

Summary

Thomas Berry discusses and reads extensively from his 1978 Teilhard Studies publication "The New Story". Here he called for the articulation of a new story of evolution and the emergence of life. The work of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin was a major inspiration for Thomas in developing his ideas for a universe story, especially Teilhard's feeling for the great sweep of evolution from lesser to greater complexity and consciousness.

Questions and Points for Discussion

1. What story is Thomas outlining as "The New Story"?
2. Discuss several differences between the "Old" and "The New Story".
3. Do you agree with Thomas when he states that "The Old Story" is no longer functioning properly? How is it dysfunctional?
4. Highlight elements of Thomas' "The New Story" inspired by Teilhard's thought.
5. Can Thomas' idea of the new story of the universe and human consciousness as a celebratory event counteract what Teilhard called the dying down of "the zest for life".
6. Discuss what Thomas means by the transition from a spatial mode of consciousness to a time developmental process.