

## GIFT OF DISAPPOINTMENT

My family was devoted to the Syrian Orthodox religion,  
but I attended the local Anglican church.  
Appreciating its practices  
I remained a loyal participant well into my thirties.

A series of disappointments,  
priestly misconduct, disagreements  
drove me away  
to look elsewhere for spiritual guidance.

Pursued a "Course in Miracles" with friends,  
read "Autobiography of a Yogi" by Paramahansa Yogananda,  
became a devotee,  
student of the "Self-Realization Fellowship."

Yet, as a physician, searching for holistic healing,  
found Deepak Chopra in "Seven Spiritual Laws of Success,"  
"Perfect Health."  
Studied Ayurveda, taught "A Course in Miracles."

Not satisfied with the inflexibility of his classes,  
repetitiveness,  
lack of spiritual advancement,  
I said "goodbye" to Deepak in search of my anonymous spiritual guide.

Following the lessons I had learned,  
Listening to my inner voice,  
I received sustenance from my partner and friends, new and old,  
Inspiring literature that appeared before me.

Finding community, fulfillment,  
disappointment vanished  
into the vastness of self,  
Self-contained but all inclusive.

Gil Saliba  
May 2023