



Reflections

Volume VIII
No.1
Spring/Summer
2013

Greetings of Love and Light,

If you are reading these words, then you survived the end of the world! All joking aside, a major transformation did indeed happen at the end of last year. Our beloved Mother Earth, and the plant and animal kingdoms with her, have now crossed the threshold of the fifth dimension. Humanity is therefore in uncharted waters. Because we have consciousness, we have choice. And because we have choice, many of us are quite literally bridging the gap between the third and the fifth dimension. It's not always comfortable, is it? We thought we were ready for this. We had healed; we had released; we had let go of so much. But are we ready for true unconditional love?

Last month I sat in my spiritual director's office with the emotional avalanche of my father's impending death threatening to bury me. My earnest prayer that day and since has been for detachment. Detachment is a strange animal, particularly here in the West. Though it's been taught for centuries as one of the spiritual pillars of the Buddhist way, it can often seem cold and uncaring here in the West. But I suspect that's because we have a terminal case of co-dependency in most, if not all, of our relationships. So often we define "love" by becoming deeply involved in our beloved's world. We attempt to "fix" it for them and sometimes we even try to "fix" them. Two years ago when my father went into a care center, he loudly proclaimed to the staff that his daughter was here and "she'll fix everything." And God help me, for the past two years I've tried to do just that. But we're now at the point where I can't fix it any longer. All I can do is love and let go.

Ultimately, we can only "fix" ourselves because we are only responsible for ourselves and no one else. The bad news is co-dependency doesn't work any longer now that we're bridging into the fifth dimension. The good news is that we no longer need it. It's obsolete. The fifth dimension teaches us that we're all One, so if we focus on our own spiritual growth and development, we're gifting all of humanity with our unique and special truth. Unconditional love does not make distinctions or single any out for special attention, nor does it judge. It simply loves. What an incredible difference it would make in our world if we would cease the control and manipulation of others and instead learned how to unconditionally love ourselves! In the words of French philosopher Teilhard de Chardin: "The day will come when after harnessing space, the winds, the tides and gravitation, we shall harness for God the energies of Love. And on that day, for the second time in the history of the world, we shall have discovered fire."

Mother Maryesah

Coming Soon

The Sanctuary of the Magdalene presents

"The Path of the Rose"

A Retreat for Spiritual Transformation and Inner Awareness

May 18-19, 2013

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 ongoing work of the Order of St. Mary Magdalene.

In Her Own Words

"Then [Yeshua] showed me a vision in which I saw a great tree that seemed to reach unto the heavens; and as I saw these things, he said, 'The roots of this tree are in the earth, which is your body. The trunk extends upward through the five regions of humanity to the crown, which is the Kingdom of the Spirit. There are eight great boughs upon this tree and each bough bears its own fruit, which you must eat in all its fullness...The leaves at the bottom of the tree are thick and plentiful, so no light penetrates to illuminate the way. But fear not, for I am the Way and the Light, and I tell you that, as one ascends the tree, the leaves that block one from the Light are fewer, so it is possible to see all more clearly' ...And as he said these things, I felt my soul ascend and saw the first great bough which bears the fruit of Love and Compassion, the foundation of all things." *The Gospel of the Beloved Companion: The Complete Gospel of Mary Magdalene, 42:3-6* Translation and Commentary by Jehanne de Quillan

In 2007 I published a correspondence course entitled "The Faith That Time Forgot" and in one of the early lessons on the gnostic gospels I stated, "In the case of Mary's gospel, it would indeed be wonderful to have her eyewitness account of [the years of Jesus' ministry], but that is not what has been preserved in this manuscript." I was speaking there, of course, of the Gospel of Mary Magdalene, which is known to us in fragments of Coptic manuscripts dating from the third to fourth centuries. The Gospel itself is considered by scholars to be much older but how much older and the details of its composition have remained as much a mystery as its fragmented contents. Until now.

Published for the first time in English in 2010, The Gospel of the Beloved Companion is an incredible bombshell. If authentic, this manuscript is the first century account of the life and ministry of Jesus by Mary Magdalene herself. At first glance, it reads like the Gospel of John in any Christian Bible. But a closer examination reveals many differences. So where did this manuscript come from and what are the chances that it could be authentic?

The translator tells us that the document's history began in Alexandria, where it was written by Mary Magdalene and then carried with her to southern France. We can speculate that a thousand years later it became the centerpiece of the teachings of the Cathars. Known as the "Pure Ones" or the "Good Men," the Cathars were Christians living in the south of France during the 11th and 12th centuries. They held non-traditional views on many church doctrines and did not give allegiance to the Pope in Rome. For this, among many other reasons, the French king and the papacy joined forces in a brutal crusade that decimated the community. Interestingly, among the many exaggerated claims made by their enemies was the claim that they shared a profound reverence for the Gospel of John. Given that the beginning of The Gospel of the Beloved Companion reads much like the Gospel of John, and given that this community specifically revered Mary Magdalene, it seems quite likely that the Gospel of the Cathars was indeed this Gospel. Add to this that it is a modern Cathar community that is now releasing it to the public, albeit with some controversy.

Scholars from the academic and scientific communities have not been allowed access to the original document to verify its authenticity and the author states quite frankly that, given her community's past experiences with church authorities, such an opportunity will not happen. She states plainly that she is writing for the public, not the scholars and academics, so the material will have to stand on its own.

So what exactly is in this Gospel and what is its significance? First of all, it is a blend of familiar passages from the Gospel of John with additional material that presents Jesus as a wisdom teacher. There are recognizable passages from the Gospel of Thomas also but the most striking surprise, in my opinion, is the material that can be connected with the Gospel of Mary Magdalene. Some of it matches what is already known, but there is considerable new material here that fills in the fragments. This in itself lends validity to its authenticity. This material could not have been copied.

As for its significance, simply put it could be earthshaking. Assuming that it's authentic, it is the only manuscript that I'm aware of that clearly states that Jesus was married and introduces Mary Magdalene as his wife. More importantly, it presents Jesus as clearly giving authority to Mary Magdalene. In the context of the famous anointing scene, he proclaims, "I tell you this: when all have abandoned me, only she shall stand beside me like a tower. A tower built on a high hill and fortified cannot fall, nor can it be hidden. From this day forth, she shall be known as Migdalah, for she shall be as a tower to my flock, and the time will soon come when her tower shall stand alone by mine." (32:4)

Beloved Companion, wife, disciple, Apostle to the Apostles, partner, prophet, visionary and successor to the mantle of Jesus. This is Mary Magdalene.



COMING IN AUGUST!

The Sanctuary of the Magdalene proudly announces the launch of our first annual Magdalene Mystery School to be held in Kalamazoo, Michigan on August 8-11, 2013. Our theme this year is "Thru the Lion's Gate." We plan to offer a wide variety of full-length classes as well as evening speakers, ceremony, vendors and practitioners. More details will be available later this spring. Watch our website for updates. For those not online, brochures will be mailed out to our USPS mailing list around the end of May. In the meantime, SAVE THE DATES and plan to join us for a memorable, transformative weekend. If you have questions or need further information, you may call 269-276-0270 or email maryesah@magdalenerose.org.

Partners In Transformation

This column celebrates those who are working diligently behind the scenes in the vineyard of the Sanctuary of the Magdalene. In this issue we meet Karen Di Benedetto, who lives in Alexandria, Virginia. Karen attended "The Journey of the Soul" in November 2011 and has come back for both retreats in 2012. We greatly appreciate her continued support and enthusiasm for our work. Here, in her own words, is her story that we of the Sanctuary have been privileged to share. Karen entitles this "*Soul Recognition*."

It happened nearly a year ago. I was sent to Alabama for work, a place that I had never been before. After the work portion of the trip had concluded in Birmingham, I took the opportunity to visit a person I had met six months earlier at an art school in Georgia who lived four hours south, in the Mobile area. We had planned to spend a day and half together. Since I had never been to that area, my friend planned unique excursions to introduce me to the southern Delta region. One of those was a tour of the Five Rivers Area that encompassed the Delta and its environs. At the conclusion of the tour, there were preparations for a wedding...a couple was to be married later that afternoon.

The preparations were symbolic for my journey there as well. In fact, the trip down the Delta was life changing for me. I, too, was experiencing the preparations of a wedding...two souls reuniting after being apart for seemingly lifetimes. Although I couldn't explain what was happening to me at the time, nor for months afterwards, I had felt something I had never felt before. I knew it was powerful and of the soul - a soul recognition. My friend and I were soul mates, and I knew that this was a lifetime connection. I left my friend's house the next day perplexed about all of this. It wasn't until I lay my head down that night - in a hotel - that I shared my story with my friend.

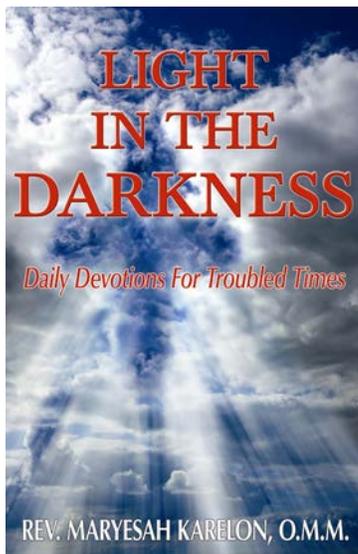
Once I shared it with her, she opened up with me and told me that she had felt it too. In fact, it was clear to her from the first moment that our paths had crossed in Georgia. However, she lived in silence and quietness as I was a heterosexual woman. There are so many synchronicities to our paths crossing again. It was clearly a DIVINE orchestration. Yet, it has been a time of great turmoil and angst. Ultimately, and by the GRACE of GOD, we have transcended many issues and obstacles. We know we are supposed to be together. LOVE KNOWS no GENDER and this has been the most powerful thing to affect me in 55 years on earth. It is a time of walking and embodying my truth. I could choose NOT to envelop myself in the purest love ever, but I know in my heart that choice would be a travesty. To BE LOVED in a DEEP SOUL WAY; to know LOVE in a DEEP SOUL way...is the most powerful transformative feeling ever.

Truly surrendering our lives and wills to GOD, and allowing the way to be known is truly humbling. The gatherings that I have attended sponsored by the Sanctuary of the Magdalene have become a very important part of my spiritual life. The support of Maryesah and many others are like the wind beneath my wings. I am grateful to GOD for all things and continue to honor the DIVINE feminine in my life. I can now say that I KNOW an earthly love that is soul oriented like I have never known before.

NOW AVAILABLE

Light In the Darkness

By Rev. Maryesah Karelton, O.M.M.



This book is a spiritual journal with daily scriptural quotations, questions for reflection, a pertinent quotation from a well-known or not-so-well-known source and a closing meditative prayer. It is written in a non-dogmatic style, honoring all religious traditions.

"I am totally convinced that we are living in an absolutely critical time in human history. Each one of us has an opportunity and a responsibility to step up and make a difference in the best way we possibly can. This book is my contribution to that effort. It is my fervent hope and prayer that this material will lift your soul on angel's wings, bringing comfort and hope to your daily life. May these words provide an open door to the Spirit of Love as they become your

guide to your innermost heart and soul, your own Holy Grail. (From the Introduction to *Light In the Darkness*)

Look for this book at your nearest online bookseller like Amazon.com. For further information or to check on availability, please contact Maryesah Karelton directly at 269-276-0270 or via email at prioress@magdalenerose.org.