

Religion and Pantheism:

In the early parts of the novel, Celie sees God as her listener and helping hand, yet Celie does not have a clear understanding of who God is. She knows deep down that her image of God as a white patriarch “don’t seem quite right,” but she says it’s all she has. Shug invites Celie to imagine God as something radically different, as an “it” that delights in creation and just wants human beings to love what it has created. Eventually, Celie stops thinking of God as she stops thinking of the other men in her life—she “git man off her eyeball” and tells God off, writing, “You must be sleep.” But after Celie has chased her patriarchal God away and come up with a new concept of God, she writes in her last letter, “Dear God. Dear stars, dear trees, dear sky, dear peoples. Dear Everything. Dear God.” This reimagining of God on her own terms symbolizes Celie’s move from an object of someone else’s care to an independent woman. It also indicates that her voice is now sufficiently empowered to create her own narrative.

Quotes from the Novel:

Celie loving herself and her new life after leaving Albert and inheriting her mother’s house.

“I am so happy, I got love, I got work, I got money, friends and time.”

Celie’s conversion from a monotheistic view of God to more pantheistic outlook, and spiritual rebirth as she sees an entirely different god.

“Dear God, Dear stars, dear trees, dear sky, dear peoples, dear everything.”

“I think it pisses God off if you walk by the color purple in a field somewhere and don't notice it.”