



# God—Our Mysterious Companion

John Bailie concluded one of his insightful prayers in this way . . . “May I always rejoice in your mysterious companionship.”

It is this *mysterious companionship* with God that is so striking. We typically employ many different images of God, all of which are helpful in our attempt to envision the Holy One—Creator, Heavenly Father, King, Ruler, Dispenser of Justice, Forgiver, plus many others, all of which suggest that someone is in charge of what goes on in our world and in our lives.

*Mysterious Companion* casts a totally different and intriguing image. Whereas many images convey a sense of separation and distance suggesting that God is Holy Other, which certainly has profound meaning for us, the image of a *Companion God* gives us a completely different feeling. Granted, this image in no way captures all that God is, any more than any other image we may employ to help us

better understand and appreciate the Holy Reality we call God. However, using the image of *mysterious companion* gives us a deeply inspiring way of perceiving God, and leads us into a unique way of experiencing the Holy One.

Think of your best friend, the one with whom you spend pleasant time, chat with, and with whom you share your deepest secrets and darkest moments—the one person whom you frequently think about even when you are not together—the one whose company you so appreciate and thoroughly enjoy.

This quality companionship is but a mere shadow of the quality companionship we have available to us with God. There might be some hesitancy in allowing ourselves this degree of familiarity with God that we enjoy with our friends for fear that it might reduce God to something less than we desire God to be. That, however, is but a trick of our minds. Our perception of God does not to any degree define or limit God in any way. God always remains who God is.

There is no risk in perceiving God as our *mysterious companion*. Mysterious because we cannot begin to comprehend all that God is. Yet, we can experience this unique companionship and all the comfort, excitement and joy it brings.

In order to bring this image into useful focus and maintain it, practice conversing with God as you would talk with your closest friend. First relax, then chat, share, open up your feelings and concerns. Forget the *amens* for there is no closure other than the usual *talk to you later*. Give it a try. Let God be your closest companion. It can be most rewarding, and it will add one more dimension to your experience with the Holy One.

