



NUMBER ONE

LIFE IS TOO SHORT TO DISCOVER WISDOM ALONE

Richard Rohr writes: “Aristotle said democracy would only work in a culture already committed to virtue. There is no communal myth left that teaches us the essentially tragic nature of human life; there is no vision that proclaims the primacy of the common good; there is no transcendent image that makes human virtue a divine reflection. There is No One to reflect and No One to love and serve. I do not want to belong to a religion that cannot kneel. I do not want to live in a world where there is No One to adore. It is a lonely and labored world if I am its only center. My life is too short to discover wisdom on my own, to identify and properly name my own self-importance, to learn how to love if I have to start at zero.” †

Things to think about:

- *What does the word “virtue” mean to me?*
- *How much stock do I put in the idea of “kneeling”?*
- *What do I make of Rohr’s observation: “My life is too short to discover wisdom on my own.”?*

† Quote from Richard Rohr, *What the Mystics Know: Seven Pathways to Your Deeper Self*. Richard Rohr is a Franciscan priest and founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He is a globally recognized ecumenical teacher and writer who has richly influenced the WisdomGuides initiative.