

editor's letter

PEACE

P *peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you.*

-St. John 14:27

Jesus was a cosmic sea, still and quiet, moving on men's souls with calming, healing peace.

-Ann Ree Colton

Jesus words, "*Peace I leave with you. My peace I give unto you,*" were spoken on the night of the Last Supper. Jesus was preparing to face His greatest initiation and to leave the physical world.

Jesus' peace and resolve in His walk toward the cross demonstrates the consummate mastery of Maya. Only a perfect faith and total relinquishment could enable one to undergo willingly and calmly such a thing: no rancor, no bitterness, no argument or resistance. He knew, He fulfilled. He offered Himself completely. The attainment of peace is a very great mastery and spiritual power. Jesus' example demonstrates that the greater the surrender, the greater will be one's inner peace.

Ann Ree identifies the Last Supper and the ensuing days unto Pentecost as a time of a great inner passing from Jesus to His Disciples. With this incremental Passing the Disciples were sealed into their Lord's Covenant in a deeper way. Through this passing they would know a oneness with Jesus' Covenant that would sustain them in their apostleship trials to come. It would impart to them something of their Lord's great peace and strength. Peace is not something that is attainable on a whim. It comes from the Constant of God and the fulfillment of one's soul covenant with God. To be in union with one's purpose is peace.

There is a certain peace for us all in accepting and fulfilling the soul's covenant. We must go toward our covenants, our promises, and even sometimes the soul takes us toward our debts – in the sense that there are things we must rectify. The soul takes us there. Fulfilling responsibility to the Law of God is peace.

Jesus said, "*I am the way*" (St. John 14:6). His teachings help us to build our lives on foundations of peace. Jesus as-

ures His followers that they will sup with Him at the Father's table and that He and the Father will make their abode within them. The human spirit has held to these and many more of His promises as great polestars of hope and guidance, comforting humanity with the realities of Eternal Life and Truth.

Though my sea is dark and my stars are gone, still I see the Path through Thy mercy.

-Paramahansa Yogananda

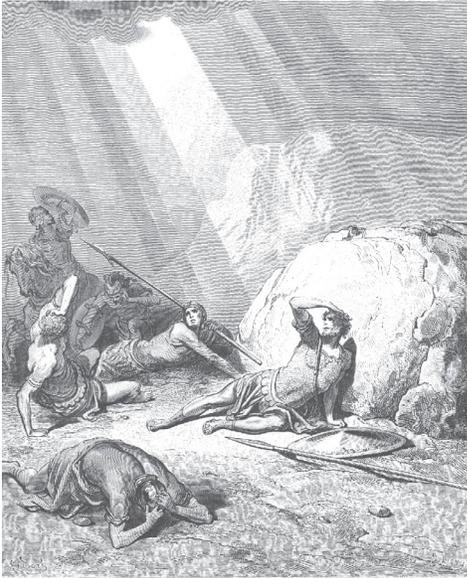
I would imagine that the consciousness of Jesus (and those co-atom to Him) is sustaining a certain modicum of peace within the world each day. Jesus' peace enfolds this eternity in the sense that His etheric body now provides a sacred etheric cocoon for the entire earth (ARC). Caught in enclosures and agendas of small self, we are unable to access these larger dimensions of peace. But for those who truly seek it, His peace is a constant, a star beckoning to us of a place beyond the troubles and snares of the duality world.

A happy conscience is peace. I love St. Paul's words: "*I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day*" (Acts 23:1). St. Paul stands out so powerfully in this regard – in the quality and totality of his renunciation once he had received his call, and how such a renunciation is the source of peace with oneself, with conscience, and with God.

To know with awareness that all one is doing is within the Plan and Will of the Creator assures beauty, harmony, peace, creativity, and contentment.

-Ann Ree Colton

"*Not as the world giveth, give I unto you,*" Jesus states regarding the peace He gives. Jesus gave to us out of the wholeness of love proven in sacrifice. It was a level of giving that few can comprehend. Such gifts and fruits are lasting. The thought came, what we don't surrender, we will live out – that is, we will live out the unrest of our incomplete surrender. We will live out and learn through the reluctance, the withholding, and the lesser desires that stand between us and God.



St. Paul's Vision on the Road to Damascus, by Gustave Doré

In a quest for happiness people seek after many things that offer temporary relief and pleasure. However, the Path of Jesus is the path of inner peace, reconciliation with God, relief of the burdens of guilt. What Jesus gives is part of the Increase of God expanding within the soul. His peace is an inward treasure that no man taketh away.

I know a man who is undergoing a deep heartbreak in life. While not of a religious bent, he has access to a certain well of inner goodness that is enabling him to navigate this trial with equanimity. The good have this. Goodness is always in tune with an underlying sense of fairness or justice in all that occurs. Ann Ree states, *“That which is good in man is ‘the peace of God, which passeth all understanding’”* (Philippians 4:7). Basic inner goodness will provide a sense of acceptance and peace.

Men look for peace as an absence of war. But abiding peace is an inner state. Inner tumult is caused by many things: guilt, cravings, fears, hates, division, separateness from God, etc. Virtues, on the other hand, are wellsprings of peace. For example, we can see how detachment gives one peace; how the practice of honesty gives one peace; how faith in God's Plan provides peace; how kindness and forgiveness give peace; how simplicity and patience give peace. A God-directed life is peace. Ann Ree states, *“Honesty with yourself is sweet paradise.”* The Jesus Path gives us a cup of healing peace to drink. Materiality gives a cup of bitterness and disappointment.

Jesus would not argue with Pilate. He *“held his peace”* (St. Mark 14:61) As disciples we are learning to follow His example and to hold our peace when we encounter disruptive outer events. Though we fail many times, we hold the path to peace as an inner guide and measure – a Marking-and-Tracing constant. Inner unrest, irritation, and certain reactions are showing us where inner work must be done.

He who hath Peace in his heart hath all Heaven and Shamballa reigning there. He no longer carrieth with him the blow onto blow. But he knoweth that his indwelling is well and that in the indwelling the Light Divine shineth within his soul. He knoweth the white bird, the serpent, the tiger, the lion, the elephant, and every beast is as a friend, a part of him. He knoweth to turn one hair against his Love, one thought against his Beloved, is sending the noxious sound unto everything in existence. -Ann Ree Colton

Jonathan has shared concerning what he called his first inspired thought when he came to the path. It was a telepathy so clear – he distinguished it from his usual thoughts and never forgot it. It was, *“Peace is the currency of the spiritual worlds.”* Heaven is a place of peace workings. We cannot bring our blames, cravings, and inner conflicts into heaven. Peace is our entry into heaven. Our life of meditation, prayer, and Marking and Tracing, is preparing the way.

We are truly in a state of worth when the little mind comes to rest. Wherever God sends us we carry the bliss-light of peace. We heal and teach by being at peace. -Ann Ree Colton

So when we settle down to meditation and find ourselves restless, we confess, we breathe deeply, and seek to unite with the deeper rhythm and calm, the inner currencies of heaven within the soul. We sound the OM and let the mantra vibrations still the restless thoughts and emotions. To create inner peace is to contribute something not seen, but something deeply precious for the world. The words of Jesus:

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. -St. Matthew 5:9

Enys Miller