



Jesus said: I took my stand in the midst of the world and in flesh I appeared to them; I found them all drunk, I found none among them athirst. And my soul was afflicted for the sons of men, BECAUSE THEY ARE BLIND IN THEIR HEART AND DO NOT SEE THAT EMPTY THEY HAVE COME INTO THE WORLD AND THAT EMPTY THEY SEEK TO GO OUT OF THE WORLD AGAIN.

But now they are drunk. When they have shaken off their wine, then will they repent. Jesus said: If the flesh has come into existence because of the spirit, it is a marvel; but the spirit has come into existence because of it is a marvel of marvels. But I marvel at the body at how this great wealth has made its home in this poverty.

Jesus from the Book Of Thomas

The Marvel Of Life:

A Commentary on Maturing into Life

It is Easter! What does it mean past chocolate bunnies, Easter egg hunts and dramatic church sermons? It seems that we live our lives fighting for survival most of the day, being embattled by depression and fear and then we have these “holidays” where we find some way to break up the monotonous repetition of our “everyday life” to eat, drink and be merry with friends and family. Any excuse to “party down” will do—even taking the significant such as funerals and the event of Easter and reducing them to the trivial through food, booze and trite conversations. Many people tell me that this is what life is all about. So Easter falls to the stereotype of holidays where we live to merely indulge ourselves in the holiday gratifications that we have been accustomed to by our childhood and the demands of the marketplace that runs not only this country but also, our lives. This is it for most people. For I have been told that all of this is fine as long as a person is a believer in the “reason for the season” which was Jesus overcoming death through resurrection.

Of course all of this is a matter of pure conjecture, religiously speaking and depends upon the heavy hand of human hope, merged with the indifference to do anything unique with our lives other than living for the narcotics of this society which is of course entertainment and consumption.

I will let you “Google” the word Easter to find its historic meaning. What I find interesting about Easter is that it really is about my relationship with Life, which is something that most people have no clue or interest in. What does it mean to have a relationship with Life, as if Life were a person or a “something?” You see Life is something so simple that it seems to elude most of us. It seems that precious few of us seem to realize what we are doing with this thing called our “life” and how far our energies go to affect living both now and always. When a person is asked to question the “life” that they believe they are living or have lived—it seems that the question itself becomes some sort of insult or subtle admonishment that many take exception to. When a person comes to me for insight about a predicament that they believe life has bestowed upon them and I ask them to look at how they have lived in order to make this “thing” possible they will unequivocally say to me: “I did my best!” Asking a person to evaluate their lifetime is a volatile moment that often gives rise to the ego and insults the person to such a degree that they just retreat into the logic and reasoning of living that has been their mode of operation for this lifetime. I have always felt that moving into non-critical insight of any aspect of the life I am living was deeply important to the well being of living a more meaningful life—hence living consciously.

Living consciously is not high on the importance scale to most people. Living recklessly through copious amounts of gratifications along with total spiritual assumption and or abandonment is. Due to this obsessive impulse we have become indifferent to anything that is beyond the imprisonment of our own compulsions. All of this renders us with no interest and generally, no sense of the authentic Life that surges through us each moment of our living—unbeknownst to us due to our constant need for appeasement through gratification. Hence we never feel truly alive and thus look for the “stuff” or the “next thing” to make us feel like we are living! We relegate the spiritual aspects of who and what we are in this world to some authority figure that we “like” who tell us what the ego will allow us to “hear” and nothing deeper. Typically this means that we listen to those who seek to tell us that the effort of spiritual awareness amounts to nothing more than emotional indulgence. Humankind has become so mechanical through emotional appeasement that we have compartmentalized our living by sorting, ranking and rating our basic needs always seeking gratification.

Allow me to explain this mental and emotional process that occurs so unconsciously and quickly within us. We (sort) our needs by the amount of pain we are in, we look for help by (ranking) who best can give us what we believe we need to relieve our pain and then we (rate) how effective this all was by the degree of pain and or pleasure we are left with after it is all said and done. So if I need a house I do the sort, rank and rate thing. If I need groceries, I also do the sort, rank and rate process. All this is fine...till I need something that I cannot compartmentalize, like the meaning of all of this, as life itself and then what do I do? We enact the very same process in total—unconsciously of course. Many people go to a “church” (sort) to find the all-important comfort (ranking)

and then theorize through the “security” issue (rate) through a conjured up fear that benefits only those who seek to be in control of others through intimidation and ignorance. The masses are hypnotically attracted to this kind of ignorance...because it is a no-brainer, which most people consider a very important feature to anything that they do so as not to disturb their hopes, fears and indecent need for human comfort. We must never...delve deeper past our fears as this might cause a spontaneous combustion of Love that would destroy the fear and hate that we truly worship all day and all of our lives.

I have a twelve-year-old male who I am working with right now in sessions and with meditation. He came to me due to seeing me on television presenting the series PASSING THROUGH THE FIRES that is all about what an authentic spiritual practice is really all about. He was intrigued by it and wanted to see if he could meditate as he was very curious about what exists just past his own thoughts. He watches his parents work hard, with long hours for money, sacrificing time with him in order to get the basics of housing, food and clothing. He unconsciously rebels by getting into all sorts of mischief in order to quench his desperate thirst for feeling Love and being loved. He is very intelligent and can see his parents do the sort, rank and rate thing that compartmentalizes their lives and is deeply nauseated by all of this as he feels that he is being kicked down this same path for his own life. He is not a happy camper. The fear of living in the cul-de-sac of his parents lives, as merely a money machine that finds only pleasure in this world and not meaning to his life is deeply abhorrent to his spiritual nature. Yet he cannot escape the desire to compensate the lack of love he feels for the gratuitous mischief he can get into so unconsciously. When I told him that this is how his parents got where they, are in this world he just sank within and said; “I’m screwed!” When I asked why he said; “I am no better than them.”

He has already succumbed to his family and their energies. This is why Jesus said: **“Your greatest enemy are those of your own household.”** Meaning our families create the most profound dilemma of our living. Allow me to share with you the masters teaching here. It is rarely talked about in public and could well be one of the reasons why Jesus was picked to be killed over Barabbas, a man known to be a “notorious prisoner.” Read this with insight...into your own family.

And a man’s foes shall be they of his own household. He that loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me. And he that take not his cross, and follow after me, is not worth of me. He that finds his life shall lose it; and he that loses his life for my sake shall find it.

This passage is so deeply important that my words could never do it justice. You see how we are bound to our earthly “families” has a great deal to do with how we are bound to the ego. Jesus on two other occasions referred to his own biological family by saying he had none and only those who “...did the will of my father...” where in deed his family. He also often referred to his birth mother as, “woman” which in the Jewish

tradition is considered highly disrespectful. We must come to understand the nature of what it means to mature into a spiritual life. This maturing is not just applying some metaphysical precepts to our daily lives as an adjunct to solving problems. It is actually realizing the basic “core” of where we live from...and how we live with this core of which I call the HUMAN VIRUS. We live not as regenerative human beings but as a disease that infects everything we say that we “love” with the illness of human emotion that leads to poverty, suffering and death. Most people will tell you that it cannot be helped...but I am not so sure about all of this. Since the dawn of humankind we have been searching for a “cure” to the human being living as a virus, through religion and politics. Neither of these has worked because they are all about of the emotion that is the human virus. When we have had “visitors” such as Buddha, Jesus and Lao-tzu we have either rejected them or killed them. We are that kind of organism. Only through the introduction of the authentic do we find the process of metamorphosis.

A metamorphosis is the process of transformation from immature to that of the ever unfolding, transmutation into the state of Love. This process is what every master has come to help us with and that so few people are interested in. The reasons for this are actually only one...though it may seem to spread out like an infection that never stops. It is all about a moment of division. This division was given to us through the teachings of Jesus. They are very simple...just listen as you read and it will become very clear to you.

It is impossible for a man to mount two horses and to stretch two bows, and it is impossible for a servant to serve two masters, otherwise he will honor the one and offend the other. No man drinks old wine and immediately desires to drink new wine; and they do not put new wine into old wineskins lest they burst, and they do not put old wine into new wineskin, lest it spoil it. They do not sew an old patch on a new garment, because there would come a rent.

Jesus said; If you make peace with each other in this one house, they shall say to the mountain; “Be moved”, and it shall be moved.

What is he saying? Well allow me to give you more of what he said about all of this. I will let him explain. Hold on to your morals, beliefs and hopes. Jesus is about to obliterate them and give you every reason to once again kill him.

Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division: 52 For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three. 53 The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. (Luke 12:49-53)

Please understand that to mature into life we have to give up the “life” we call living. We have to be willing to Love beyond emotion and experience this life as a form of metamorphosis whereby we use the human condition for the sake of moving forward

into the state of Love. To the human aspect of ourselves...this looks like a metaphorical suicide that would end our hope for happiness in this world. If you have not noticed... "happiness" has its limits and a down side. No one is happy forever after...and to live in "happiness" one has to forsake themselves...as the process of Love. Easter is about recognizing the inner process of a death that brings forth LIFE! Not the repetition of living in willful ignorance and fear, which define us so accurately throughout our history.

I met a woman many years ago that married a very nice man who made her very "happy" as she told me one day in session. She told me that her every need was cared for. She had money, children and a beautiful life. They went on vacations and had wonderful memories together—it was picture perfect as they say. But she confessed that though everything was "just right" she had become...deeply guilty about all of this and found that she had been sheltered so long in this "love" that she could not really function in the world as a person. She had become as she explained, "hollow" and not in the Zen way, may I add. She looked down at people and was confused as to why people had difficulties. Her husband always shielded her from all of this and hence she became the icon of the superficial, a *flimsy* person who was frivolous to her own nature. By the time she came to me...it was way too late to help her. She was done! Three weeks later...for "no reason at all" to so many people—she killed herself. No one knew why...but me. She was not allowed to mature and grow.

Here is a story my master told us about difficulties and how they help us mature and grow.

A farmer, an old farmer, mature, seasoned, one day was very, very angry with God-and he was a great devotee. He said to God in his morning prayer, "I have to tell it as it is-enough is enough! You don't understand even the ABC of agriculture! When the rains are needed there are no rains; when the rains are not needed you go on pouring them. What nonsense is this? If you don't understand agriculture you can ask me- I have devoted my whole life to it. Give me one chance: the coming season, let me decide and see what happens."

God said, Okay, this season you decide!"

So the farmer decided, and he was very happy because whenever he wanted sun there was sun, whenever he rain there was rain, whenever he wanted clouds there were clouds. And he avoided all dangers, all the dangers that could become destructive to his crops; he simply rejected them-no strong winds, no possibility to any destruction to his crops. And his wheat started growing higher than anybody had ever seen; it was going above man's height. And he was very happy. He thought, "Now I will show him!"

And then the crop was cut and he was very puzzled. There was no wheat at all-just empty husks with no, grain in them. What happened? Such big plants-plants big enough to have given wheat four times bigger than ordinary wheat-but there was no wheat at all.

And suddenly he heard laughter from the clouds. God laughed and he said, "Now what do you say?" The farmer said, "I am puzzled, because there was no possibility of destruction and all that was helpful was provided. And the plants were going so well, and the crop was so green and so beautiful! What happened to my wheat?"

God said, "Because there was no danger- you avoided all dangers- it was impossible for the wheat to grow. It needs challenges."

This story is a metaphor for what happens to us when we do not have any challenges in our life. We seem to have arrived at the assumption that “problems” in life means “inferiority” on our part. This is simply not true. Just because we are “inconvenienced” does not necessarily mean that we are doing or living “wrong.” This is a very infantile assumption that puts us in the box of thinking “right and wrong” and hence limits the way we could approach life as Love. Difficulties in life simply mean what they offer—Metamorphosis. Look at difficulties in this way and you will recognize that they are there because it is time to move on...to have a change in the way we live with ourselves here on earth.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

We all have need for transformation. This means coming out of the human and allowing ourselves to touch the divine that is our authentic nature. So when you have the blessing of some opportunity, which happens almost every moment of our life, let Love be the premise for the change. Let Love call you from the Heart to listen to its teachings. Do not listen with the mind—rather listen with consciousness, listen with compassion, listen in mercy. Just listen without the need to understand. If we hear the voice of mystery and just follow it without the need for there to be motive—we fall into the Love that is the only real metamorphosis.



The Truth of True

Jesus said: Why did you come out into the desert? To see a reed shaken by the wind? And to see a man clothed in soft garments? See, your kings and your great ones are those who are clothed in soft garments and they shall not be able to know the truth.

–Jesus from the Book Of Thomas

The Truth of what Jesus spoke here to his disciples is unpleasant to our sensibilities. For many people it seems that everything meaningful must be homogenized through pleasant appearances. The above statement by Jesus to his disciples was both a direct message and a metaphor. Jesus is showing us the mind and how it justifies itself as the conveyer and purveyor of Truth and creates a jurisdiction where Truth can be taught and known. Humankind typically wants Truth to be pleasant and more like an “Ah–ha” then a deep revelation that shows us the path that is Love. Jesus is saying...you come to me and want Truth but you do not want to be “shaken.” You come looking for a “reed” in the desert, which means to see the common, the everyday kind of person who is so very typical of most any person you might meet? Translation is; “Do you come to see a man (Jesus) who is an anomaly to humankind a great and powerful Wizard of Oz who looks, acts and dresses like a person of authority? A strange person who will intrigue you into listening to the Truth? Or do you come to see me “clothed in soft garments,” which, means a person of great authority who wears fine clothing and hence must know the art of soft persuasion? We like our Messiah to look like the perfect person, which means that they are presentable at all levels of appearance and demeanor. Their clothing is “soft” meaning rich, proving their ability to have great wealth, which is the proof of the pudding here on earth. You see a well–dressed Messiah, sporting a hairstyle that is acceptable to the mind’s fixation and its consequential delusion of what is socially acceptable is very important to the “air” that most people are looking to breathe–politically and socially speaking. Jesus says that these kinds of people, these “great ones” cannot know the Truth.

Here is my closing story for this Easter weekend. It comes from the great Zen master Fu-tze.

“There are those who say that you are a reincarnation of one of the Buddha’s dearest disciples, while others say you are a wise man sent from a monastery hidden in the western mountains to teach,” said I Chu. ‘How true are stories of this nature?’

‘This is an idle question,’ answered Fu Tze. ‘If you would accept a truth from the Buddha but not the same truth from a ragged old beggar, that truth would be of no value to you.’”

Fu Tze is saying the very same thing that Jesus is trying to teach us. Truth comes in all sorts of ways. Typically Truth arises in a form that most people would reject and it has always been this way. Jesus was not a mainstream kind of guy. So do you think that a man like Jesus, should he arrive here on earth today, would have a weekly magazine with his picture on the cover, wearing the proper clothing and looking perfectly

handsome in order to appeal to our sensibilities? Would he wear a tie, a suit or anything that we think of as being the clothing of the “legitimate?” And would he have to be politically correct in order to be a sanctioned person by our society? I think people have their own idea as to what a “religious” leader should look like and act like and I can tell you that Jesus would NOT FIT THE BILL. He is giving us in the above quote the metaphor that to find the ultimate Truth we must be willing to look for it in places we would least think it possible and in people that do not seem relevant to our personal tastes, sensibilities and moral standards which is all about our relentless desires for wealth, ease and comfort and of course self-righteousness.

You see the Truth is not something one finds in the world. Truth is what finds us when we are empty enough to recognize it. What was it that Winston Churchill said about Truth? *“Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing happened.”* Truth does not come through any creed or religious organization. It is not about ritual or philosophical knowledge. Our psychology cannot contain it or understand it. Truth finds us when we are no longer trying to use it for the purposes of self-aggrandizement or to try to “fix” some aspect of our lives in order to make us “happy” as it were. Truth is what happens when we no longer seek to live for what we want. It is really that simple.

It is Easter and most people will use it as a time of hope and indulgence. I do not believe that this will ever change in our world. But there must be a few of you out there that seek to know the Truth that will set you free. To those who are reading this...who have found the Truth, words are superfluous. To those who are seeking, words can help. To those who could care less about the Truth, words are only icons of the familiar, which bring us back to the cul-de-sac of fear and eventual hate. Ah....the Truth of it all!

Enough of me for today....please forgive me.

Metta to you,

Swami Chaitanya Siraj