

Both/And

So much of our world is about taking sides, not sitting on the fence. Even our houses of parliament are set out in oppositional benches. One of the many things I learnt from feminism is that there is an alternative to the either/or dichotomy and we can walk a both/and path that can hold very different views together in creative tension. This is not akin to sitting on the fence but is an active and difficult path that listens to both sides of the story and carefully negotiates a middle way.

God who holds two sides together...
We don't want to be the Pharisee
set in their ways you can guarantee
legalistic and bound by rules
easy to be made to look the fool.

God who holds two sides together...
We don't want to be the libertine
impulsive, permissive and obscene
flighty and changeable, knowing no limits
a danger to order and social misfits.

God who holds two sides together...
We don't want to be seen to sit on the fence
hithering and dithering in suspense
can't make up our mind one way or t'other
choosing not to choose, instead we dither.

God who holds two sides together...
Help us to see both sides of the coin
religion and state to rejoin
to walk path of temperate moderation
a path of non-judgmental relation.

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