

GOOD MORNING ... ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coronavirus: Center is closed except for evening Arati and private practice of meditation. All classes & talks are live-streamed using the Zoom app.

See the Center's website, or our e-newsletter or Facebook page; you will find instructions on how to download this free app to your phone, tablet or computer. It's easy to use.

As you know, it's likely we'll be encouraged to "shelter in place" for some weeks to come. During that time we will be inviting monks and nuns from other centers to offer us talks and retreats, using the Zoom app.

We'll keep you updated through the website, our Facebook page, and our e-newsletter.

On the 19th, Dr. Bhagirath Majmudar will talk with us, via Zoom online, about what it's like in the ambulances, Emergency Rooms, I.C.U.s, and hospital wards where medical professionals are risking their lives for us everyday. His talk is titled:

Corona – Truths from the Tragedy.

CHANT • SONG • WELCOME • TOPIC

April is a month for study of Bhakti Yoga. A bhakti yogi (bhakta) establishes a devotional relationship with God through study, prayer, ritual, and worship. As a bhakta, you practice giving every action, thought, emotion, perception and tendency “a Godward turn.” All your energies and attributes, both positive and negative, are offered to the Divine Presence. Your prayer is for the blissful self-surrender of a child in its Mother or Father's arms, and ultimately, union with your Belovèd.

Resurrection

Today is deeply sacred for all who revere Christ. Perhaps you felt that when you've taken part in other Easter services. If so, you may also have noticed the focus was mainly on what happened after Jesus rose from the dead and walked again with his disciples.

Resurrection is a new beginning, true; yet it is also part of a transformation in progress. Sometimes it is a very great transformation, as it was with the advent, teachings, assassination, and later acts of Christ.

This morning we will indeed discuss the world-transforming resurrection of Christ. Yet, as a nation, as a world, we may be in the early stages of another momentous change. So, we also will explore what we may wish to leave behind, and create, as we resurrect our lives when the pandemic subsides.

Let's start with this, which relates to both aspects of this morning's talk. It is from Chapter 28 of "The Gospel of the Beloved Companion" (Miriyam, or Mary Madelene):

Yeshua (Jesus) said: HAVE I NOT TOLD YOU THAT WHAT WAS OF YESTERDAY IS OF THAT DAY, AND IS NOW NO MORE? AS I AM BEFORE YOU NOW, SO TOO IS THE SPIRIT WITH YOU ALWAYS. YOU WILL NOT FIND THE SPIRIT BY SEEKING IN THE PAST OR LOOKING TO TOMORROW.

28:5 ONLY FROM THE TRUTH I TELL YOU, THE KINGDOM CAN ONLY BE FOUND IN WHAT IS BEFORE YOUR FACE. SEE WHAT IS BEFORE YOU AND ALL THAT IS HIDDEN FROM YOU WILL BE REVEALED TO YOU.

YOU KNOW NOT THE DAY NOR THE HOUR OF YOUR DEATH, AND THERE HAS

NEVER BEEN BORN ONE WHO COULD
EXTEND HIS LIFE BY ONE HOUR BY
BEING IN FEAR OF TOMORROW.

Christ dwelt with us, and died for us, so he could offer us teachings like these. His ministry of just three years was lived among orthodox Jews of his time — the scribes (lawgivers) and the Pharisees.

These people closely cooperated with the Romans who ruled them, and so held positions of privilege and authority.

Naturally, they were very protective of these positions, and were plotting to kill Yeshua almost from the beginning of his work. The first instance may be when he drove the money-changers, and the sellers of animals to be offered in sacrifice, from the Temple in Jerusalem.

The Pharisees asked why he had done this rebellious thing. Yeshua said he was one with the Holy Spirit whose house the

Temple was, that he had no power of his own, and that the purification had been done by Her power and in Her name. In effect, this statement, which was a direct challenge to the Pharisees' authority, began the issue of his death warrant.

Yeshua knew this, but evaded capture for at least two more years, until his work was done. Then he voluntarily walked into their trap, which had been arranged by one of his disciples.

Yet, it is the teaching that I am about to read that very especially reaches down to us now. Yeshua's instructions about the purpose of life are clearly relevant to all spiritual aspirants — always, and in these days of purification and transformation — the worldwide coronavirus pandemic.

Listen to what Yeshua gave to Miriyam. It is a way to freedom for each of us personally, and the way for all of us to manifest and

sustain a badly needed radiance in this dark world.

Read from Kindle ...

At end of Kindle reading:

If we pursue these instructions diligently from day to day during this time of self-isolation, what can we expect?

How can it make a difference in what happens, now and in what we create as the pandemic runs its course and we resume our lives in the workplace and the marketplace?

What will that resurrection look like?

DISCUSSION AND COMMENTARY

Closing chant