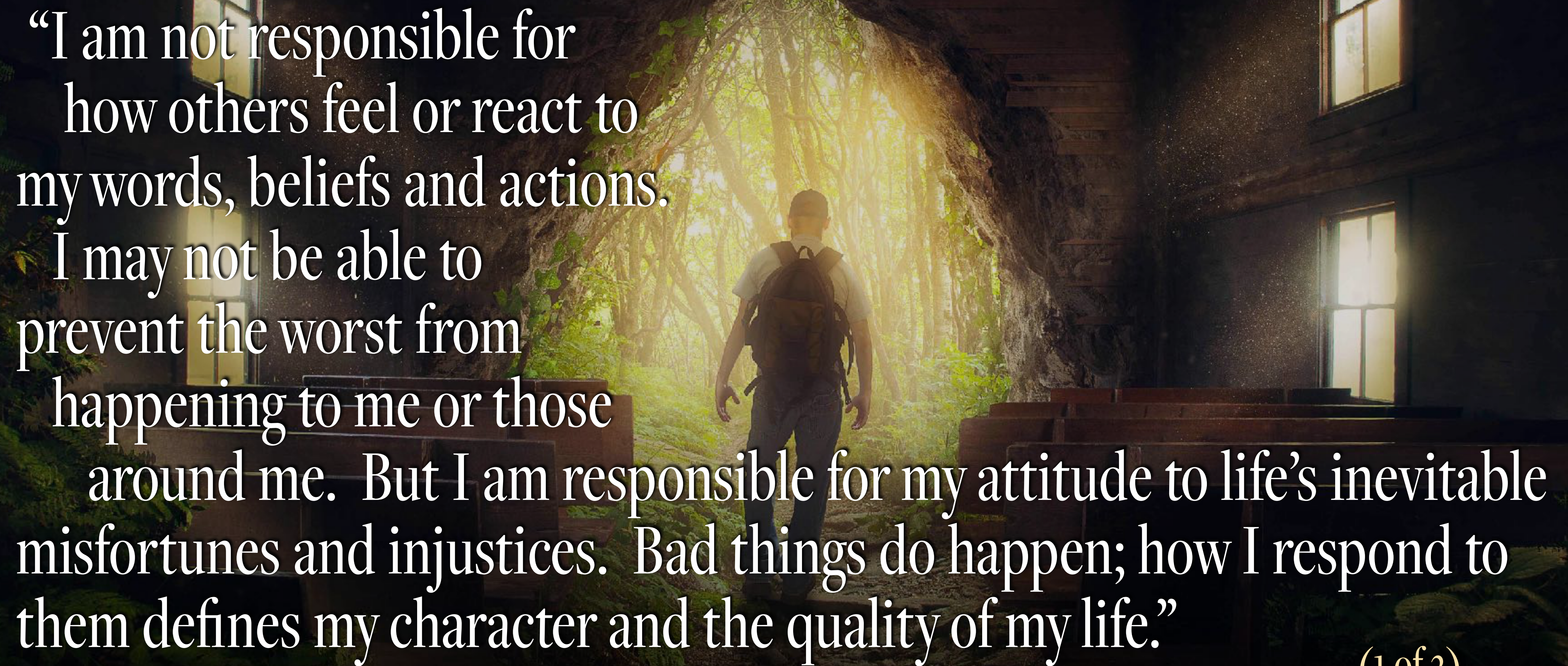
A moment of self-compassion can change  
your entire day. A string of such moments  
can change the course of your life.

- Christopher Germer



*There is no sense in  
punishing your future for the  
mistakes of your past.  
Forgive yourself, grow from  
it and then let it go.*

*- Melanie Koulouris*

A person with a backpack is walking away from a dark interior space towards a bright, sunlit forest opening. The scene is dimly lit, with light streaming in from the forest, creating a strong contrast and highlighting the person's silhouette. The person is wearing a white shirt, dark pants, and a backpack. The forest opening is filled with tall trees and dappled sunlight.

“I am not responsible for how others feel or react to my words, beliefs and actions. I may not be able to prevent the worst from happening to me or those around me. But I am responsible for my attitude to life’s inevitable misfortunes and injustices. Bad things do happen; how I respond to them defines my character and the quality of my life.”

(1 of 3)

MICHAEL  
LAFLEUR



INFUSION  
NETWORK

– Michael Lafleur

“I can choose to sit in perpetual sadness,  
immobilized by the gravity  
of my loss and life in this  
broken world, or I can choose  
to journey through and rise  
from the pain to treasure  
the most precious gift I have:

Being alive in a universe infused by Divine Love, with agency to  
participate in my own healing and the mutual thriving of humanity.”

(2 of 3)

MICHAEL  
LAFLEUR



INFUSION  
NETWORK

– Michael Lafleur

“As I increasingly experience and embody God’s self-giving, radically-forgiving, co-suffering love, I am free to respond to others and the world around me. I am NOT responsible for how they choose to respond or react.

My hope and faith are in the long game and slow outworking of Divine Love — a love that is uncontrolling, stronger than death, and whose Light will ultimately transform this present darkness.”

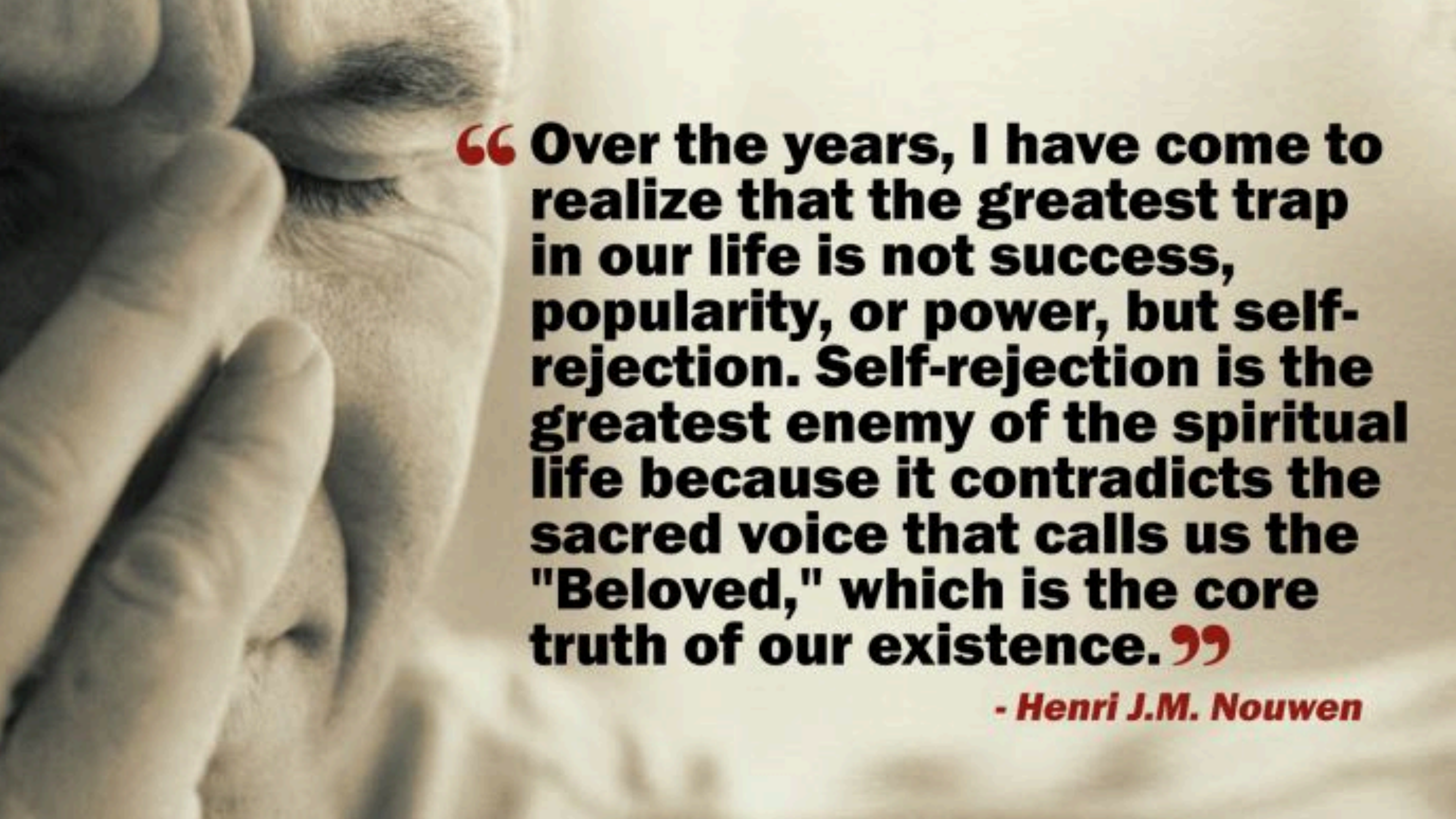
(3 of 3)

MICHAEL  
LAFLEUR



INFUSION  
NETWORK

– Michael Lafleur



**“ Over the years, I have come to realize that the greatest trap in our life is not success, popularity, or power, but self-rejection. Self-rejection is the greatest enemy of the spiritual life because it contradicts the sacred voice that calls us the "Beloved," which is the core truth of our existence. ”**

**- Henri J.M. Nouwen**



