

Heart Flight

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Reflections

Greetings of Love and Light,

In preparing to write a review of *God's Message To the World* by Neale Donald Walsch (see page 2), I encountered an intriguing question: Does God continue to speak to us in our present day, and if so, does this constitute what we now call channeling? I hasten to add that I certainly don't believe that everyone who claims to channel is channeling God, but there are those who do make such a claim. What are we to make of it? How do we discern truth from mere ego?

I admit that I have a near automatic knee-jerk reaction when someone claims to be channeling directly from the Source of All Being. And unfortunately my skepticism has been reinforced by examples of darkness fueled by human ego. But that does not make it impossible, just improbable or rare. I believe that our Creator does continue to communicate in many and varied ways in our day, even though traditional Christianity would say no to such continuing revelation. But this puts the Almighty in a box of our making. It hands over control of what we believe and how that manifests to a hierarchy. But there has long been another way.

Over the centuries many mystics have received communications from God and maintained that belief even in the face of severe opposition and even persecution by church authorities. Mystics have long been the rebels of their faith, claiming a connection with God outside of any church authority. But what happens when their divine communications conflict with church dogma and doctrine? They can be faced with a terrible choice.

We live in a world of extremes, where many people choose to claim God-given authority for their actions. It is absolutely essential that we use discernment and our own inner wisdom to find what is true. But what is true may surprise us!

Mother Maryesah

Coming Soon

The Sanctuary of the Magdalene presents

*"New Day Dawning:
Discovering the True You"*

A Retreat for Spiritual Transformation and Inner Awareness

November 7-8, 2015

Transformations Spirituality Center, Nazareth (Kalamazoo), Michigan
For more details, please visit our website at www.magdalenerose.org.

BOOK CORNER

This page will feature a review of a pertinent book related to the on-going work of the Sanctuary of the Magdalene. Please visit our website for additional study material and suggested readings.

The Great What If

“God invites you to question. God invites you to wonder. God invites you to come to your own conclusions, not blindly accept the conclusions of others. This is bravery, not blasphemy. And the last I heard, God does not punish bravery. What should be alarming to us is not exploring our understandings – ever. This can do more than simply bring our personal and spiritual growth to a halt. If millions of us decided to “stay put” – if millions of us simply refused to even explore or investigate ideas and beliefs about God other than those we have always adopted – that wouldn’t be good for our species. Millions of us have decided to “stay put.” That hasn’t been good for our species...Is it possible that there is something we don’t fully understand about God, the understanding of which could change everything?”

Neale Donald Walsch in God’s Message To the World

Since the dawn of time humanity has struggled to understand our place in an often frightening universe. Over those eons we have created many gods and many ways to interact with those gods. It’s easy to look back and judge our ancestors as primitive and superstitious in their belief systems, but when we look at our own religious and spiritual foundations, can we honestly say we are much different from those who went before us? In a world where beheadings are routinely offered up in the name of God and young girls are raped in between pious prayers, is our 21st century religion more progressive and effective than that of our ancestors hundreds and thousands of years ago? And lest we become too superior and self-righteous here in the West, we know that our churches have covered up the abuse of children and warped the self-concepts of innumerable vulnerable human beings. This is not a pretty picture and the unsettling question that Neale Donald Walsch has the courage to ask is this: Are our religious belief systems part of the solution or part of the problem?

Based on his series of best-selling *Conversations With God* books, Walsch has written a deeply important and confrontational commentary on our current religious landscape. He freely admits that this book is not for everyone because not everyone will be ready and willing to put their sacred beliefs under a microscope. He openly takes aim at many of the “sacred cows” of traditional religious faith, with what many would consider devastating results. But one of his foundational assumptions is that in our highly technological age, we are incredibly naïve, even hypocritical, when it comes to religious faith. As Walsch points out, any scientist, any technocrat, who makes a new discovery will then put that discovery or theory to the test by “questioning the prior assumption.” In other words, you believe X is true, so now you test that hypothesis by attempting to prove that it *isn’t* true. But do we pursue the same course with our religious beliefs? Of course not! In the past, those who did often

were burned at the stake, tortured, imprisoned or at the very least excommunicated and exiled. Galileo was not exactly beloved by the Church of his day.

Today we consider it obvious that the earth is round and revolves around the sun. But what about some current cutting edge theories like stem cell research, abortion or life after death? If we hold the wrong set of beliefs, will God punish us? Do we still live in fear of a wrathful, vengeful God? I'm sure we would like to answer "No" to this question but in all honesty, can we? How many of us have been taught, even programmed, to *fear* God? This question is one of seventeen that Walsch explores with the assumption that *none* of these traditional beliefs are true. They have simply been accepted without question, generation after generation. And each of these beliefs adds to a structure that has imprisoned us, consciously or unconsciously.

To *fear* God, we could argue, is to revere God, to hold the Source of All Being in awe. But we are now at a time in our soul development when words matter. Can we *fear* God and still believe that the universe is a safe and secure place? Why would we *fear* God? Because we are so unworthy and flawed? Perhaps because our God is so capricious, full of wrath and vengeance? Both of these could very well be true. But have you ever heard the saying that actually we create God in *our* image? Walsch's point is that the fear of God, and many others of our sacred religious beliefs, speak volumes about who we are as a human species. Perhaps it's time to alter the message.

What can be the alternative? Some would say we've grown beyond the need of a Supreme Being, but in my opinion that is going too far to the other extreme and moving into pure human ego. Over eleven years ago now, as I was first creating the organization that has become the Sanctuary of the Magdalene, I received a number of messages from Mary Magdalene herself. She still speaks to me, and guides and directs the work of the Sanctuary. One of her most powerful messages from those early years provides an answer, not necessarily *the* answer, to the above question.

"Know that God is Love and God is Light.

In that Light there is no darkness.

In that Love there is no fear.

Therefore, trust always in that Love
and live always in that Light,
and fear not."



Mary Magdalene Beckons

In these past two newsletters, I have shared messages from Mary Magdalene as channeled through Mercedes Kirkel. Now I'm delighted to announce that our Sanctuary book study will begin exploring her amazing work in more depth. Starting on Friday, October 9th from 4-6 p.m. at my home, we will gather to study her book "Mary Magdalene Beckons: Join the River of Love." Watch for reminders in my weekly messages and please let me know if you are interested in attending by emailing me at maryesah@magdalenerose.org or calling me at 269-276-0270. A love donation is greatly appreciated.

Mary Magdalene is also beckoning the energy of the Sanctuary to expand to Illinois. I will be traveling to Oswego, Illinois to the home of Amy Biank to facilitate a "Magdalene weekend" from Thursday, October 22 through Sunday, October 25. I will be teaching a class "Secrets of the Magdalene" from 7-9 p.m. on Thursday, offering private tarot readings on Friday and then facilitating our Sanctuary "Path of the Rose" retreat on Saturday and Sunday. If you are interested in attending any of these Illinois events, you may contact me or register with Amy at amy@amybiank.com or by phone at 630-554-7713.



We Have a New Website!

Please take a few minutes to share our excitement and browse our new site. Then let us know what you think. We will be adding new material as the fall progresses, so keep checking back. A huge **THANK YOU** and shout out goes to Pamela Leach, who has been our loyal and dedicated webmaster for over ten years. She is stepping away from that responsibility but not from her involvement with the Sanctuary, so we will continue to benefit from her light and her many gifts.

An Amazing Glimpse Into the Soul **A message from Mercedes Kirkel**

My mother is in the hospital and seems like she may be dying. Like many elderly people who seem to be approaching death, her process has been up and down, and none of us really know if this will be "it." The sense I have is that she's hovering between the worlds. I believe at some point her soul will choose whether this is her time to transition out of this realm or not. In the meantime, we're all kind of in limbo—both my mom and the relatives who've gathered to be with her. I'm actually enjoying this space, because I'm getting to

see new sides to my mom. She seems to be in a beatific state much of the time, which is quite wonderful to be around.

At other times, she's letting out parts of herself I don't usually see and which I imagine she generally holds back. But now it's as if she doesn't have a reason to do that anymore. So she's being very honest, funny at times, and also quite profound. The other afternoon was an amazing example of this. My mom spontaneously began to give an extended speech, speaking quite slowly and deliberately. She began by saying that so often we don't spend our time doing what's important. I asked her what the important things are that we should be doing. And that's what launched her into her "discourse." She reminded me of someone giving a commencement speech at a college, inspiring young adults who are just about to begin their life with instructions on how to go forth into the world with the highest integrity, purposefulness, and meaning. Her talk also reminded me of President Kennedy's famous "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country" speech. And it reminded me of one other thing.

It reminded me of channeling. This was a total surprise to me, because my mother is completely skeptical about anything "spiritual," and channeling is at the far end of the spectrum of spiritual things she doesn't relate to. Somehow she's come to peace with my relationship to Mary Magdalene, which I suspect is because she has a high level of tolerance for other's beliefs. But for herself, the concept of channeling is way too "woo-woo" for her to even consider. Yet it sure sounded like channeling to me. The "foreignness" of her tone of voice, the words she was using—including referring to herself as "we," and the exalted nature of the concepts she was expressing all reminded me right away of what I experience when I channel. Not to mention the profundity of the message, along with the intensity of her energy in communicating it—as though this was the most important gift she could impart to us. She sounded like an emissary from an advanced cosmic civilization who was revealing truths of the universe to all us Earthlings.

As I listened to her, I began to open to a new idea of who my mother might be. Perhaps she wasn't just "my mom," someone so familiar to me who I had enjoyed and struggled with in all the usual ways. Perhaps she was giving me a glimpse of who she really is, in her essence. Was she revealing the mission her soul had received upon incarnating, which only now she could finally share with us? Was she really a high-level soul, more than I had ever imagined?

As we approach the death portal and then finally go through it, I think we open up to perceptions of reality and experiences we don't commonly have in this realm. Those who've undergone near-death-experiences certainly seem to corroborate that. Doesn't it also make sense that someone approaching the death transition could also be having non-ordinary, yet very "real" experiences?

I was deeply touched by what I experienced with my mother and expanded in the love and closeness I feel with her. It was yet another contribution to my ever-growing foundation of seeing who we really are, which I think is so much greater than most of us are generally aware of. I can imagine shifting into a new way of relating to everyone—as a soul with their own special mission in this world, which they're doing their best to incarnate. I have that feeling about myself. Why not my mother? Why not everyone? I like that image very much.

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