

## Minister's Letter

We have experienced a few very unusual years causing us to live very differently from what our past frame of reference was. And now what? I ran across a writing that suggested we are living in a Chrysalis of Fragility and suggests there is a power within us to reckon with fragility and letting it reveal a new strength in us. This can show up in many different ways and we may recognize it is something we've been having to deal with on both a global and also a personal scale over these last years. This concept reminded me of something I wrote in 1978 when I was in a sort of identity crisis. I thought I would share it—perhaps you will relate. Happy May!

### THE BUTTERFLY By Lynn Osborne

I was thinking of butterflies and how graceful and free they are. Freedom is what we are here for. There is something within every soul that yearns to be free. But, it takes us so long to realize that in order to be free, we must become aware of ourselves and we must grow. The butterfly knows this—that's why he gets to fly. When he is still a caterpillar, he doesn't know it. He just crawls around and munches on leaves, never really looking beyond the next leaf. He does what all caterpillars do because that's what he has been programmed to do. You and I also have our caterpillar stage. That is the time in our lives when we just go along with what is put in front of us because everyone else does and "they" say you have to fit this role and go into that slot. And we do it without question, totally unaware of our potential—which is freedom.

But, one day the caterpillar looks around and becomes aware. He sees the branch he is crawling on, and it looks small compared with the rest of the world. He sees the next leaf and, all of a sudden, something more. He sees that he is a caterpillar, but something in him says **he** is something more. He becomes uncomfortable with himself and where he is and, because it doesn't feel good to be a caterpillar anymore, the other caterpillars don't understand him. They tell him to keep eating—stay the way he is. But his awareness has brought with it the realization that it is time for him to change,

time for him to grow. It hurts to leave old friends and old ways, but the pull within him is too strong to resist. It is some thing he knows he must do.

It is painful for a while as the business of growing sometimes is. And so he begins to surround himself with an outer protection so that those who don't understand can't poke at him. The more he spins his shell around him, the more he realizes that it is a time of aloneness, that this growing must be done all by himself, no matter how difficult it might seem. So, he isolates himself from the outside world. He goes within to a time of introspection and of retrospection. Oh, he knows there are support systems out there—they provide the branch he clings to; still, no one can get into the cocoon with him. We, too, have our support systems, but we must do our own growing.

During this time of aloneness, the Being changes and grows and becomes very strong. He must be strong before he emerges in order to rise above those who don't understand, to be free of anything that would harm him.

At last the day comes and he emerges a beautiful butterfly with multicolored wings that are strong and able to lift him high. Because his old friends don't know him anymore, they are critical and condemn him for changing, but nothing can bring him down now. He knows that someday they, too, will respond to the urge deep within when it begins to stir and say: "Come on, it's your turn now, time for you to become what your Divine Pattern intended you to be."

Do you wonder what your Divine Pattern is? There is something within the butterfly that knows. There is something within you that knows.

*Blessings and Happy May,  
Rev Lynn*



Sequim  
Center for Spiritual Living

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Sunday Services  
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For information contact:  
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*I set my bow in the clouds  
and it shall be a sign  
of a covenant between me  
and the earth. – Genesis 9:13*

## EDITOR'S ESPRIT

Dear Friends,

I am often amazed at how one momentary awareness can become an educational experience—and lead to more awareness . . . . Earlier this week, while on the morning walk with my dog Blue, I noticed the dew on the grass and foliage along the way. What drew my attention to it was the light from afar shining on a blade of grass. It was almost as if its inner essence was showing on the outside. Why was I drawn to this?

I started thinking about dew. What causes it? Does it occur every day? That led me to the internet to do some learning. The National Geographic website states: “Dew is the moisture that forms as a result of condensation. Condensation is the process a material undergoes as it changes from a gas to a liquid. Dew is the result of water changing from a vapor to a liquid.

Dew forms as temperatures drop and objects cool down. If the object becomes cool enough, the air around the object will also cool. Colder air is less able to hold water vapor than warm air. This forces water vapor in the air around cooling objects to condense. When condensation happens, small water droplets form—dew.”

As most of you know, sometimes a single word can lead my mind off into a stream of consciousness, finding something hidden in the word. Dew is one of those words. It reminded me of when we get angry—sometimes referred to as getting heated. During those times we are not able to do what we set out to do. We let anger evaporate our good. Anger becomes a blockage because it is not our nature, and at some level we know this. Like the moisture nurturing the grass as dew, when we cool off, our true nature returns, and we are able to nurture again. We experience our good flowing to us easily.

Like the light shining on the blade of grass from afar, the Light of our Source shines on each of us seemingly from afar. But It is actually within us. When we let our light shine, we show the Love that is our nature, and our true inner essence is manifest outward.

Whether we are noticing the dew, looking at what we do, or bidding adieu, staying cool allows us to bring our best to light. And when we join our individual lights, we illuminate the world with Love. Let us all remember to let our light shine.

Light and Love,  
Kathy Purcell, *Editor*

**“If you nurture your mind, body, and spirit,  
your time will expand. You will gain  
a new perspective that will allow you  
to accomplish much more.” ~Brian Koslow**

## TREATMENT

by Rev. Deb Nygaard

*“My joy is like spring, so warm, it makes flowers bloom all over the earth.”* Thich Nhat Hahn

In this present moment, here and now, where I live and have my being all is as it needs to be.

The Presence that is everywhere and everywhen, is the energy and Life of all that is, was or ever will be. It imbues all with the knowingness of how to be, perfect, balanced, and whole.

Nature inspires me with its beauty, balance, and harmony. It does not think how to become, it knows what it is. I am awed when I look at a flower, its colors, the leaves, and petals forming a perfect creation of beauty. I am awed at the knowledge within the tiny seed of a radish, that everything that is needed to be a radish is in that tiny container. I am awed by the life cycle of a butterfly from egg to larvae to iridescent colorful wings. I am awed that it all happens just as it needs to be.

All my senses are engaged with Nature. I feel the balance and harmony of life flowing throughout all I encounter in the naturalness of the world. Nature is my mirror showing me patterns in me that are the same. It is a joyful and inspiring experience showing me that God is Nature and Nature is God. I am intrinsically incorporated into Nature and to God.

I am revitalized by the energy of the plants, animals, and minerals inherent in Nature, perfectly formed, in the right place and the right time without effort.

I allow my mind to empty and my heart to swell with great gratitude and joy as I take in the awe-inspiring Nature of all that is around me and in me.

I let go and let God.



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## Mother's Day

*~submitted by Rev. Victoria Kelley, R.Sc.P.*

*How fortunate we are to start Mother's Day each year together. As we are all nurturers in some capacity I trust everyone had a lovely and blessed day. Here is a poem you may enjoy.*

### **A MOTHER'S LOVE** by HELEN STEINER RICE

*A Mother's love is something  
that no one can explain,  
It is made of deep devotion  
and of sacrifice and pain,*

*It is endless and unselfish  
and enduring come what may  
For nothing can destroy it  
or take that love away . . .*

*It is patient and forgiving  
when all others are forsaking,  
And it never fails or falters  
even though the heart is breaking . . .*

*It believes beyond believing  
when the world around condemns,  
And it glows with all the beauty  
of the rarest, brightest gems . . .*

*It is far beyond defining,  
it defies all explanation,  
And it still remains a secret  
like the mysteries of creation . . .*

*A many splendored miracle  
man cannot understand  
And another wondrous evidence  
of God's tender guiding hand.*

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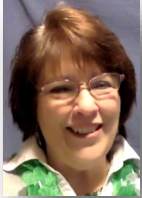
JoAnn Fisher

## MEDITATION:

Terry Barrett

*Thank You!*

## SPECIAL THANKS



Special thanks to our new Practitioner,  
 Terry Barrett R.Sc.P.  
 for her inspirational talks on  
**The Celtic Wisdom of Friendship in March**  
 and  
**The Stories of Easter in April.**



## INCOME & EXPENSE REPORT

	<u>JAN 22</u>	<u>FEB 22</u>	<u>MAR 22</u>
Income	\$3,076	\$3,501	\$2,164
Expenses	\$2,811	\$2,790	\$3,238
Income minus Expenses	\$265	\$ 711	(\$1,074)
Attendance	137	102	107

## CELEBRATE LIFE!

### MAY

1 Joe Preti  
 4 Alice McCracken  
 9 David Hull  
 25 Bob Barrett  
 25 Mary Ellen Bartholomew

### JUNE

2 Mary Bland  
 4 Bill Hays  
 6 Heike Ward  
 9 Marie O'Neill  
 9 Richard Seiler  
 11 JoAnn Fisher  
 21 Sally Parry  
 25 Gail Young  
 25 Jack Hubley  
 29 Maralee Johnson



### JULY

2 Annie James  
 3 Ruth Messing  
 4 Barbara Bolles  
 17 Kathy Purcell  
 18 Bonnie Spiva  
 25 Sylvia Boss  
 26 Carol Novis  
 29 Deborah Abell

## MISSION STATEMENT

*To Serve and Support each other  
in Living from Spirit.*



## VISION STATEMENT

*We are a growing spiritual community  
expressing Love and Oneness with all.*

### SOM CLASS—SPIRITUAL LAWS OF SUCCESS

Tuesdays, 4:00 pm–6:00 pm

Via Zoom

Co-Facilitated by: Rev. Deb Nygaard and

Rev. Lynn Osborne

Suggested Tuition for credit \$80 for the Course

### COURSE IN MIRACLES

Future meetings to be announced soon.

Sequim Center for Spiritual Living  
is “Open at the Top.”  
We welcome members of the  
community to join us.  
For membership information,  
please contact Rev. Lynn at 681-7451

*“We must learn to reawaken and keep ourselves awake, not by mechanical aid,  
but by an infinite expectation of the dawn.” ~Henry David Thoreau*



## OUR PRE-EASTER GATHERING

~submitted by Rev. Victoria Kelley, R.Sc.P.

Was a delightful success! We shared stories of Easter, what Easter means to us, recipes, and with plans for the current Easter celebration.

We also heard various versions of the Easter story and a history of how Easter evolved. Everyone who attended received an Easter treat of a free yogurt at the local Sweet Spot Shop. Thank you to all that attended and made this so special.

## WHAT'S IN A WORD?

Sometimes we read or hear a word or phrase, and something quite different than the typical meaning comes to mind. This column is a place to share what's in a word for you. Below are three examples. If you have any meaningful words you would like to share, we welcome you to submit them to Kathy Purcell.

**PROSPECTIVE / PERSPECTIVE**—If our **PROSPECTIVE** idea is not producing what we desire, we merely need to change our **PERSPECTIVE** and our good will appear.

**SHAKE / SHAKE**—If we feel we are not getting a fair **SHAKE** we can **SHAKE** off the victim role and abundance will flow freely to us.

**WAKE / WAKE**—When we **WAKE** to the Truth of who we are, a **WAKE** of good shows up in our lives.

P  
WAKE  
R  
SHAKE  
P  
E  
C  
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V  
E

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## TRUTH EXPERIENCED DURING A NATURE WALK

Recently, I drove to nearby Silverdale to see my allergy doctor and do some shopping. Afterward—in the midst of sun, clouds, and threatened rain—I stopped with my two poodles at Island Lake Regional Park. It was gorgeous there, with an amazing sky and everything green and springy. I love parks, especially with my dogs because they sniff all the plants, giving me time to look around and enjoy being outside in nature. I can lose myself in that outdoor beauty.



The main walking trail is covered in vines, trees, and dirt paths upward into a jungle of tangled growth. Only occasionally, I pass a human being. I love this place, but at the same time, while moving along with my dogs, who are great companions but not protectors, I have often a fearful sensation that someone is going to come out of the woods and attack me. What would happen to my animals if the worst possible thing befell me?

This time I stopped myself. Those thoughts were born in childhood warnings, and I suddenly recognized that it was stupid to let these old fears ruin such a lovely day in this park. So, I said aloud a Treatment:

“God is the creator of the universe. I am part of God and one with God. As I stroll through this beautiful landscape with my happy poodles, God keeps me safe from harm. Knowing this is so, and that I am protected and no harm shall come to me, I give thanks and, with gratitude, I release this Truth and let it go. And so it is, Amen.”

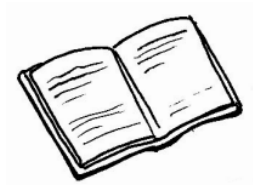
After I spoke these words, my negative thoughts completely disappeared. I met several people, men and women, on the trail, all but one of them accompanied by a dog. We smiled, spoke warmly, and our animals greeted one another—all with pleasantness and appropriate responsibility.



I then drove back to Sequim in a happy frame of mind. During what was, essentially, a nature meditation, I had caught myself having negative thoughts and turned them around with a Treatment. God is always with me, when I pay attention.

~Alice McCracken

## HAPPY BOOKER RECOMMENDATION



### THE Rebirthing of GOD

Christianity's Struggle for New Beginnings

By John Phillip Newell 6494403

Catchy Title! After reading Newell's "Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul," I was definitely excited about getting this book for a deeper connection with more understanding of God and all that is.

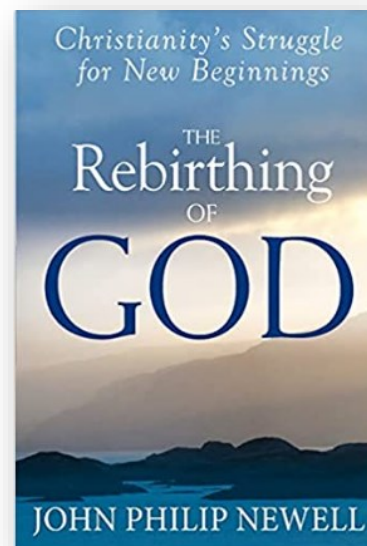
I have to confess I haven't finished reading this book. Usually 124 pages doesn't take very long, but consider some of the Chapter titles: (The following is just a sample.)

- ⇒ Chapter 1: "Reconnecting with the Earth" ("the Cathedral of Earth, Sky and Sea")
- ⇒ Chapter 4: "Reconnecting with the Journey" ("finding the other Half of our Soul")
- ⇒ Chapter 8: "Reconnecting with Love" ("Giving up our imaginary Position as the Center")

One of the comments from author, Bob Bell, is "Wow... This book will move you....with fresh insight into the birth of everything."

May all your readings, whatever they are, bring joy and new insights that you would consider sharing. Many readers would love that....I know I would.

Love, Blessings and Joyful Reading times!  
JoAnn Fisher, The Happy Booker



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*"Some things scratch the surface while others strike at your soul." ~Gianna Perada*

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## ENDINGS AND BEGINNINGS

It is amazing how much can happen in a month or two. My experience is filled with endings and new beginnings. Now I realize that I am experiencing grief, excitement and uncertainty, in an unpredictable mix!

On the fifth of April, I hurried down to Vancouver, Washington to be with my mom as she made her transition. I sat with her and held her hand and thanked her for being my mom and for waiting for me to get there before she passed. Mom had said to me just the day before, as she was admitted to the hospital for the second time in two weeks, "I'm going to hang on for two or three years so I can be at your ordination." I experienced the ending that came at that moment. The end of some of our plans and dreams, and the beginning of other things.

When I became a licensed Practitioner a few months ago, I had told my mom that I really wanted her to be there for my ordination as a minister. I decided then that I would take the steps to become a minister. I thought I could continue taking classes through our Center with Rev. Lynn, but things have changed in the organization. I continued on with the next steps as I learned about the requirements. I applied to the Holmes Institute and was accepted as a student to begin classes in July! Well, there's a new beginning to talk about. I am a new student in the Masters in Consciousness Studies and the Certificate in Ministerial Education.



I am moving through the process of helping to clear Mom's things and putting the house up for sale. I experience the grief as the memories we made together through our lifetime appear one after another. I will miss her. I've learned from her and have loved her dearly. A friend shared with me a song by Ed Sheeran that I had never heard before. I used these words in Mom's celebration of life:

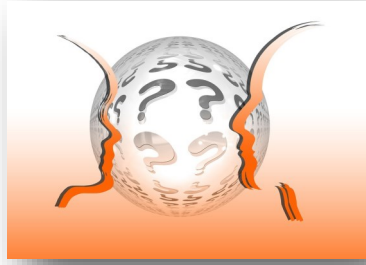
A life with love is a life that's been lived. I'm in pieces, and it's tearing me up,  
but I know a heart that's broke is a heart that's been loved.  
So, I'll sing Hallelujah, you were an angel in the shape of my mom.  
When God takes you back, he'll say Hallelujah you're home.

As I sat there that morning with Mom as she took her last few breaths, I told her "It's okay, I know you'll be there for my ordination when the time comes. You don't have to be in a body. I'll save a special seat for you." I'm so grateful for all the love that has been poured out to me from our Center. You have inspired, supported and helped me grow. I have found direction in my life because of this Center. I'm so very grateful. The future is bright and full of wonderful learning and good work!

~Terry Barrett, R.Sc.P.

**"Love is a symbol of eternity. It wipes out all sense of time, destroying all memory of a beginning and all fear of an end." ~Author Unknown**





# Profound Questions to Ponder

~submitted by Rev. Victoria Kelley

In your opinion what is the relationship between predetermination (fate/destiny) and free will? If things are predetermined, then do we even have free will?

Some people believe that everything is pre-decided for us, and we are merely actors or puppets in this play of life. There are no accidents and no coincidences.

Others believe that we have complete free will and that our choices are totally ours. Coincidences are merely coincidences.

Some people believe that some things are fated, while others are not.

Others say that while we cannot control what happens to us, we still have free will in how we respond to what happens to us.

A certain group of people believe that the Law of Attraction is in 100% constant effect to the point to suggest that every single experience of our lives is something we attracted to us. That is was fated as a consequence of our free will decisions.

Of course there are many other variations of what people believe. What are your thoughts? I'm not here to give you an answer but to give you questions to ponder. Imagine you could manifest anything you want in your life, anything at all; what would it look like?

Is it the opportunity presented to you between what has been predetermined for your future by your previous actions? Is it what your future can look like if you decide to exercise your free will? Can you step beyond your previously programmed habits and thought patterns and beliefs? How good can you imagine your life becoming?

Questioning the above gives you pause to ponder. If you would like to share your thoughts please send them to me. If enough respond I will collect them and submit them into our next newsletter, with your permission of course. Namaste

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**“It’s a question of not copying the masters, to look for something, good or bad, for oneself. To enter this liberated state of mind, one cannot copy the others.” ~Nathalie Sarraute**

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## BASIC SOM QUESTIONS By Rev. Michael Laakso

We have an on-going column which is designed to answer some basic Science of Mind questions. We trust this will give you new insights, allowing you to better understand SOM principles.

### What is Infinity? Part Thirty-Six

In our last article, we examined the Seven Days of creation as given in Genesis in the Bible. Those Seven Days or cycles of creation were the demonstrated Thought of the All-Good Universal Mind. Perfection, Harmony and Right Action characterized this cosmology. All cosmologies are internal cosmologies. Though Literalist consciousness interprets them as externally valid, Nineteenth Century Truth students knew to apply these stories to their inner experience, the esoteric side of Life. These stories/ cosmologies represent internal experiences of the soul mind that we all pass through, expressed symbolically and are meant to be helpful guides.



Our journey is one of return to our Origin. The Seven Day story depicts our beginning state in Spirit. All creation was declared by the All-Truthful as “Good and very Good.” Wouldn’t it be wonderful to feel this as the complete truth of our inner selves and our outer life experience today? This is our journey’s destination—a return to this Home base consciousness. The next biblical story examines what happened on the inner level to obscure this eternal perfection of life from us as thinkers. As such, it also holds hints as to what is required for a complete return in consciousness to beholding this Perfection everywhere, always: our natural mind-state.

*“When the Lord God made earth and heaven, there was neither shrub nor plant growing wild upon the earth, because the Lord God had sent no rain on the earth; nor was there any man to till the ground.... Then the Lord God formed a man (adam) from the dust of the ground (adamah) and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. Thus, the man became a living creature.”* As this story opens, we see differences from the earlier story. In the Seven-Day Creation, plants preceded human’s presence; humans were the last creation. That story is recognized as the spiritual creation and follows a natural building up from primal states to more complex systems of life expression. Now we are considering our earthly introduction and tenure. We here are in a different environment from that of pure Spirit. In Spirit, it is all pure Thought, and obviously so. There we are mind experiencing Mind. Here we are demonstrating bodies and experiencing sensorially the demonstrations that make up our apparent environment. Mind is formless; as Mind’s individuations, we are also formless. Infinite Mind knows no boundaries. Form is inherently bounded; it has an apparent surface and is apparently different from its surroundings. Here our adventure begins.

*“The Lord God made trees spring from the ground, all trees pleasant to look at and good for food; and in the middle of the garden he set the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.... The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and care for it.”* We should note that the name of God has changed from the Seven-Day Creation story. There it was “*elohim*.” “El” refers to Spirit and the suffix “him” pluralizes the word. This is similar to the Cayce readings’ generic term often used for God: “the Creative Forces.” Here the name for God becomes the Hebrew consonants YHWH, often pronounced Yahweh. Biblically, this name is often translated as Lord or Lord God. It shows a shift in emphasis in our relationship to Spirit. Nineteenth Century New Thought students saw this as a shift from direct experience of Spirit as when in Spirit to a less direct interaction by means of the Law, “like produces like.” In physicality my thought demonstrates as the “Law of my Life.” In this sense, my thought becomes my “Lord.” So now we are dealing with our own thinking acted upon by the Law and the demonstrations automatically produced.



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This is the creation of Eden, a perfect environment for this human in the earth plane. We are no longer purely spirit. Our body is created from the soil of the planet and our spiritual essentialness is “breathed” into this vehicle to operate through it. Air is an ancient symbol for spirit, the volitional, intending side of Mind. A oneness of spirit with our body is created for effective experiencing here in this earth plane. Eden is the place where all is provided easily, daily. New Thought students called it the “Edenic consciousness” – the awareness and trust that I am abundantly supplied for all my apparent needs. This is a reciprocal relationship. Something is needed from me for this “Eden demonstration” to keep functioning perfectly in the earth plane. Truth students saw that “tilling and caring for” this demonstration meant caring for my thinking to maintain the Edenic consciousness and therefore its demonstration.

The trees at the center of the Garden are opportunities at the Center of our being. As we will see, they represent potential choices we can make and the resulting consequences of those choices.

*“[God] told the man. ‘You may eat from every tree in the garden, but not from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; for on the day that you eat from it, you will certainly die.’”* This quote seems to be usually read in a stern tone of voice. Instead, this may be more of a friendly warning spoken in a gentle, loving tone: “Don’t eat from that tree; it won’t be fun for you!” The question has arisen, why would the All-Knowing put this unpleasant potential experience in our perfect, safe place? My answer is that Infinite Mind is the Presence of All Possibilities, including the possibility of fooling ourselves. We are cautioned to not go there, that we won’t like the consequence. God cannot be less than the All-In-All. Its Own free choice was given us since we are created like Itself. This tree had to be included, due to God’s Inclusive Nature and we must have choice about it.



Trees are a wonderful symbol for a “thinking system.” Their roots are hidden in the ground, the subconscious. From that sprouts a trunk, a central idea that then branches out into that idea’s expression in a myriad of ways, as each branch tip and its leaves. That main idea guides our perceiving. It is how I “touch” and understand my experience of my surroundings. Each branch tip represents a personal perception applied to a specific experience. These are countless perceivings I bring to my world as I go through a day.

The central idea of these two thought systems are in the name of the trees: “Life” and “Knowledge of good and evil.” The tree of Life represents our potential of consciously realizing the “Life Divine,” that is, the pure Mind Life of Source Mind. Actually that Life is always our life anyway. This tree implies we do not yet realize the full import of the Life that we are. We are sort of unconsciously living it without truly, deeply knowing it.

As for the other tree/thinking system, though the word “knowledge” is chosen by the translators, I suspect the original authors might have meant “perception” or “awareness.” Personally, I reserve “Knowing” as a technical term for God’s Mind state. Infinite Mind never guesses. It always knows and knows only Truth. Only Truth can be truly known. Anything other can only be believed-in. Note that the All-Good knows only Good and “knows” nothing of evil. If It knew of evil, evil would be a Truth. This is an inherent contradiction to the All-Good. And in God there are no contradictions, or God would not be at Peace. So “knowing” here is meant figuratively. This tree represents a thought system based on a fallacious premise; that evil is a reality.

If I adopt that thought system, I will inevitably perceive evil, badness, wrongdoing in my world. My viewpoint (that evil is “knowable”) ensures this. This tree represents a delusional way of thinking, a fooling of my Self. Its main idea: there is a “real opposite” to every Good, Divine Quality. The Life tree declares a worldview of unity/nonduality; the other tree declares duality/divisiveness as its worldview. Let us continue.

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**“Together, we form a necessary paradox; not a senseless contradiction.” ~Criss Jami**

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~continued from page 11

*“Then the Lord God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone. I will provide a partner for him.’ So God formed out of the earth all wild animals and all the birds of heaven. He brought them to the man to see what he would call them, and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name...but for the man no partner had yet been found.”*

This is the famous naming session. It has been pointed out that the act of naming something is to mentally carve out of Unity a specific, unique, “other” identity. This seems to be an inherent danger to our unity consciousness while here; that in materiality we may take each form as a separate identity, adulterating our mind’s original oneness-realizing state. We lose seeing the One in and as all that we look upon. Naming is labeling and a label is far from the Whole picture.

And here is the consequence of this: *“And so the Lord God put the man into a trance, and while he slept, he took one of his ribs and closed the flesh over the place. The Lord then built up the rib, which he had taken out of the man, into a woman. He brought her to the man, and the man said, ‘Now this, at last – is bone of my bones, and flesh from my flesh! – this shall be called woman (ishshah) for from man (ish) was this taken.’...Now they were both naked, the man and his wife, but they had no feeling of shame towards one another.”* The Law puts the man into a trance, a consequence of his naming consciousness. There is no mention that he awakens. This implies Adam is now dreaming. He is caught in a self-imposed, self-replicating, mind-generated experience. Adam dreams that his inherent androgyny is split up into two separate bodies/beings. In the Seven-Day story, we are created male and female, not male or female. He has split from himself. His mind-confusion is well under way. But wait; there’s more.

*“The serpent was more crafty than any wild creature that the Lord God made. He said to the woman, ‘Is it true that God has forbidden you to eat from any tree in the garden?’ The woman answered the serpent, ‘We may eat the fruit of any tree in the garden, except for the tree in the middle of the garden; God has forbidden us either to eat or to touch the fruit of that; if we do, we shall die.’ The serpent said, ‘Of course you will not die. God knows that as soon as you eat of it, your eyes will be opened and you will be like God knowing both good and evil.’ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good to eat, and that it was pleasing to the eye and tempting to contemplate, she took some and ate it. She also gave her husband some and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they discovered that they were naked; so they stitched fig-leaves together and made loin cloths.”* Ironically, the sleeping Adam is promised he will awaken, but he falls into a deeper sleep. Their eyes “open” to shame, not love; to dis-acceptance or disowning of self. They perceive themselves as tarnished by (nonexistent) evil. The adventure is fully underway. God seems scary now.

Please note the acknowledgement of the serpent’s craftiness. He gains the woman’s trust by asking an obvious question. No doubt he knows the situation in the garden. Then, he subtly implies that the man and his wife are not now like God. We just read in the Seven-Day Creation story that humankind is created in the image and likeness of their Source. Have they forgotten? Or how could they buy this idea of *becoming* like God? (Jesus called this the Lie and the Father of Lies.) The woman contemplates the temptation. (The feminine is the receptive, so this idea must come through our receptive side.) Truth students knew that this is the start of a demonstration. She ingests the fruit and so the seed of this tree/thought system. We all know what seeds do; they sprout and grow. The woman and the man incorporated/internalized the tree’s seed idea and ensured its demonstration in their experience. This is a basic teaching in New Thought; that an embodied, deeply incorporated idea must demonstrate as experience.



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**“Everyone creates realities based on their own personal beliefs. These beliefs are so powerful that they can create [expansive or entrapping] realities over and over.” ~Kuan Yin**

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In a world of peace and plenty, of health and wellbeing, of an inherent unity and nonduality of total Goodness, a dualistic thinking system is accepted by the residents and so their previous experience of self and life is completely interrupted. We all know the rest of the story. The Lord/Law escorts them out of their safe haven and into a world of struggle. Dwelling in a Universal Goodness, the only way to experience apartness from that all-pervading Reality is to blind our mind to it. We do this as indicated; by lying to our mind that there is other than All-Goodness. We contradict Good by making up and coming to actually believe in its opposite. This is dualism in the mind that is created by and is still one with Unity. I call this goofy thinking. Its consequences are not so fun.

Some read this story and see guilt as our problem and wrong-doing (that is, sin) as the root cause. The Truth student would see lies as our problem and ignorance of the Truth as the consequence. And what are lies but goofy thinking in the face of Limitless, Orderly, Truth-based Love?

So the Seven-Day creation story relates our reality; our true Identity, Reality and Context, all God/Good with no possibility of anything other. This story examines why we are not experiencing this Reality, though it is the only One there is. Also, it illustrates our way out. Knowing that the belief in evil is a false belief, our real problem is mental acceptance of falsehoods. The solution is Truth. Why else would Jesus tell us that we will know the Truth and the Truth will set us free? In fact, Jesus retells this story as the parable of the Prodigal Son. Note there is no shame or guilt-tripping in his version. He saw through to the Truth. Our problem is goofy thinking in the place of Truth thinking. But we each get to find this out for ourselves. Though the adventure is universal, it is also highly personalized. We are all thinkers for ourselves, so we deal with our own goofy thinking. This includes our agreement with the goofy thinking of others.

Duality includes all opposites. Denying Total Goodness, I claim evil as a part of me. I also deny Life and so claim death. I deny Power and so claim a victim identity. I deny Truth by claiming lies. For me this is the essential confusion. When I am confused between truth and falsehood, how can I function effectively? How can I intelligently choose? My mind is now equally valuing true and false. What a mental cul-de-sac! Truth students found their need to commit to and practice an inner conversation of Truth as their solution. Emma Curtis Hopkins uses this idea specifically in the first of her five spiritual affirmations: “My Good is my God. My God is my Good. My God is Life, Love, Truth, Substance, Intelligence – omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent.” She directs our thought to affirming our always True Reference Point: Spirit. Why not have my thought – the Lord of my life experience – be the One Power, the All-Good Source of it all rather than something in contradiction to the All-Good?

Ultimately, this is a story of each soul-mind’s experience who finds itself involved in this earth plane. Each of us named the animals and took the bite and identified ourselves as not like God. Each of us is retracing our steps back to the original error in thought to re-decide for ourselves who we are. We have fear and anger and shame to face along the way. We have tools to find/receive to help us on each next step. The Science of Mind is now such a tool for Truth students. No doubt we have gathered many to come this far. Our homecoming is inevitable, for all must tire of this foolish game and its internal consequences. Our Source knows us all to be living, moving and having our being in the scope and safety of Its Living Love and Intelligence. Only some part of our mind denies what it is. The whole rest is still in communication, knowing our Source. The Real Unity is continually unfolding within the eternally awake aspect of our mind. Now we get to become fully aware of that, again. We can awaken from our dream of shame. The Voice of Love is ever our Guide. And so it is.

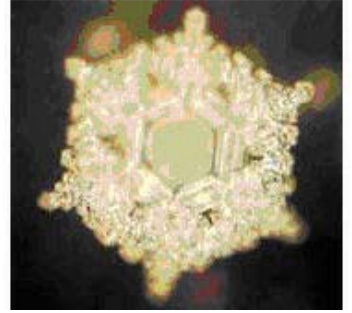


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**“The universe is not outside of you. Look inside yourself; everything that you want, you already are.” ~Rumi**

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Water exposed to  
Gratitude & Love



Remember the prayer for water

TO: A Very Valuable, Worthwhile Person

Sequm Center for Spiritual Living  
Rev. Lynn Osborne  
PO Box 2708  
Sequm, WA 98382



Please join us at  
Sequm Center for Spiritual Living  
Sunday Service  
10:00 a.m.

