



Questions:

1. What stood out for you from this familiar passage from Genesis 3:1-9? What does it suggest to you about the relationship between God and humans?
2. Rabbi Azriel suggests that there may be convergences happening outside of Christianity. Do you think Convergence might be occurring on a larger scale? If so, what have you seen to make you think that may be the case?
3. How is the work of Muslims for Progressive Values that Ani discusses mirrored in Christian and other faith traditions in America and around the world today?
4. How might the spirit of openness and comfort that Rabbi Azriel suggests lay some of the social groundwork for intrafaith and interfaith Convergence? What factors may be contributing to that happening at this time?
5. We may find that solutions we seek are held by those we consider to be our enemies or within things that seem to be impediments to our path. If struggle is a natural part of our faith journey, how might we rethink our way forward to increased understanding and acceptance?

EPISODE TITLE: "The Gifts of Eden"

The Great Convergence, Episode 8

Featured Guest: Aryeh Azriel

Rabbi Aryeh Azriel has been the Senior Rabbi at Temple Israel since 1988. Born and raised in Tel Aviv, he was invited to be a counselor at OSRUI, a Reform Jewish summer camp in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, in 1973. Rabbi Azriel received his ordination and Master of Arts in Hebrew Letters in 1983 from Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati. He served as an Associate Rabbi at the Baltimore Hebrew Congregation in Baltimore, Maryland, until 1988.

Featured Guest: Ani Zonneveld

Zuriani "Ani" Zonneveld is a songwriter, producer, singer, speaker and an educator. She is the Executive Director for the Progressive Muslim Union and an Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace sponsor. Born in Malaysia, Ani spent a good portion of her formative years being raised in Germany, Egypt and India. This had an obvious influence on her outlook of life, politics, religion and culture. As a songwriter and producer she has worked with many different artists with releases in Malaysia, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Germany, the UK, Japan, and the US. Her work in Malaysia resulted in an Album of the Year award at the AIMM, which is the Malaysian equivalent of the Grammy.

Pneuma Divina Scripture: Genesis 3: 1-9

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?'² The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden;³ but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die;⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate.⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.⁸ They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.⁹ But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?'

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