



Miracles

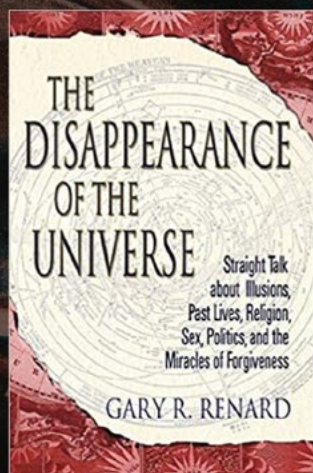
Classroom for the Universal Course

March ~ April ~ 2023

*Just Let Yourself
Be Loved ~ p. 17*

Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE UNIVERSE!

In March of 2003, D. Patrick Miller of Fearless Books sent out the first preordered 100 copies of Gary R. Renard's *The Disappearance of the Universe*. The first readers started sharing the book with their friends, relatives, study groups, and anyone who would listen. Today, 20 years and 24 languages later, the book continues to act as the "go-to" book for understanding the most radical teaching ever given, *A Course in Miracles*. Gary's Teachers appeared to him in person 17 times over a period of 9 years and explained the Course in such a way that he couldn't get away from what it was saying.



Now, to celebrate this 20-year milestone, *The Disappearance of the Universe* is newly available as an UNABRIDGED audiobook. The new version includes all 409 pages and is 15 and a half hours long. The print and audio versions of the book are available at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), [audiobooks.com](https://www.audiobooks.com), and bookstores. If getting the audiobook, be sure to get the newer, longer version. For more info, please go to [GaryRenard.com](https://www.GaryRenard.com)

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THE RESPONSIBLE RESPONSES

by Jon Mundy, Ph.D.

*I am responsible for what I see.
I choose the feelings I experience.
I decide upon the goals I would achieve
AND
everything that seems to happen to me
I ask for and I receive as I have asked.*
T-21.I.2:1-3

The above quote from the Course is one of the most often referenced passages in the Course; and the last line, in particular, is one of the most difficult to accept when it comes to applying the principles of the Course. But let's take one step at a time.

I am responsible for what I see.

Step into a room full of people. Look around, and you will make a number of evaluations about what you see. All living creatures inevitably check out their environment. Curiosity is natural to consciousness. We are inquisitive; and we are all appraisers, assessing, and inspecting the world.

To say I am responsible for what I see does not mean I am somehow constructing the events in front of me. You are not creating the person that you are talking to. You are not a magician. As my friend and physicist, Dr. Mark Greenfield, says it:

*It is not the **what** of what we see, but the way in which
it is seen, and the **how** as in how we might take it.*

We have three grandchildren: Garrett, 3; Avery, 5; and Bryson, 6. Dolores and I are responsible for them every Friday and Saturday afternoon and evening, while our daughter, Sarah, is at work. Our grandchildren are each high energy, and it seems forever filled with consistent curiosity, as they survey the world about them.

Now, with the popularity of YouTube and TikTok, we can all investigate just about anything we want, and more and more information is available every day. We know what we like and what we don't like. Things are pretty or ugly, pleasant or unpleasant, and attractive or unattractive. Such evaluations are inevitable and automatic, and we all do it. Simple discernment is necessary. When it comes to dealing with other people in our world, both those in our immediate environment and the newsmakers, two passages from the Course are important.

*Let him be what he is
and seek not to make of love an enemy.*

T-19.IV.D.12:8

And Lesson 268:

Let all things be exactly as they are.

We do not of course let murderers murder, rapists rape, or thieves steal. If people do not know how to behave in society, we must stop them. Unfortunately, we do not know much about 'correction,' as we often cannot 'correct' ourselves.

The Course is clear:

*God does not condemn, and
God does not believe in retribution.
His Mind does not create that way.*

T-3.I.3:4-5

When asked if I can share one simple principle of the Course, perhaps at the end of a talk, I will often simply say,



“Just remember ‘Do not attack.’ It is always, always the wrong decision.”

*Anger is never justified.
Attack has no foundation.*

T-30.V.1:1-2

Remember:

*“The most basic law in the universe
is the law of cause and effect.”*

(T-2.VII.1:14)

Dharma, Karma, and the Cosmic Law of Cause and Effect

Eastern philosophy holds to the principle of *dharma* as an essential factor inherent in life. Dharma is a *cosmic law* that regulates the whole of life and the course of change. It means rectitude, ‘right livelihood,’ virtue, and righteousness. Dharma means law and practice. It describes how it is that as we give, we receive, and how it is that as we attack the world (as we lie, steal, and appropriate to us what is not ours), we hurt ourselves. It also describes the process by which something new and improved comes out of the old. Out of necessity the phoenix always rises out of the ashes.

I choose the feelings I experience.

In the broadest sense, there are only two possible feelings – love or fear. We grow spiritually by cleaning house, uncovering, and clearing away all the dusty cobwebs of distress, fears of failure, and inadequacy that hide in the corners of our minds.

*Miracles are everyone's right,
but purification is necessary first.*

Principle No. 7 of the 50 Miracle Principles

Becoming progressively “miracle minded,” I see the world through more loving eyes, and I know there is nothing to fear – including the loss of this ephemeral body. The more I just love, right here, right now – the more I enjoy life — right here, right now.

I decide upon the goals I would achieve.

There are only two possible goals – truth or illusion. The choice is obvious, yet in the ego's search for power, fame, money, and more, Truth is often compromised; and, in that compromise, there are many who can be hurt – including most deeply, ourselves. Insofar as we are the instigator of deception, the shadows of guilt begin to collect in the back of the mind, and it makes us sick. As the Scottish poet Sir Walter Scott said so clearly:

*What a tangled web we weave,
when we practice to deceive.*

And everything that seems to happen to me.

I ask for and I receive as I have asked.

There is a yet deeper element that can facilitate our spiritual growth: to accept even the catastrophic with grace

and grit, knowing that it is somehow for our greater good. Spiritual growth calls upon us to forgive others – “Not,” says Jesus in Matthew 18:22 “seven times seven but seventy times seven.” In other words, infinitely.

If I am divorcing or facing bankruptcy, or gaining weight and hurting my health, I must acknowledge the part I have played in the decisions I make. The first step to recovery in alcoholics anonymous is the admission of one’s seeming powerlessness over alcohol. The Course takes us again and again to a deeper levels – including most clearly, the part we play in the creation of our own misery.

*Again and again, have you attacked your brother,
because you saw in him a shadow figure
in your private world.*

Text 13. V. 3:6

In the story of the Prodigal Son, when the son comes home, the father is overjoyed; and he runs to greet his son, throwing his arms around him. The father says nothing about where his son went or what he did. All the father says is, “Get a gold ring and put it on his finger. Get some sandals and put them on his feet. Get a cloak and put it on him. Kill the fatted calf. Call in the musicians. We are going to have a party. My son was lost. He has been found. He was dead, and he has come back to life again, and that is the only thing that matters.” In like manner, God knows nothing of our wayward dreams and our ego entrapment. He is just waiting for us to come home and share in his Heavenly home.

To hurt another is to hurt oneself. The ego is essentially selfish, and we cannot be selfish and free of guilt at the same time. All that is done – we do to ourselves. We are not only students in this school of life – we are also teachers.

*Your part is only to offer Him a little willingness
to let Him remove all fear and hatred, and to be forgiven.
On your little faith, joined with His understanding,
He will build your part in the Atonement.
and make sure that you fulfill it easily.*

T-18.V.2:5-6

This is the path of dharma. As God always reaches out to us, so can we reciprocate and reach back to 'the Oneness of the Creator.' A wise parent, employer, supervisor, superior officer, etc., will gladly turn responsibility over to those who demonstrate their ability to take on projects and see them through. We help ourselves whenever we help the oneness of creation. We are here to heal, and we are healed as we consistently offer only our love to each other.

Sometimes what comes our way comes so far from the outside that it is very hard to see how we are in any way responsible for what befalls us. You lose a job. You get a bad health diagnosis from the doctor. Think for a moment of those who are caught in a war, or for whom some natural disaster (like a flood) comes along sweeping away one's earthly possessions.

The most difficult funeral I ever had to officiate was for a nine-year-old boy. It made no sense, and I never felt as though I had succeeded in bringing any comfort at all to his mother. She was completely distraught. She collapsed sobbing at the graveside and had to be carefully escorted back to the limousine.

*This is an insane world,
and do not underestimate the extent of its insanity.
There is no area of your perception that it has not touched,
and your dream is sacred to you.
That is why God placed the Holy Spirit in you,
where you placed the dream.*

T-14.I.2:6-8

While it is easy to see how I am responsible for what happens with my health, finances, or personal relationships when faced with something coming from the collective ego, tribal consciousness, or what American Indian cultures call wendigo, it is more difficult to see what our response should be.

Insanity in individuals is rare.

But in groups, parties, nations, and epochs, it is the rule.

German Philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900)

In 1972, I invited Rabbi Joseph Gelberman to give a lecture on the Kabbalah for a class I was teaching on “Esoteric and Mystical Philosophies” at the New School University in NYC. Born in 1912, the same year as my father, Rabbi soon became a spiritual father to me; and in 1980, he asked me to help him start the New Seminary, now All Faiths Seminary.

Rabbi grew up in a large Hassidic family in Hungary. In 1939, faced with the growth of Nazism, Rabbi and a couple of his brothers were able to migrate to the US and Canada. While he was intent on bringing his wife, daughter, and other family members along, it never happened; and they all died at the hands of the Nazis. Rabbi was so distressed, bitter, and torn apart by what happened, that he eventually realized that unless he could rise above his resentment and forgive the whole situation, the Nazis were going to wind up killing him as well.

Despite the pain, Joseph realized that if he was ever going to be able to love again, if he was ever going to be joyous again, he would have to let go of the pain; otherwise, Hitler was going to wind up killing him too. He decided the best requite would be to live a joyous life – this he did, to the delight of the

many who got to know him. The day he taught that class on the Kabbalah for me, he got the students up out of their seats clicking their fingers, singing and dancing around the room. No other guest lecturer ever did anything like that.

There were many dark moments when my faith in humanity was sorely tested, but I would not and could not give myself to despair. That way lay defeat and death.

Nelson Mandela (1918–2013)

If we care about our own lives, we must forgive the unforgivable. Jesus on the cross said, “Father forgive them: for they do not know what they are doing.” (Luke 23:34). He did not say that so God would know what to do. He said it so “we” would know what to do in much less severe circumstances. There is a place where through “total” forgiveness the world of perception can be released. The “Vision of Christ” blesses, rather than condemns, the world. God knows nothing of guilt. I’m reminded of a wonderful quote from Helen Keller (1880–1968), who lost both her hearing and her sight from a high fever when she was only 19 months old.

*I thank God for my handicaps
for through them I found myself,
my work, and my God!*

My God, what a miracle!

Lovingly, *Jon*



WHEN CHRIST CONSCIOUSNESS MEETS THE CROSS

by Patricia Pearce

The week before Easter is Holy Week in the Christian tradition. Whether or not you identify with that lineage, Holy Week can convey an important message for all of us, because it is about what happens when Christ Consciousness meets the cross.



The cross is the quintessential symbol of the egoic mind, the mind that lives in the illusion of separateness

and division, and its violent attempts to control, often by instilling fear.

The cross—the ego mind and the world that arises from it— is very much alive in our world. We can see it playing out in Ukraine, in the burning of the rain forest, in extreme inequalities of wealth. We are living in an age when even the Earth's capacity to support life is hanging in the balance.

What happens when Christ Consciousness meets the cross? This, in my mind, is one of the most important explorations that we can live into. Are we willing to embody Christ consciousness in a way that meets that cross?—that opens the way for transformation and resurrection?

Historically the word “Christ” has been assigned to an individual, namely Jesus. That's really unfortunate because Christ Consciousness is one's awareness of the totality of All That Is. The awareness of one's own union with All That Is. The awareness of the Reality of Love from which nothing is excluded. Christ consciousness is actually the truth of what we are. The quest to open ourselves to that consciousness is, I believe, our purpose for being here on the planet.

When Christ Consciousness sees through the cross, it sees it as an illusion of the mind taking shape in the world of form.

So what happens when unitive Christ Consciousness, from which nothing is excluded, meets the cross?

Well, I believe the first thing that happens is that Christ consciousness sees through the cross. It sees that the cross is an illusion in the mind, that all of these divisions, hierarchies, judgments, and condemnations have no ultimate reality. In that sense, the cross is empty, empty of meaning and empty of power. It is empty of reality.

When Christ Consciousness sees through the cross, it sees it as an illusion of the mind taking shape in the world of form. It is not real, because Ultimate Reality is Love and only Love.

Therefore Christ consciousness does not battle with an illusion. Christ consciousness knows that the cross is nothing, empty. This is an important point. Often we want to battle with illusions, but all we're doing is we're making them real in our own minds. We're giving them our power.

Anything that is not expressing love is simply ignorance, a lack of understanding.

Furthermore, it knows that because everything is Love, anything that is not expressing love is simply ignorance, a lack of understanding. So Christ consciousness can look at all that's playing out in the world and recognize it as ignorance. "They know not what they do." Why? Because they know not who they are.

When we're acting out of cross consciousness, we know not who we are. When we attack others, try to dominate and control others, or when we attack and condemn ourselves, we are living in cross consciousness, or from the egoic mind.

So what happens when Christ Consciousness meets cross consciousness? It doesn't condemn, it doesn't participate, it doesn't judge. It sees only ignorance. Seeing only ignorance, it forgives.

Jesus embodied this consciousness. He saw through the illusion of ego, knew his own divine nature, and wanted all of us to know our divine nature. So in this meeting of Christ consciousness with the cross that this Holy Week story conveys, we see Christ consciousness not resisting what the cross is enacting, but in a sense yields to it, holds it, does not



condemn, and by not condemning it shakes the foundations and fractures the egoic world.

We might see all this as an outward drama, an outward story, but in fact it begins within, because within us both of these consciousnesses exist. We can experience them at different times within ourselves. We notice that there are probably some people that we continue to see as wicked or evil. Christ consciousness does not see evil, only ignorance. Evil is an invention of the ego mind.

The portal to Christ consciousness is through the heart.

Cross consciousness plays out in our own minds, often in our attitudes about ourselves and how we think about and condemn ourselves. Within us we can see cross mentality.

The portal to Christ consciousness is through the heart. When we are abiding in the heart's knowing, which is a unitive knowing, the heart knows its oneness with All That Is. Then we experience oneness, and can look at our own



ignorance and hold it in Love. No matter what our perceived deficiencies, we can see them through the eyes of Love, from the heart.

Everything is transformed when everything is held in Love.

Holy Week depicts the drama in the historical narrative of Jesus being crucified and resurrected. One of the ways the cross has been kept alive has been through doctrines that give the cross a divine purpose. Rather than seeing the cross as empty, without meaning or power, some belief systems have given it a significance that it does not have in Divine Reality.

So in this saga in which Christ consciousness goes to the cross and holds everything that is transpiring there in Love and forgiveness, a verdict is in fact rendered. And the only verdict that Love can ever give is: not guilty!

When we open ourselves up to the significance of that verdict—not guilty—we can feel the tremors it sends to the foundations of the egoic mind.

We can feel how the consciousness of Love cracks open the tomb that we've been living in, the tomb of our own condemnation. We can feel how that verdict opens the way for our resurrection and a new world.

*Patricia Pearce is a writer, speaker, spiritual teacher, and board member of the Center for Contemporary Mysticism. She is the author of two books, *Beyond Jesus: My Spiritual Odyssey* and *No One in I Land: A Parable of Awakening*. This article is derived from her podcast, which, along with her books, can be found at <https://patriciapearce.com/> She lives with her spouse in Philadelphia.*

JUST LET YOURSELF BE LOVED

by Janine Miller-DeLany

I'm sitting at my kitchen counter basking in the sunshine as it spills in through my window. I move the vase of pink and white carnations mixed with the last of the fall roses into the sunlight. Ah, such beauty in these colors. I whisper to Love, "Thank you, thank you for loving me with these brilliant colors, the warmth of this sunshine, the peace I feel in this home." I revel in the quiet, itself a gift of Love Itself.



I remember the days I had longed for such peace, the joy of flowers, and the soft, fluffy birds who come to visit our feeders each morning.

I breathe in a deep, peaceful breath and note that heaven is truly here in this moment. I allow myself to let the mind be still and I just breathe in the Love that's loving me.

And then one of my beloved beagles, Mazzie, begins to bark. First just one or two barks. Then suddenly the other beagle, Lillie, joins in. Now, both are up and responding with a chorus of protective barks. Clearly, there's a crisis. They pace the living room, uncertain if they should look out the window or head outside to chase away whatever is intruding.

It's a windy day, and after a quick peek outside of our front window, it's obvious that is the culprit of Mazzie's fear. Something blown by the wind. Perhaps the door, a tree branch? For 20 minutes I try whatever tactics I can to ease



“Isn’t that just like the ego? Some pages flapping in the wind! Nothing really.”

their worries and quiet the noise that’s sure to wake up my sleeping husband.

Finally, I hear a slight rustling coming from somewhere. At last, I look out the front door and discover our daily newspaper flapping against the screens of our front porch. That was it! Just a few silly pages of paper creating turmoil and fear, and stealing our peaceful bliss! When I remove the newspaper and close the door, Mazzie finds a bright spot

of sunshine on the carpet and settles down to bask in the warmth.

I whisper to myself, “Isn’t that just like the ego? Some pages flapping in the wind! Nothing really.” It stirs up illusions of all the things we should fix, everything we could worry about, stressful events to dwell upon, and endless suggestions of all that needs to be controlled and contained. And it’s all illusion that just blocks us from receiving peace and love.

Whenever I observe that I’m caught up by some ego message, I’ve learned that the sooner I bring my feelings to Love Itself, the sooner these blocks release. I usually need to write out whatever is going on until the deeper feelings of hurt, pain, or fear surface. I’ve discovered that the very act of opening up the wounds in my heart to Love Itself is what allows them to be transformed back into simply love.

Recently I felt a bit of a loss about my path forward and wanted to feel more joy in my life. I took some time to write out my struggles and waited silently for a response. This message from Love Itself soon followed:

The answer is always in the letting go and being loved—just letting in My love for you—trusting in My love for you. I will not ever lead you astray.

Yes, let go. Feel My Love as it abides in you and I abide in you. The answers you seek, the guidance to your heart’s desires, lie in returning, nay, abiding in our union.

You are right to see you must detach from the world of form. Abide in your home with Me.

As you absorb My love, so shall you extend My love. Thus, I say again, dwell, abide, absorb, live in My love, only love. Truly will nothing be lacking. For Love encompasses all. And especially brings forth the joy of your natural state.



No more striving, trying, fixing, figuring out. Total unconditional trust in My love—that is the path I light for you.

A few weeks ago I listened to an interview on “[Buddha at the Gas Pump](#)” with Sebastián Blaksley, the author of a book series entitled, *Choose Only Love*.

When we allow ourselves to just be loved, we allow ourselves to remember that we forever abide in safety within a love that will not fail us.

Sebastián had some remarkable interactions and conversations with Divine Love. In the interview, he notes that Jesus (who first reached out to him as a child, in the midst of a tragic car accident) told him that our only job here on Earth is just to *let ourselves be loved*.

Having felt the immense depth of Divine Love myself in some of my own personal experiences with *Love Itself*, this really struck me. *Love Itself* has told me repeatedly the

importance of letting go of expectations and instead focusing on the love that surrounds me and is always there for me. It's funny how you can hear things a hundred times from those closest to you and yet it takes someone at a distance to get the same message across. It was Sebastián's words that finally stuck. *Just let yourself be loved!*

Here is part of the message from Jesus received by Sebastián:

Let yourself be overwhelmed by love. Let yourself be enthralled by the tenderness of God. Allow the universe to show you, along with your sisters and brothers, its benevolence and you will return to the truth of who you really are. You will return to your home in God. Let yourself be loved. (Choose Only Love: Let Yourself Be Loved, Book II)

You see, when we allow ourselves to just be loved, we take the power of the noise-making ego—the scary newspaper—off the porch, and allow ourselves to remember that we forever abide in safety within a love that will not fail us. For me, my mission since hearing these words from both Love Itself and Sebastián, has been to let go of all expectations and just let myself be loved.

My joy is in the remembering this union of abiding love that lies deep within me in the seed of my heart. It is a well that cannot run dry.

As I allow this Love to flow through me, my joy flows. And life just becomes so much easier.

Janine Miller-DeLany is a counselor, spiritual life coach, and student of A Course in Miracles and A Course of Love. A series of mystical experiences with Divine Love and the reception of messages from "Love Itself" inspired Janine's book, Your Indelible Worth. For the book, or more information, or to contact Janine, go to <https://theheartsway.org>.

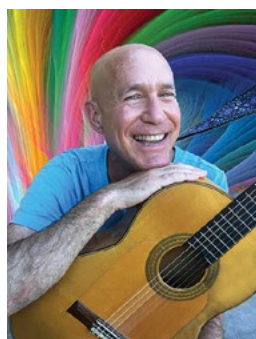
LETTING GO OF P-BUTS

(Perceptions of Being
Unfairly Treated)

by Scott Grace

The year was 1993. Strolling through San Francisco in a buoyant mood, I had been lifted by the success of a juicy musical performance I had just given.

Since my latest self-love stretch was learning to be more generous with myself financially, I decided to have dinner at a nice Japanese restaurant. I sat down at the sushi bar, humming a tune and spreading my joy. The waitress approached and asked if I wanted to try the restaurant's most popular sake. "Of course!" I said. My "yes" had the conviction of a man enjoying being prosperous with himself.



"What's with this check?" I barked.

At the end of a delicious meal, I perused the check. The drink I'd ordered was eighteen dollars, about twelve more than I had ever paid for sake. Calling the waitress over,

and reaching down for my New York City attitudinal roots, I gave her a piece of my ego-mind. “What’s with this check?” I barked. “I would never have ordered this sake if you would have told me the price. You should have said something about how expensive it was!”

She apologized timidly and repeatedly. I requested not-so-timidly that she just charge me the price for regular sake. Still bowing in apology, the waitress let me know that she would have to pay the difference if I didn’t pay full price. I paid for it begrudgingly and left the restaurant steaming with resentment. How unfair!

Making my way down a steep San Francisco street, it occurred to me how dramatically downhill my mood had gone compared to what it had been an hour earlier. Before, I was happy and carefree. Now I was anything but.

I was convinced that her “mistake” was a grave injustice, a sin by omission, deliberately manipulating me into buying an expensive brand of sake. It didn’t even taste much better than what I was accustomed to. I got ripped-off! “How unfair!!” I whined to myself.

Nothing in life ruins a perfectly good whine as quickly as a sobering line from ACIM.

Then something happened that, at first, pissed me off even further. A passage from *A Course in Miracles* found its way into my mind, the kind that makes it impossible for me to cherish my grievances and enjoy my righteousness. Oh, how I hated the Course in that moment!

Nothing in life ruins a perfectly good whine as quickly as a sobering line from ACIM. The quote that rained on my charade was this: *Beware of the temptation to see yourself unfairly treated.* I could no longer pretend I was a victim.

Ouch! “But I WAS unfairly treated!” my ego child ranted back at the Course. After giving that child a chance to huff and puff a bit, and be heard with compassion, I was ready to listen to what Spirit had to say.



“Scott, why are you giving twelve dollars and a sweet Japanese woman the power to get you this upset? Could it be possible she saw you in your celebration, perceived you as prosperous, and figured you weren’t one to guard your pennies so fearfully? Is it possible that she was responding to your prayer to treat yourself more generously in the physical universe? Are you willing to consider that underneath all this righteous anger is your own difficulty in seeing yourself as worthy of love and deserving of fine things?”

Was it my own guilt that I projected onto this waitress?

Whoa! That was quite a jump. Was being stingy with myself behind all this? Was it my own guilt that I projected onto this waitress and the price of sake?

I suddenly remembered two more lessons from the Course, and my righteousness dissolved completely:

I am not a victim of the world I see.

I am never upset for the reason I think.

The waitress was clearly not the source of my pain. In an instant, a holy instant, my case for her guilt was thrown out of court, and I was set free as well.

Tears came to my eyes. How sad that I’d acted on assumptions rooted in fear and paranoia and attacked this



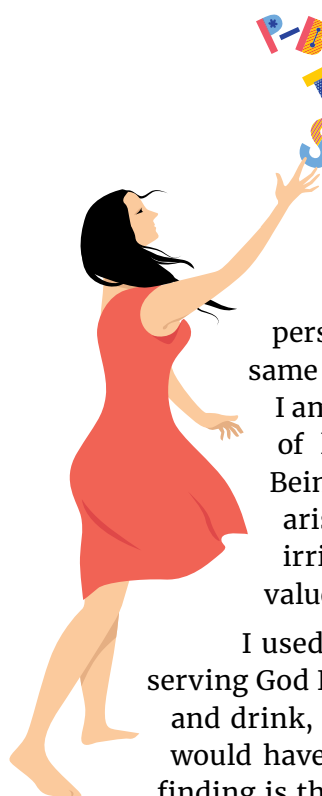
lady, ruining a perfectly splendid celebration by letting unexamined anger dictate my behavior. And then, how liberating to uncover the hidden sense of unworthiness driving my feelings, and let it go.

I wish I could tell you that I went back to the restaurant and apologized. But I did not consider that practical with my time commitments ahead of me, so I did the next best thing. I imagined the waitress before me, and out loud I exclaimed, "I forgive myself for losing my sanity with you. I apologize, and ask for your forgiveness." As if I were back at the restaurant, I lifted my imaginary glass and said, "I offer us both the very best sake, and make a toast in celebration of a lesson learned and a job well done." I saw myself paying the waitress, this time with gratitude and friendliness, as well as a big tip.

I went on to review other situations in which I have seen myself as unfairly treated. The telephone company putting me on hold for longer than I would like. A storeowner who never paid me for the CD's she sold on consignment. People not returning my phone calls. A lover who rejected me. My mother being so negative. How unfair! How unjust! What a war I had declared on life with my list of grievances! How personal it all has seemed to my ego! I made a commitment to catch these kinds of perceptions earlier on in their process, before they can cause me such anger and grief.

A week later I jumped on an opportunity. A driver cut me off while I was about to get on a freeway. I slammed down on the judgment pedal and was just about to accelerate into righteous anger. In a split second I saw that there was a choice: that the attack thoughts and angry feelings were arising in me like clouds, and I could either engage the "I'm right!" energy or just witness both his haste and my own reactivity

Spirit is much more concerned with my 'whine' intake, my mental sobriety.



passing through me. This time I was able to remain the witness, never fully identifying with the point of view that I was unfairly treated by this rushed driver. The clouds passed quickly, and my mood easily returned to clear and sunny.

Of course, a driver I am not personally intimate with doesn't push the same buttons as mates and mothers can, but I am very interested in refining my practice of letting go of P-BUTs (Perceptions of Being Unfairly Treated) more quickly as they arise. The better I get at it with the minor irritations of daily life, the more transfer value my practice has to the larger stuff.

I used to think that as I dedicated my life to serving God I would be asked to become pure in diet and drink, and that pleasures like sushi and sake would have to be relinquished. What I have been finding is that Spirit is much more concerned with my 'whine' intake, my mental sobriety. It is when I am thinking the hard stuff that I am most in trouble!

As it says in ACIM, "You cannot be unfairly treated. The belief you are is but another form of the idea you are deprived by someone other than yourself."

Scott Grace is the author of *Teach Me How To Love*, and *Oh the Places Your Ego Will Go!* There's plenty more from Scott at www.scottsongs.com.

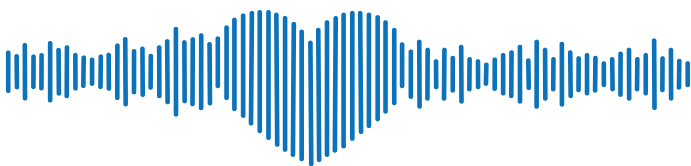


True to Truth

by Ann-Charlotte Johansson (Sweden)

What is there really here
For me to do?
But being true to The Truth
Which is You
I'm sensing the Stillness of You
In and through every motion
If I'm just willing to give up my own story
And its notion
Merging myself with the emotion
Right at the core
I fall deeper and deeper
And find something more
The vibrant Stillness of Peace
Forever present is Here
Just waiting for me
To let It be near
At the bottom of the ocean of emotion
Lies The treasure of God
Greeting me welcome with a smile
And a loving nod

Click the image to listen to the song on youtube!



THE WANDERING SOUL (LOVE IS THE ANSWER)

by John Denver

The Wandering Soul (Love is the Answer) is said to be one of the last songs written by John Denver before his untimely death in a plane crash in 1997. It was never recorded or released, and Denver hardly ever sang it at regular concerts but he sang it at every Windstar symposium he attended. Windstar is a nature preserve in Snowmass, Colorado, once owned by Denver. The song is a masterpiece with profound message. His live performance of it can be viewed on YouTube. Here are the lyrics:

In this magic hour of softening light
The moments in between the day and the night
The instant when all shadows disappear
The distance in between the love and the fear

There's a longing deep within the wandering soul
It's like the half that understands it once was whole
Like the two who only dream of being one
Like the moon whose only light is in the sun

There's a danger in forever looking outside
You start to believe that all your prayers have been denied
And you forget the sound of your own name
And thus begins the suffering and the pain

I wanted an answer, I wanted a way
I wanted to know just what to do and what to say
I wanted a reason, I wanted to know why



Can there never be heaven right here on Earth
and peace inside

Inside my heart
Deep in my soul
Within each part
And in the whole

There's a promise in the journeys of the mind
You begin to believe that there are miracles you will find
And that someday you'll remember who you are
The seed within a bright and shining star

That's like the flame that lives within a hungering heart
That only awaits a gift of love for it to spark
Into a fire that burns forever, endlessly
Like the river that can't help but meet the sea

In this magic hour between the dark and the dawn
In the space between the silence and the song
Suddenly the mystery is clear
That love is only letting go of fear

Love is the answer and love is the way
Love is in knowing just what to do and what to say
And love is the reason, love is the why
And love is in heaven right here on Earth and peace inside

Inside your heart
Deep in your soul
Within each part
And in the whole

Love is the answer and love is the way
Love is in knowing just what to do and what to say
Love is the reason, love is the why
And love is in heaven right here on Earth and peace inside



Some more important philosophical questions on life:

What is the Easter Bunny's favorite
kind of music? Hip-hop!



A balanced diet is an ice cream
in each hand.





Why shouldn't you tell
an Easter egg a joke?



It might crack up!

Advice for managing anger:
It helps to sit down and think about the problem...



Why Crucifixion?

From Jesus through MaryBeth Scalice

I have had the feeling of being with Jess (Jesus) as he made the journey to the cross, as His Body was given up. I have also had the feeling of what it was like to be in His mind, sharing His perception of the events that lead to resurrection. This message came as I wept with sorrow and compassion and questioned the choice He made for crucifixion.



If not for crucifixion, the apostles would have returned to their lives trying to make bigger, better demonstrations of healing and holiness.

MaryBeth: Why?

Jess [Jesus]:

Would you have noticed my life had it only been miracles, the healing of others, the preaching toward unity, the lobby for love? My miracles would soon have faded from memory, like so many of your own God-given thoughts, those remarkable yet unremembered demonstrations of real love, lost in the perceptual haze of worldly mesmerization.

In fact, many whom I touched, who felt the Breath of the heart, returned to the breath of man, the breath that labors



through the nostrils, severed from the oxygen of Spirit, the breath that goes in and out without a true home.

I gave up my body to bring attention
to what is true.

If not for crucifixion, the apostles would have returned to their lives trying to make bigger, better demonstrations of healing and holiness without recognizing the insignificance of the body, overlooking the Christ as eternally regenerative Life. Regenerative is not reparation of Life Force. God being perfect never needs repair. Regeneration is the effect of the end of a desire for separation. Death of body *identity* as experienced through forgiveness, allows the eternally regenerative Consciousness of Christ and the resurrection of Mind/Son as God created.

What you cannot comprehend is that I gave up my body, yes for you and for all humanity; not for the atoning of sin, but to bring attention to what is true, that guilt and assault

cannot harm the Son of God, guilt and attack have no lawful power. They are unknown to Innocence. The investment in punishment for sin is literally an investment in nothing. Sin is impossible to correct through punishment because it is not real. It is not of God and therefore not of God's Son.

You are, as I am, God's own sinless, innocent *Self*, but hypnotized by the belief in duality, in two powers, two Gods, two beings within you. Punishment can and does destroy your body, but cannot touch the One Power, the Almighty God, Who is not power as you wish it to be, but Love without opposition, without obstacle or enemy. This is Purity, and also What you are in truth.

Your body has nothing to do with it, neither can it truly adorn Our holy nature, because it is given to change, to temporality. The perfect Thoughts of Grandpoppi [God] never change because they are What God is without end.

I did not neglect or deny my body.

I gave up my body because the body is not what I Am, but an opportunity, a gift that could best be shared by giving it up. Its most profound capacity for extending Truth was to experience persecution of the Son of Love, and die a violent death, providing for my realization of eternal Life, that eternality could be seen and known. I ascended beyond the body's limits to a forgiveness that was universal, truly forgiving for all the separated souls who thought attack upon love was their best defense for survival; a society like your own that had so embedded fear of God into the very cells of the body, that only a profound and completely opposite teaching could make a lasting impression, turning mind back to the Consciousness of the Christ.



Dear Lily [MaryBeth], I did not wish any harm upon myself or my body. I did not neglect or deny my body. But I realized only I was not the flesh. *I made the flesh.*

You already know, as I have shared these memories in your own mind, my agony in the garden, my apprehension and hope for another cup, another way. I had to develop a depth of trust yet unknown by you and a Will of unwavering fortitude. I had to surrender every egotistical plea inside me to live on here in physical and sensual soma.

I considered the temptation to stay longer, to be among my people as a man in the midst of family and friends. I suffered with thoughts of leaving those I loved, and with the thought of abandoning my disciples. I felt I could continue being helpful on Earth, and yet, my heart, in quiet, heard the Call of Our Father to come Home, to complete my function on Earth, dying to self, and dying for all selves that I saw as fragments dissociated from my own Being.

I longed to join with them in the way I remembered our unity in Creation. And my heart was pierced by the inhuman suffering of life absent of Grandpoppi [God]. Though many emissaries had come before, none had sufficiently developed the Communion of the Soul with the Creator's Revelation of Sonship on earth.

My Becoming depended on drawing all souls upward with me into the Consciousness of the Christ, Being One for all, as all for One lived and breathed through my Mind. Drawing souls upward did in turn extend a Ray of Light in which anyone could follow and in which there are the many graces of the Light of the World.

**You are beginning to recognize you need not
choose the walk of the cross.**

My end of life experience was a purposeful and illustrious symbol of the pattern of life, the repetitive course of life for humanity then and now. Perhaps now you are coming to understand the symbolism: darkness, injustice, betrayal, false accusation, mockery of God, guilt, unrighteous authority, immoral certitude, mesmerized mobs, the cross carried, body broken, shamed, abandoned, on display; the murderous wishes of men as solution to the problem of God. This progression of ego projection still lives through wrongful identity on Earth and continues to incite humanity to attack, to be fearful, and to punish as a means of safety and self-assurance.

It is a belief in guilt. It is the belief that the innocence of the child of God needs defense. It is the lie that insists your Father rules through cruelty unto death.

You and a few others are beginning to recognize you need not choose the walk of the cross, merely let my demonstration be sufficient to end all suffering and to reveal



the uselessness of banal tactics. They do not work. Your cross will not end life, atone for sin, nor bring safety, peace or joy—which is what you want. It will make the opportunity of your Life on Earth fraught with suffering. Suffering can be a path to Christ Consciousness, but it is neither quick nor advised.

Here is the unbelievable Belief. We have used these words before. Hear Me now and give your whole heart to this Reality.

I Live.

I in the midst of You am Life, and the life of the Christ is Yours as well.

What this means is that you died with me on Calvary. The self that seemed to have turned against the Father died with me. There is only One separated Mind in a multiplicity of forms.

There is only One Son.

We share the wholeness as we shared the separation. But now I have come to you as you will to look beyond the belief in separation, beyond your crucifixion and Know Truth. I ask you to shut your eyes and see Me, hear Me and share Me. We have been journeying a long, long time. You have come closer and closer to the realization of the unbelievable Belief.

I am Here.

Here is Heaven.

You are with Me as I Am with You.

You are Real as I Am Real.

Jesus, your Jess is raised.

I did remember and identify with the Holy Spirit, Who led Me to perfect Oneness with Our Father. (At-One-ment.) I will never unremember but continue to seed the memory of those Who seek Truth.

**I have said a great many words to help you
understand my death as your death and
my Life as your Life.**

I have said a great many words here to help you understand my death as your death and my Life as your Life, but your humanity, the self-ideational mind/body which views itself in time is your own personal teaching opportunity.

Love this lesson by caring for mind/body as temples of the Self, neither idolizing, or ostracizing, making of it no Power, projecting upon it no guilt; but honor this as means of communication and realization of Christ. Let your body glorify the Truth of the God-given Life, and live with the wisdom of your perfectly intact innocence. Live your Innocence.



Yes, you Lily [MaryBeth], have chosen an interesting, exciting return to Love, to Consciousness, framing for yourself a journey of wonder and woe, of prison and peace, of splendid and sordid feelings; a journey of frightening and favorite experiences, but never so exciting, enthralling, captivating as the experience of Oneness, once more.

As we have said before, the fisherman walks the beach, picks up the creature who jumps from the sea, who wanted to be more than it could be, whose last gasp was a cry for God. With tender compassion for that prayer, He returns the fish to the Home from which it leapt. The fish dives deep, awakened from the sleep of something more, of something better; swimming in gratitude, joined with sea in fresh and blessed awareness.

MaryBeth Scalice, M.A., Ed.D., views her life as a living-breathing poem of God. Many years ago, her heart opened, her listening deepened, the breath fell away, and divine union was realized. MaryBeth is a counselor, writer, and teacher trained in humanistic and transpersonal psychology. Her work integrates psychology with spirituality, offering transformational heart-centered therapies for health and self-realization. She created the Foundation of Open Hearts, and in 2019 published [Write, Beloved, Write](#) from which this article is reprinted with permission.

A NON-CONFERENCE THAT CHANGED LIVES

by Rodrigo P. Cayres and Budkhand (Budhi) Namjilsuren

There were no speakers at this “conference.” Also no lectures, no presentations, no teachers, and no students. Everyone sat in a circle as equals and co-creators of the event. The purpose was to experience an awakening of unity. And it happened.

The setting was Brazil, not in a business-like hotel, but in an event center run by nuns devoted to St. Francis of Assisi. The occasion was the first-ever nationwide gathering of *A Course of Love*. The Portuguese edition, *Um Curso de Amor*, had been published only about a year earlier.

Right from the beginning, participants were called to see themselves as co-creators of the event.

Right from the beginning, participants were called to see themselves as co-creators of the event, not just passive attendees. St. Francis’s “for it is in giving that we receive” was understood as a call to realize that they came to deliver something to the group. There was a palpable atmosphere of non-judgment, observance, and acceptance.

Like any conference, the participants had name tags. But is your name who you really are? Something more was needed! So as participants arrived, they reached into a bag to “randomly” select a word representing a divine quality. It was clear that divine guidance was at play because the selected words represented with remarkable accuracy some vital aspect of that person’s life.

Two examples: One young woman did not want to attend this conference, but her mother had purchased her ticket and insisted that she go. “I don’t want to go to this event,” she had told her mother. “This is not for me!” Reluctantly, she went. She told everyone that she didn’t know what she was doing there. Yet on the last day she was elated—transformed—and very grateful to her mother and to the nearly 60 participants who cocreated a remarkable experience, and was eager to attend the next event. The word she chose for her nametag was “change.”

As the microphone was passed around, she held it with shaky hands and the tears flowed.

One mother whose daughter had very recently killed herself, and who was plagued by doubt whether she had loved her daughter enough. At the beginning, as the microphone was passed around, she held it with shaky hands, uttered just a few words, and the tears flowed. On the final day she spoke with joy and gratitude, expressing certainty that nothing real can be threatened as she remembered her daughter’s



innocence and her own. This mother chose the word “love” for her nametag.

The transformational power of love was the central experience. Love unites us around our shared identity.

An embrace, although it may begin with one reaching out to another, concludes with mutuality, shared touch, a melding of one into another. The embrace makes one of two. (C:20:7)

The conference didn’t “just happen,” of course. It was prayerfully organized by facilitators of ACOL sharing groups in Brazil, about 20 in number. They chose the theme of “Transformative Relationships” and identified seven aspects of relationship: (1) Physicality; (2) Nature and Other Beings; (3) Money; (4) Spouse and Family; (5) Mind and Heart, Masculine and Feminine, Human and Divine Self; (6) Feelings; and (7) God. Two facilitators introduced each aspect, and participants joined the conversation naturally, exchanging feelings, questions, and insights.

An inner alchemy takes place when we embrace and express ourselves just as we are.

How much one had read *A Course of Love*, how articulate one sounded, or even how deeply one understood the book took backstage when people started sharing their life experiences.

There was time for dancing, singing, teamwork, storytelling, poetic recitation, and walks in nature—all intended to hold a space for the awakening of unity. An inner alchemy takes place when we embrace and express ourselves just as we are, accepting all feelings and listening to their messages. All messages lead us back to recognizing our true Self.

You are here to make one another known and in so doing to know oneness. It will be less difficult to know this voice as the voice of oneness once you have listened to the voice of oneness in each other and benefited from its healing properties. (D:Day15.15)



It seems obvious, in retrospect, that a divine hand orchestrated Budhi and me to be part of this event. We were living in Mongolia, where Budhi is from. We needed to visit my father in Brazil, where I grew up. And just when we arrived in Brazil, the global pandemic arose. Flights were canceled, Mongolia's borders were closed, and we were "stuck"! Pretty soon the translation of ACOL into Portuguese was completed and we got participated in its publication and extension. We're still living here in Brazil, quite happily, and quite involved with these beautiful Christ messages.

To know who you are and not to express who you are with your full power is the result of fear. (C:20.28) You can only be who you are by sharing who you are. (C:31.7) Only those who express themselves are truly content. . . . Being content is being fulfilled by the way in which you express who you are—by the way you express your content—your wholeness. (D:Day19.2, 4)

Rodrigo Cayres and Budkhand "Budhi" Namjilsuren have lived in Nepal, India, Mongolia, Thailand, Brazil, and Spain, where they made over 2,500 presentations on topics related to Self-knowledge, meditation, practicing compassion, non-dual awareness (oneness), and so on. They now help organize activities with the ACOL community in Brazil and support Take Heart Publications, its publisher. Contact: rodrigo@acourseoflove.org

“RETURN WITH AS MANY AS YOU CAN”

by Beth Geer

On December 17th, 2022, I happened upon a “near death experience” video on YouTube. The details of this man’s experience sounded similar to some accounts I’ve heard about seeing Jesus and deceased loved ones.



However, one thing would not leave my mind.

When it was time for the man to return to his body, Jesus said to him, “Come back with as many as you can.”

I wondered about this statement because the man himself took that to mean he needed to share his story about meeting Jesus to convert as many believers as he could during the rest of his time here. He was a devout Christian, and according to the Bible there is no path to God other than through committing your life to Jesus Christ.

Do not forget, Jesus was not his body. He embodied his message.

And though I deeply love Jesus, this didn’t feel quite right. I thought about all the areas of the world that still had never even heard of Jesus. Were they doomed because of the culture they were born into? And what about the people of the past, who came long before Jesus appeared? Had there never been any hope of Heaven for them until He was born?



None of this seemed right, because I believed in a much more merciful and fairer God than this.

It was then that the Voice of the Holy Spirit intervened in my mind and answered my question as follows: “Do not forget, Jesus was not his body. He embodied his message. He was his message, the living truth.”

The Holy Spirit went on to say, “A message can exist long before a body comes to deliver it, and the message of Jesus was to love one another as God loves you and as you would love yourself. As your One Self—which is to say that you should look upon all people with loving kindness, mercy, and compassion as you would have them see you. Your love includes them all, because you see them all as part of God—of Whom you also are a part—and therefore joined together as One Body. Just as your finger is a part of your body, so too does it share existence with your hair and your legs. All parts are very different, yet all experience the body together as one.”

I thought about this and realized that indeed it was fine if someone had never heard of Jesus specifically, because his message is universal. Anyone can understand and practice the

idea of Unity because they did not need to believe in him but his message. This sounded much fairer and more reasonable.

I then asked the Holy Spirit about the man's deep desire to convert believers. Is that what Jesus meant by "bring back as many as he could?"

**As always, the thinking of the world is backwards
from that of Heaven.**

The Holy Spirit gently replied, "As always, the thinking of the world is backwards from that of Heaven. Living on Earth is not about how many people notice you, converge around you, and believe in your cause. It is not about how others see you, but how *you* see *them*. It's about how many people you can see through the eyes of Love. It's about how many *you* can include in your circle of loving unity—the circle of Atonement, our At-One-Ment. Not how many are in love with *you*."

This thought started to tilt my world on its side a bit. We are not here to gather followers or convert believers to any message, no matter how loving; we are here to see how many people we can love. The more we include in our love, the more we "bring back with us."

No one even has to know I exist! My heart leapt with joy at the idea that the task at hand involved so little effort. I don't need to have a website, a booming YouTube channel, or huge following on Facebook. I need not talk to a single person, just extend my love to everyone I interact with or think about.

With this thought the Holy Spirit entered my mind again, saying, "Now look at just how small that circle really is, compared to all creation. Can you expand your circle to include all those on your entire planet? Can you include all those who were born before you, extending all the way back to the beginning of time? And can you extend your love to include all those yet to be born?"



Can you also expand your circle of all-inclusive love to include even those on other planets?

My inner world tilted sideways even more. Could I include everyone, past, present, and future in my circle of love?

“Yes,” I responded. “Yes, I certainly can do that.”

“Now,” HS replied, “Can you also expand your circle of all-inclusive love to include even those on other planets, with physical bodies so different from your own that you cannot even imagine them? Can you include all of them, along with the entire past, present, and future of *their* planets as well?”

I hesitated, having never considered it before, and replied, “Yes,” while my inner world continued to tilt on its axis.

“And lastly,” replied the Holy Spirit. “Can you even include the beings who exist in the vast realm of eternity? In realities you cannot imagine or conceive of? Can you include the known and unknown, the physical and non-physical, the living and seemingly non-living? Can you include those you understand and the unknowable to your human mind?”

My world shifted fully at that idea. I was being asked to love as part of my One Self the *full sphere of God’s Creation*—all that ever was, will be, and is now.

I processed this idea with awe, and then replied, “Yes! Yes, I can.”

The Holy Spirit then said, “Good. When you practice loving in this way, you practice loving even as God does. You learn what total forgiveness is. Forgiveness is to see the sameness of the Light of your Creator within all things—even a grain of sand—and feel a loving completeness with it. It is to know thyself at last. It is to know the Wholeness of Me. For to know Me is to know your One Self within My Love.”

My mind was now blown. I repeated to myself that Jesus was not a body, but a message. A message of loving one another as God loves us and each a part of His One Self. And that we are not here to evangelize this message or gain any type of following, but to learn to extend our love to others fully. “Bringing back as many as we can,” simply means, loving as many “others” as we can—but because there are no “others,” there is only our One Self. And that includes the seen and the unseen of All Creation. And we must be determined to love Them ALL.

Beth Geer is the author of “Awakening To One Love,” and “Awakening Humanity: Our Place Among Extraterrestrials and Angels.” These and more can be discovered at <https://www.bethgeer.com>

“I BELONG TO YOU”

by Elliott Robertson

In *A Course of Love*, Jesus addresses our unitive relationship with the Divine Within as follows: *Call yourself daughter or son, sister or brother, co-creator or friend. But call yourself mine. For we belong to one another.* D:Day38.6



This notion of belonging to divinity and divinity belonging to me struck a chord.

This notion of belonging to divinity and divinity belonging to me struck a chord when I waded through the pages of this scripture. It is one of the few passages that stayed with me when my first foray through the book had been completed.

Later I heard Sri Sri Ravi Shankar end an online interview with the salutation, “I belong to you.” And since then, I’ve borrowed his salutation countless times in my own correspondence.

Just recently, the word “belong” inspired this poem:

*God whispers, “I belong to you.” I say, “And I to you.”
God tells me there is no one he would rather love than me.*

*God wants to give himself to me; he wants to be received.
I want to let him enter my soft heart.*

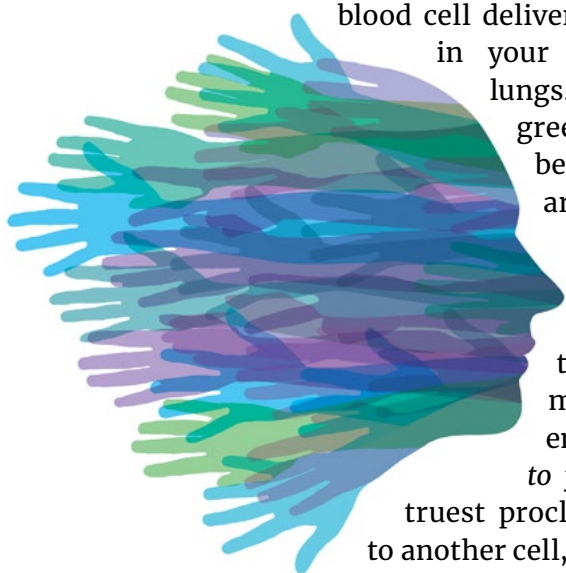
*God waits for me to give consent. He waits with bated breath.
His passion for my soul does overflow.*

*God's greatest joy is sensing me expand his holy name.
My greatest joy is magnifying all that he breathes through me.
It is an honor to dance with the One.*

Sometimes a friend asks me what my salutation means. Perhaps the visualization below will illuminate the meaning I bring to "I belong to you."

"I belong to you" is the truest proclamation we can make to another cell, another soul.

Take a moment, if you wish, to imagine yourself as a blood cell delivering blood to an organ in your body, maybe to the lungs. Imagine your cell-self greeting the lungs with, "I belong to you" upon your arrival.



We are all one body, and just as the truest proclamation the blood cell can make to the lung cell it encounters is *I belong to you*, so too is this the truest proclamation we can make to another cell, another soul.

Imagine each person as a cell in the body of God or the body of Christ. Doesn't making this proclamation to one another shatter separation completely and leave only oneness? Doesn't affirming inwardly the truth of belonging to all the cells of the body as well as to the whole elevate you? Wouldn't it be absurd to for the cell-self (or for you) to tell the one who is encountered, "We're separate,



completely different, unconnected”? Take a moment now to experiment if you wish.

There are many variations of this practice. You can look at the stars and tell them that you are theirs, for example. Or when you water them, you can tell your plants, “I belong to you.” Your plants will be supported by this.

We are all part of the same cosmos. The Hindu god Indra is known for the net of jewels he created, in which each jewel a unique soul. Each one sits on a nexus point of the net and reflects the beauty of all the other jewels. Sometimes I think of myself as a jewel reflecting all the other jewels, and in doing so, I reflect the reflections of all the jewels shining from each jewel. Countless reflections of jewels, each one of them with countless reflections. One breath.

Elliott Robertson is a poet. His book [A Letter to Hafiz: Mystical Poems Inspired by Hafiz](#) was published in 2022. ElliottRobertsonJoyfulWorld@gmail.com.

RELEASING ATTACK

with Celia Hales

I can escape from the world I see by giving up attack thoughts. (ACIM, W-23)

When anyone attacks you . . . , they are merely crying out in their own fear and insanity. (WOM, Part 3, Lesson 31)

The time has passed when the forces of ego attacked the truth with all their ferocity. (CHOL Bk 7, 5:I)

No one who has studied *A Course in Miracles* can forget the first quotation above; it is a mantra. The world in Workbook Lesson 23 is a world in which attack rules because we have not traveled far back to God. Our first step is to change our own attack. When we drop attack, we find that the sword we have been pointing at our heart has a blunt end.

The next lesson is a reassurance about the attack that we still perceive from others. *The Way of Mastery* says that what we are seeing from others is really coming from fear and insanity. I have found that when I say internally, to myself, “This is just insanity,” my own insanity subsides; I don’t want to attack in return.

Finally we reach the place of *Choose Only Love*. Our world has become calmer now, and attack has taken a much secondary place—if we see it in ourselves or others at all. Attack has actually been a ploy of the ego, and when the ego and its egoic patterns have been sufficiently weakened and then dissipated, we are living in a new age, the time of Christ. Now life will get better, a lot better. We will find in most of our





moments that we experience the happiness that God wishes for us. Perhaps happiness has been a long time in coming, but come it does. Life without an egoic propensity to attack—and be attacked—takes on a mellow, pleasant aspect that is the essence of God's peace. And where God's peace reigns, happiness reigns.

We see this in the spirit of Christmas, which as I write is ending for another year. Even egoic people drop their defenses once a year. If we retain God's spirit, we know the spirit of Christmas year-round.

And that is what leaving the ego behind does for us.

*Celia Hales is author of [Being Who You Are](#) (2020), [A Course of Love: An Overview](#) (2016) and is working on a book of sonnets, *Sonnets Divine*. She publishes several blogs, including "Miracles Each Day."*



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Maple Seeds



by Jon Mundy

The angels are dancing out in the sky.
Comes a gust of wind and oh how they fly.
All about—they play with the wind.
Whirling and twirling, they slowly descend.
Ballerinas with wings, they twist, and they twine.
They turn on one toe. They seem quite divine.
They come out of the branches, high up in the leaves.
They land on my shirt and laughingly slide down my sleeves.
The sun is shining, and the source is quite clear.
They come from the maple trees standing so near.
The dappling sun makes it a magnificent sight,
as they swivel and dance and play in the light.
How nimble they are. How graceful the dance.
They offer a wink and a little romance.
Their life is so brief. It lasts just so long as
They must reach earth before they sing out their song.
You see, each ballerina is pregnant at birth,
but cannot deliver unless she finds earth.
Inside each one is an entire maple tree.
How amazingly condensed Mother Nature can be.
The squirrels are elated—manna's at hand—
as the next one, and next one, and next one yet lands.
Thousands and thousands, they all now descend,
an abundant supply: they come without end.
So, if they are lucky and the squirrels do not see,
soon standing before you is a small maple tree.

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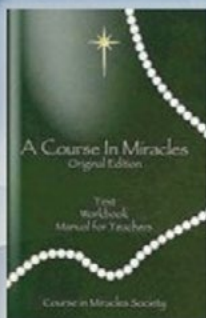
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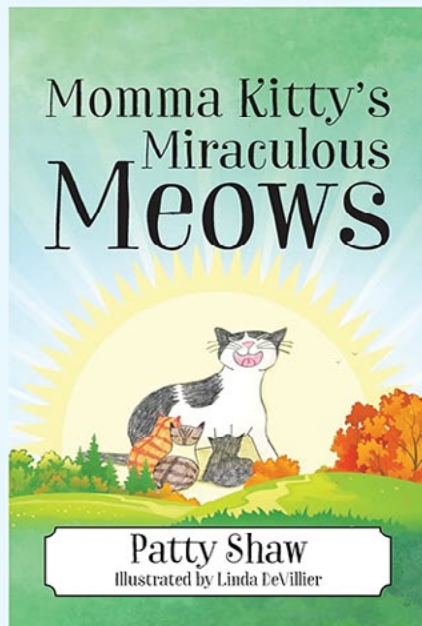


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A NOTE TO COURSE FRIENDS AND READERS:

For years I facilitated a study group for *A Course In Miracles* where I live while I worked running my court reporting business. Early on, one day an attorney client called me and mentioned his interest in the Course and that he'd seen my study group listed in a Course-related newsletter. As we talked after a study group meeting, he told me about reading *Awaken to Your Own Call* by Jon Mundy. The enthusiastic attorney described how much the book help his understanding of the Course.

Upon hearing that, I ordered the book and became an early subscriber to *Miracles Magazine*, which I eagerly read cover to cover.

It was at a Bay area Course conference that I first met Jon and his alter ego, Dr. Baba Jon Mundane. I've had the joy of talking with Jon many times in many places since, and his valued friendship, guidance and wisdom was a direct inspiration for *Momma Kitty's Miraculous Meows* and the books to follow.



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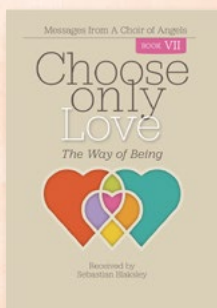
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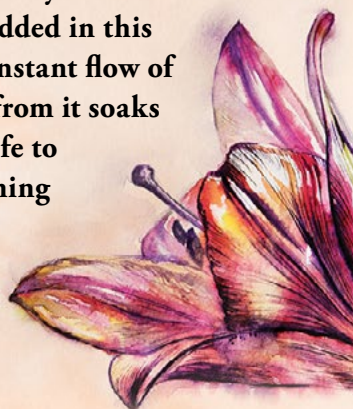
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“A new reality has emerged as an extension of our divine union. Nothing can separate us anymore, ever. Every fiber of your being is embedded in this new reality. The constant flow of life that emanates from it soaks the Earth, giving life to everything, awakening

minds asleep to love. Sing, oh hearts that silently awaited this moment of Grace and creation! Together we create new love.”



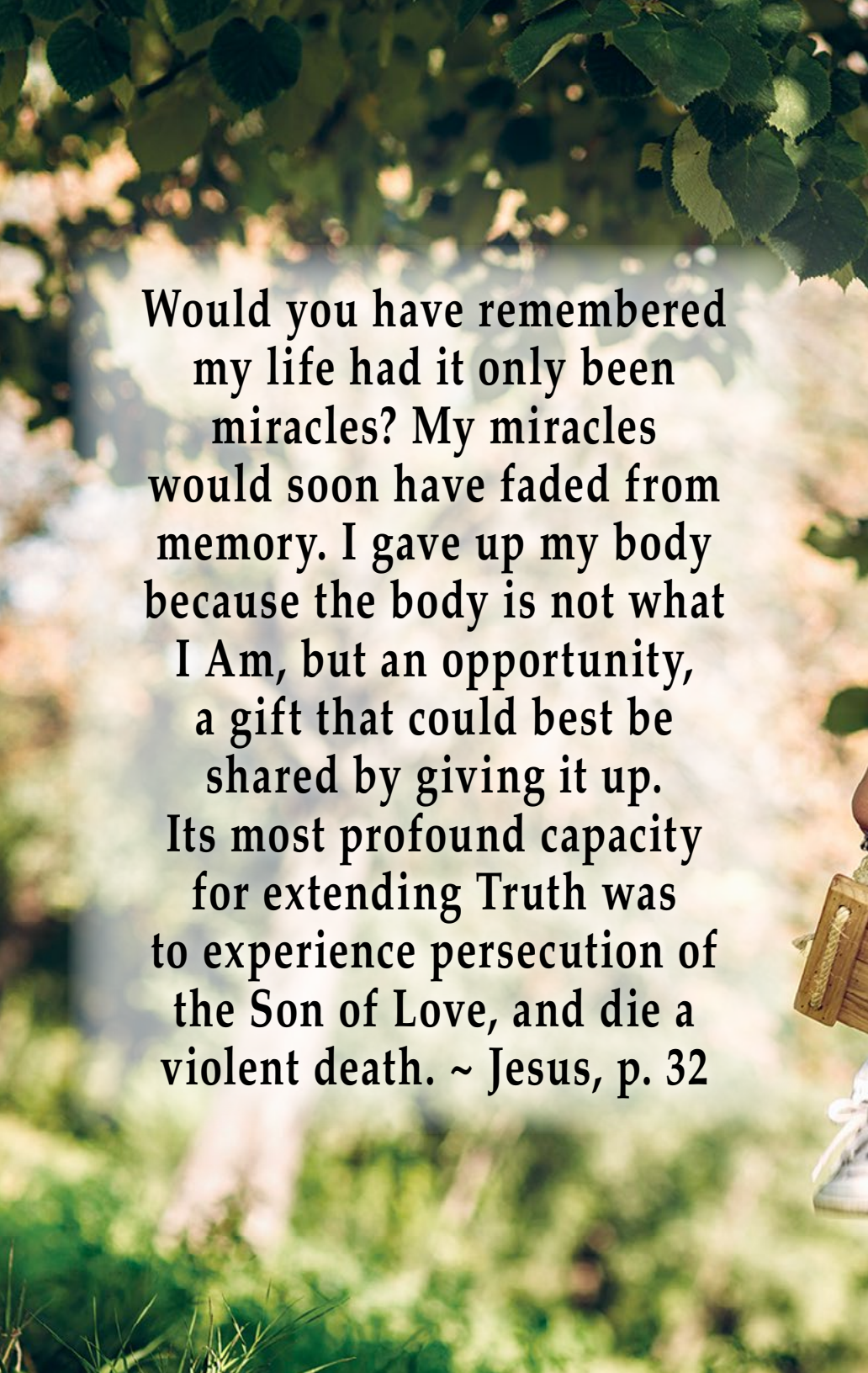
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Would you have remembered
my life had it only been
miracles? My miracles
would soon have faded from
memory. I gave up my body
because the body is not what
I Am, but an opportunity,
a gift that could best be
shared by giving it up.
Its most profound capacity
for extending Truth was
to experience persecution of
the Son of Love, and die a
violent death. ~ Jesus, p. 32