



Knowing the spirit of the future – the journey of Pentecost

An address for the Cosmic Mass ● 18th May 2008 ● Rev Trisha

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not.

John 1:1-11

But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day; but this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 'And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; yea, and on my menservants and my maidservants in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth beneath, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; the sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and manifest day. And it shall be that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Acts 2:14-21

Introduction

Pentecost is the festival which points towards and celebrates the spirit of the future. In esoteric circles, where the higher mysteries are studied, it is called the festival of the fourth day – celebrating the beginning - of taking up new consciousness, a consciousness completely changed after the three days of initiation.

As Heather reminded us last week, Pentecost therefore is not a moment fixed in time, but a gathering with purpose, a preparation and a building of harmony, with all the forces in our being; to make our inner journey's destination into the heart, where we wait for the revelation of our Christed higher self to dawn, to set us on fire, to illuminate in us, and touch us, with the reality of the greatness of our true spiritual nature. In the fulfillment of this Pentecost experience, then, we prepare to be changed forever.

A New Vibration

Each year when the festival of Pentecost comes upon us, I try to imagine in a visual way my sensing of the building of spiritual momentum, begun at that point when the blood of Christ touched the earth - a momentum that sets up an invisible chain reaction that has been growing and working within us and within our world for 2000 years.

What I imagine, what I bring into my consciousness, is a way of connecting to that vital new vibration to sense the spiritual power and impulse released in that deed that works into all the visible and invisible layers of creation and into the very nature of humanity, bringing to birth the conditions for our true spiritual nature to be revealed. It is quite something to realize that the birth of our spiritual becoming, is a new spiritual vibration in the cosmos, altering everything, whether we are attuned to it or not.

And I find myself looking for, and interested in, the signs of that power of change – the work that is already going on - the mystery of the future beginning to unfold, which is a glimpse of our real spiritual selves, humanity waking up – and I contemplate and wonder what will be needed to assist, to magnify, this fire of the Christed spirit which has been poured out upon us, a work we dedicate ourselves to every time we celebrate this cosmic mass.

David today read the words that Peter speaks - the words given to Joel and alive with possibility, handed down from age to age. Out of the human being will come the sons and daughters of a spirit-filled age where the wonders of the connection between the earth and the heavens will no longer be hidden from view. This amazing image of our full spiritual expression, shining from age to age in the book of time: the promise of our becoming.

The Past, Present and Future

I think it was in the early 1970s when I had my first picture, my first image, of a future or new form spiritual gathering. Some years later I met with a group who practiced devotionally some of the things I had imagined. Since then I have had further moments of imaging, dreaming of what is stirring and becoming more visible, as the old ways fade into forgetfulness and more conscious spiritual progress is starting to shape new organs of perception and sensitivity to spirit.

This is the question for this time of Pentecost. Do we picture the future? How far into the future can you imagine? 2020 or perhaps even your next lifetime? Does the unrealized future hold any fascination for you? Is there an interest in you in your spiritual future? From a cosmic point of view, it is not about time, however, but about *the beholding*. Developing the faculties to perceive, even within the mire of our existence, what we are becoming is central to obtaining real spiritual knowledge and the revelation of the real self: moving from the outer recognition of faith to the inner point of actual gnosis – to realize fully our connection to the abiding spiritual source from which we spring.

Pentecost prompts us to consider what is abiding in us and what has preoccupied our hearts and consciousness in this most recent cycle of our existence. With what have we filled ourselves? Where do we dwell? What is the promise and the voice we are listening to?

At different times in our lives, images of the past, present and future hold varying significance for us. Each is a force – the power of the past can hold us back, the boundaries of the present can blinker, enmesh and stultify us. The promise and allure of the unmade future can be very attractive. Because we must know ourselves so well, we need to recognize that all these things have bearing on the strength of our connection to our picture and experience of our spiritual self. What is prompting us at this very moment?

Because we are here, within this spiritual community today, then at the centre of our journey, perhaps even just in this moment, there is an openness to be in touch with the hidden mysteries of our higher selves. A gathering such as this, reminds us that although *in* this

world, we are not part of *this* world. Something about the beauty, the sanctity, the honoring of what is highest through our gathering, our words, this sacrament, draws us towards that cosmic reality, experienced within ourselves: the reality of our being which we are endeavouring to know more fully, to grow into and to sustain.

The Power Of Knowing

This is the reason this community, with a mystical heart, was created. The Centre was brought into being so that a mystical pathway could be created by which we could move from the familiar outer spiritual forms of the past towards the opening inner spiritual sanctum, with full knowledge and experience of Christ - a knowledge which we must be able to sustain and carry with us into the future.

The Centre, born of the Holy Spirit, is a Pentecost fellowship. It has not been called into being so that we will attract believers...or even what we could call the faithful. It was called into being so that ultimately it may become the vessel which brings souls to 'know' for themselves the power of Christ.

When the Centre was enshrined in Australian law as a new church entity in 1975, yes, we had to create a constitution, but more importantly at the time were the words, prayerfully crafted, of the Credo which is now called the Affirmation. These were powerful words, which called into being *the identity of the gathering called the Centre*, its purpose and being, a unique recognition which honoured the essence of each human being as a *spiritual being*, and this central tenet informed all sacramental expressions of this new church.

In those first days it began with the traditional words: We believe. As we have grown into our esoteric reality and identity, these words were changed to: We know.

What do we say we know? Whenever we gather:

"We know...that the dweller in the inner most spiritual sanctum of a human being, which is the real self, is of the same essence as that spiritual reality, which we call God, which is within, beyond and behind the universe.

We knowthat the nature of this ultimate reality, unknowable to the intellect, but knowable to the heart, is love..."

The Centre was raised up so that we might immerse ourselves in that mystical experience of communion with the one who has called us and touched our souls. So we enter into the mysteries of our high priest, and bring that power that we come to know to birth within our own soul and then, out of that substance, recognize this in the souls of others, in new ways, through the living sacrament at work, no longer just in the outward form but the sacrament at work *within our being*. This is the future-making essence which is the experience of Pentecost.

Spirituality In The Future

If the power of Pentecost is at work in us, then we are operating moment by moment out of the substance of our own spiritual experience and knowing. Into each situation, each consideration and action, we take the ability that is within us to remain connected to this abiding Christ nature, knowable and recognizable and able to be expressed.

This ability is our orientation to the future. More and more, in the work of the future which is before us, we will be required to discern the spirit that is operating within us, about us, at any given time and to work out for ourselves whether this is the spirit of Christ that we know within ourselves and are able to bring forth and raise up, This week I was invited by a friend, who was also a pupil of Mario's many years ago, to share a meal with a remarkable group of

people who all work and train together. This was also an opportunity to meet their teacher and the founder of their growing community.

During the meal, the conversation revolved around the work this group is involved in, in different arenas of training, coaching and leadership. It was clear that skill and knowledge were being developed and appropriate new language was being formed to describe the work they do individually and with groups, with what is involved in bringing people to an experience of their own greatness, or the revelation of their gifts, or the unearthing of as-yet-to-be revealed purposes.

They openly included me, a complete stranger to their circle, in the newness of their discoveries and the focus and purpose of what they are enabling in people who are drawn to develop with them.

As I sat with them, I felt a new appreciation for the I AM – the Christ self – which was unquestionably present and clear, without being named. Intelligence, integrity, respect as well as compassion, vision and revelation.

Here in this group was a holy place – where through shared contemplations, preparations were being made to honour the true being of others by facilitating and clearly identifying glimpses of the real self and shedding light on the purposes of the soul.

If we can imagine the spirituality of the future, it will be challenging if we are longing for and only recognizing the forms of what has served us in the past and to the present. Of less importance will be the outer aspects of ritual and symbol and of increasing importance will be our ability to raise up in self the holy place, the inner sanctum, within which burns the flame for Christ.

The Gift Of Individuality

Many years ago when I taught in a Catholic primary school, the festival of Pentecost was the time for older students to be confirmed. One year we had a Pentecost retreat to prepare for confirmation, and at the beginning of the retreat each young person was given a small candle and told that at any point during our time together, day or night, when they felt a connection with the decision they were about to make, privately they could light that candle and at a moment chosen by them leave it burning on the small altar we had made for our night-time gatherings, without needing to announce this or it being witnessed by any others. It was between them and Christ. So, like a miracle, gradually over the three days these lit candles appeared, silently, quietly, gently, respectfully. And what was built amongst this amazing group of young people was a shared experience of coming to a conscious decision of their spiritual identity within the integrity of their own being, and having a true experience of their own unique and chosen journey with Christ.

From the perspective of the cosmos, that is how Pentecost appears. This earthly realm is being lit up, one soul's flaming spiritual light at a time, each spiritual identity uniquely coming to life and lighting up the atmosphere of this world.

Perhaps one year for Pentecost we should do that – celebrate with individual flames the unique gift of the light of Christ, as it is burning in the heart of each one gathered – each a beautiful vital and alive image, magnifying the radiation and giving that flaming presence a real visual manifestation in our midst.

Conclusion

If we live with him, as we long for him, if we abide with him as his love abides in us. if we live through him, as he will come to life through us, then we can truly say the words that are the truth we affirm to one another and to the world: a statement of Pentecost and of the spiritual expression we are becoming:

*We know.... the dweller
... in the inner most spiritual sanctum of our being.....*

We know this power in one another and this gift which is for every human being,

We know these things as the mysteries which can only be known in our heart.

May this unfathomable love lift us out of the hold of ordinary things into the mysteries of the cosmos which have been entrusted to us.

May we together share in the promise to be his light, to bear his light and love in each place that our path takes us, bearing it forth into the world.

So shall it be.

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