

## guest editorial

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# A GENEROUS MIND

**H**e hath shewed thee, O man, what is good;  
and what doth the Lord require of thee,  
but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk  
humbly with thy God? -Micah 6:8

In my God-Realization lesson recently, Ann Ree asked:

*How generous is your mind. Look within and see, do your thoughts linger on the negation of others?*

*A generous mind is a bliss gift in keeping of your joy, your laughter. Happiness is a dear soul memory of the good.*

These words made me think about thoughts in general, especially was this so in the timing of the last ten days of Lent. Are all of my thoughts loving, kind, giving? Do I extend charity as a first response? In the privacy of my mind, what do I really think, especially when another's actions or words are not in alignment with my thinking? Do I have a generous mind?

In timing with this God-Realization lesson, the opposite of a generous mind was magnified in some comments overheard in a conversation, where one was complaining, being critical of another, and using a cynical tone in asking the other what his motives were. It was painful to hear. Later, when reflecting on this encounter, the words came: "Cynicism, complaining, and critical-mindedness are three deadly anti-virtues, which are unbecoming and unholy sins." I recognized these three deadly anti-virtues and confessed these sins in myself, as well as in others.

A generous mind sees beyond another's faults and into his soul, knowing that through our soul we are all one, united within the largesse of God. To have a generous mind is to think loving thoughts, to give the benefit of doubt, to be detached from one's wrong motive or the wrong motive of

others. A generous mind is open, loving, giving. A generous mind works with the heart, infusing love first, so one thinks the best of another and desires the best for him. A generous one is connected and firmly established within the abundance of God, knowing that God's mercy and grace will lead all souls back to Him in His timing. A generous mind releases to God's Will, trusting in His divine providence to provide the way for even the seemingly most laggard one to find the Light.



*"Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple" (St. Matthew 4:5) by Jonathan Murro*

*One immortalizes himself through generosity. Generosity in one's nature is cultivated and inspired by the Angels. The Angels know that God as Spirit works with the increase. Tightness in giving and closed doors in sharing shut away the Angels, and place one in the hardship-laws of earning to lose rather than earning to give. -Ann Ree Colton*

*Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. -St. Paul (Ephesians 4:29)*

Jesus had a generous mind. He knew the weaknesses, ignorance, and limitations of men and He experienced the hypocrisy, arrogance, and cunning ways of many, yet He loved all unconditionally. He came to lift men out of the confines of their unknowing and show them a way back to the freedom and expansiveness of their souls. Even though He knew few understood His words and many condemned His ways, He shared freely His abundant spiritual gifts and offered healing to all, always beholding the Divine Image of each person before Him.

*Jesus sorrowed for men, but He also saw the promise of their being. He was tender to them, and*

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*He forgave them because they knew Him not, neither did they recognize the Father in Him.*

*-Ann Ree Colton*

I think of how easily we can become irritated, impatient, or critical of another, usually for such petty things, failing to realize that we are all in a state of evolving and none of us has yet reached perfection. We expect – or at least hope – for some leeway from others when we mess up, and so we should grant the same to others when they fall short of our expectations. Having faulty expectations is often the cause of disappointment, discontent, and displeasure. Jesus had only one expectation of men: that they realize the Image of God within. And through the virtues of discernment and detachment, Jesus trusted that men would progress and eventually embody this Image, knowing it as the destiny of the soul of each one. So even though Jesus knew that men would defile Him and crucify Him, He was able to maintain a generous mind and loving heart toward men, regardless of their stage of evolution.

This is what our Teachers offered us and this is what we are trying to be able to do also: to offer the cup of kindness, love, and encouragement to our fellow man, who is thirsting in a world where there is so much criticism and cynicism. If we believe that we all are on the path to Self-, Soul-, and God-Realization, then surely we can remember to emulate Jesus' generosity, or at least offer some slack to others when they irritate or offend us.

*To see eye to eye and soul to soul with one's fellow man is to be generous with him; to teach him, if he be awkward; to lift him, if he be weak; to be patient with him, if he be dull or laggard. How may the Risen Christ lift men, when men agree with their oppressors, and when men agree to oppress other men? How may the human spirit overflow into men, save each man free other men in the world? How may the world express creation with ethic, save men learn to understand the meaning of craftsmanship? How may men become pure and live within the whole in God, save they first make pure their hearts, their minds, their bodies, their works? One should learn of these things, and remember that men grow in stature when they overcome pain and oppression; he should also know that men transcend these*

*things through Christ.*

*-Ann Ree Colton*

Ann Ree told us that in the last ten days of Lent we are working with the mental body and can expect to be tested in our mind-chastity, mental honor, and mental integrity and will especially be tested in our mental charity toward others, our agape spirit. So it is important to consider our largesse of mind and to be vigilant so as to safeguard against any subtle, negative inferences from Satan, for Ann Ree has told us we will be tested.

*The shadow of Judas and the shadow of Jesus are explored in one's own conscience. -Ann Ree Colton*

Our conscience is our bulwark against the wiles of Satan. Just as a pianist prepares his instrument before a concert, we prepare our conscience through our practices and acts of penance and restitution. Every seemingly small act of loving or giving that we do, transenergizes darkness into light and increases virtue in the world. Reah Janise Kauffman told us in her Conclave talk that we should see ourselves as “*conscience pilgrims*” (ARC), who “*stand for the Light, speak for the Light, and act in the Light.*”

*One earns soul-power with generosity, forgiving, magnanimity, charitability, with love, with meditation, prayer, dedication, and serving.*

*-Ann Ree Colton*

So in the approach to the final days of Lent and always, may we remember to be vigilant in our thoughts that we might radiate a generous spirit outward in the world, overcoming the harsh tones of cynicism, complaining, and critical-mindedness, replacing them with charitableness, consideration, and compassion. May we remain strong in our loving and giving in our thoughts, actions, and words that we may remain awake with Jesus as He prays in the garden, that we deny Him not in the courtyard, and that we then qualify to stand with Him as a devoted disciple at the foot of His cross.

*And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick. -St. Matthew 14:14*

*-Mirell O'Brien*