

New Creation

The peaceable kingdom



“Friends, we are called into wholeness and into community, women and men alike, sharing the responsibilities God has given us, and assuming the leadership we are called to. We begin where we are, in our homes and meetings or churches, our work and communities, celebrating the realisation of the New Creation.”

Quaker faith & practice 23.40

Across history, Quakers have been inspired by a vision of heaven on earth. Bit by bit, this can become a reality, as we are liberated from the spirit of hatred and injustice. When greed, violence and destructiveness are rooted out of the human heart, these motivations begin to lose their power, and the Spirit of love, truth and justice can take their place. We are not in control of this process, but we can play our part. Like physical exercise, we have to start where we are, and build up our stamina. Seeking to live in right relationship with the rest of creation is a dynamic, on-going process.

Ecological Reflection

The vision of the peaceable kingdom is an ecological vision. It is a state of harmony and right relationship based on diversity and interdependence. If everything is interconnected, then every action rooted in compassion, healing and justice, however small, will have a positive impact. In the peaceable kingdom we take our place within this web of life; not above it, or in control of it, but as an essential part of it.



Query

Do you keep the vision of heaven on earth and the peaceable kingdom in your thoughts, even though they seem so distant from the way the world currently is? Can you discern the seeds of the new creation in your daily life and interactions? What can you do, in a practical way, to make this hope visible in the world?