

THE LIVING GOD (A MAUNDY THURSDAY SHARING)

The focus of this talk is how our relationship with God is progressing from form to spirit, from the physical to the etheric, as our consciousness and our eternity system ripens and evolves. Ann Ree expresses this so beautifully:

The Living God makes a house in the soul of man. Man, not knowing his God, builds a form. God is the Spirit in the soul. He is the Spirit in the house. He is the Spirit in the form.

Throughout the ages, the human spirit has been driven by an innate desire to worship God and to know God. Because the Living God is not tangible, and not easily perceived by the uninitiated, the human spirit has built forms – temples, churches, mosques – and has created rituals rich with symbology, in an attempt to evoke, capture, and contain, God Presence. Jesus came to move us out of the limitations of trying to house God in a building. As Jesus said to the Samaritan woman, “*God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth*” (St. John 4:24). As Gillian Miller recently said, we are moving out of a “*God-separate perspective.*” The human spirit is shifting from religious forms and formats to spirituality, from an external locus (an idol, a temple, a priest) to an internal focus – the Spirit of God within. Jesus said to the Pharisees:

The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

-St. Luke 17:20-21

“*The kingdom of God is within you*” – is a very provocative statement. It removes the ability of any religious body to claim ownership of God, and opens the door to God-Realization to anyone willing to make the initiatory journey. In a talk,

Ann Ree said that Jesus was not God in person. “*Jesus was God in presence.*” Through Jesus’ teaching and mediation, we come to understand that God is not “here” or “there.” God is everywhere – Omnipresent in every atom, soul, star, and galaxy.

Through the ages, some of the forms people have created to house Spirit have been truly inspired by the Higher Worlds. For example, the design that Moses received for the Tabernacle. Some man-made forms have fallen far from the archetypal design – hence Moses railing against people worshiping false idols. In *Vision for the Future*, Ann Ree writes that 3,000 years before Jesus, “*men detached themselves from the vitality of the Ritual of the Higher Worlds.*” When Jesus came, He gave us the most pure, archetypal rituals this earth has ever known. These rituals – the Eucharist and the Agape – were practiced by the early Christians. Then, Ann Ree tells us, 300 years after Jesus was in the world, the church established a system of ritual which “*repressed the former, pure Christian practices as used by the early Christians.*”

Thus, from this period, men were depressed into materialistic worship and viewpoints. With the coming of the new ideas from the Higher Worlds, men once again will have the opportunity to correlate their rituals within religion and worship with the true Ritual



Foot-Washing Sacrament, Maundy Thursday

of the Higher Worlds, and thus produce a spiritual renaissance within religion. -Ann Ree Colton

The thirteenth vortice-pool is fomenting a spiritual renaissance within religion, progressing and revitalizing the rituals that Jesus gave to His followers. In Niscescence, the serving of the Eucharist is no longer restricted to the priesthood and has become a daily householder practice in the form of the Continuum Sacrament. We practice the Agape, which the Church attempted to outlaw, through the breaking of bread together and, dimensionally, through our mediative practices and holy concern for all souls.

Ann Ree said that the events in Jesus' last week were not just "*incidents in the life of a Teacher...They were coincidings of total world processes which were opened and working to build a new eternity system.*" Jesus said, "*I make all things new*" (Revelation 21:5). Jesus did not come to destroy the Law, the prophets, the Temple, or its rituals. He came to show us a New Way to transubstantiate our dense "form" consciousness, so that we can evolve into spiritual awareness and direct participation with Spirit. Jesus, and our beloved Teachers, came to refine and to redefine all that has come before.

This eternity system is being continually refined. Man living in this eternity system is in a continuing state of being sensitized. -Ann Ree Colton

We are moving out of a clunky, letter-of-the-law consciousness into a living, vital, flowing relationship with God – God in the micro and macrocosm; God within; God as Omnipresence. We are moving from dogma to Dharma, from the Old Passover to the New Passover. We are beginning to understand that we do live on more than physical bread – that our etheric bodies, our spirits, and our souls need nourishment and attention as well.

He knew that the soul required more than bread, more than the power over substance. His desire was to teach man how to use the spiritual power of manifestation and transubstantiation; the power to transform unhealth into health; the power to change hate into love; the power to change evil into good; the power to feed the hungry; the power to restore minds, bodies, and hearts. -Ann Ree Colton

ALL OF JESUS' RITUALS ARE SACRAMENTS OF PARTICIPATION. HE CALLS ALL WHO FOLLOW HIM TO A LIFE OF SHARED RESPONSIBILITY, SHARED SACRIFICE, SHARED LOVE. HE ASKS US TO STRIP OFF OUR VESTMENTS OF EGOTISM, OF RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS PRIDE, AND TO UTTERLY AND COMPLETELY DEVOTE OUR LIVES TO THE ETERNAL TRUTHS AND ARCHETYPAL THEMES AS GIVEN THROUGH THE WILL AND PLAN OF GOD.

Just as Jesus boldly turns over the money changers' tables to cleanse the Temple, during the Last Supper Jesus metaphorically appropriates the rituals and furnishings from the grandiose enclosure of the Temple and carries them into the Upper Chamber. He transforms the brazen laver purification ritual into the ritual of footwashing, and the shewbread becomes the Bread of the Sacrament. Jesus knew that God Presence, the Shekinah, the Holy of Holies, was not hidden behind a curtain in a room owned and controlled by the High Priests. He taught and demonstrated that a true "master" is not one who possesses God or rules over others. The true "Master" is an adept, a high priest under Melchisedec, one who has been tried in the initiatory fires, one who humbly offers His life and His love in service to God and to all souls. All true initiates submit to the cleansing fires, and the waters of purification, so that we can become sanctified and anointed, so that we can earn transubstantiation and manifestation powers under the Christ. As renunciates, the only mastery we seek is mastery over our lesser natures.

The Christ has come. The Temple in Jerusalem is no longer the worship locus. *Emmanuel* – God with us. Jesus, or "*God in Presence,*" is the new tabernacle.

Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men,

and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.
-Revelation 21:3

In Nisience, we re-portray and progress the brazen laver ritual not only when we reenact the washing of the feet on Maundy Thursday, but also when we observe the Tabernacle-in-the-Wilderness Meditation on Saturdays. Ann Ree has transformed the ancient form of the Mosaic tabernacle into an etheric initiation practice correlating to our physical organs and our chakras. The new Tabernacle in the Wilderness is an archetypal ritual designed to awaken God Presence in our inward parts.

When Jesus was baptized in the Jordan He was infused with the Christ Spirit, He was filled with (Ann Ree's words) *"the nectars of the spirit in which the wisdom and power of the soul and spirit flow freely into us."* Ritual washing and baptism do not just cleanse away impurities, there is, simultaneously, an opening, a pouring in, a transfusion of spirit, an infusion of the Divine. When Jesus washed the feet of His Disciples, He was not only washing away any lingering karmic soil, He was infusing them with His teaching – sealing in His Commandment of "Love ye one another," sealing in humility, sealing them into world serving and Intentional Suffering.



Maundy Thursday ritual of the bread and the wine

Men are moving away from the ponderousness of matter toward the knowledge of the etheric energies in matter.
-Ann Ree Colton

True rituals begin with basic, tangible elements – earth, air, water, and fire – which, when infused with Holy Spirit,

transport us into the realm of the transcendent. Master R said that the Divine Ritual in the Higher Worlds contains *"etheric potencies."*

These potencies consist of a combining of etheric fire and the highest degree of Light. The Masters work now to bring a new poetic essence into the worships of men.
-Ann Ree Colton

The Last Supper is pure *"poetic essence"* (ARC). We visualize the Savior of this World seated at a table, eating, dipping bread into wine, and giving it to His Disciples, teaching them, and singing hymns with them. Simple, profound, and potent acts, expressing, as Saint Paul said, *"the simplicity that is in Christ"* (2 Corinthians 11:3) – no pomp and circumstance, no fancy vestments. Then Jesus, King of kings, Lord of lords, wraps a towel around Himself and kneels down like a slave to wash His Disciples' feet. The Upper Chamber is not a temple, it is a borrowed room. However, God Presence in Jesus and His Disciples transforms this simple room into a sanctuary, into what Ann Ree described as a place of *"angelic containment."* We have experienced this during Conclaves, especially on Saturday mornings, when the Presence of Holy Spirit on the altar transforms nondescript hotel conference rooms into sacred, vibrant spaces.

When we say that we are "in Jesus" and He is "in us" – this is not metaphorical, nor is it physical.

In taking the Eucharist, or holy communion, the soul-sheath is the body of receptivity through which one partakes of the wine and of the bread. When one is in an intense state of receptivity, reverence and desire, the primal breath in the lungs is taken over by the akasic pranic breath, and one absorbs into his soul-sheath one of the atoms of the body of Jesus which feeds him with the bread of life.

-Ann Ree Colton

Ann Ree also wrote, *"Since the crucifixion, men are embodied in the etheric body of Jesus."* She describes Jesus' etheric body as a *"rosy sea of healing, forgiving love"*! Jesus' etheric body is the New Tabernacle, an etheric temple housing our entire eternity system. The "rosy sea" of Jesus' etheric body is a macrocosmic brazen laver. All are being

washed clean in His rosy sea of healing and forgiving love. We are in Him. And the design for our becoming like Him is in Him. Ann Ree wrote, *“in His heart is a blueprint for our becoming.”*

All of Jesus’ rituals are sacraments of participation. He calls all who follow Him to a life of shared responsibility, shared sacrifice, shared love. He asks us to strip off our vestments of egotism, of racial and religious pride, and to utterly and completely devote our lives to the eternal Truths and archetypal themes as given through the Will and Plan of God.

*To become a scientist of spiritual reality,
one must fix his mind upon the uncontroversial
eternal design.* -Ann Ree Colton

Love is the New Commandment. Love is the uncontroversial corner stone in the New Tabernacle. Master R: *“The true Ritual soundeth within the Spiritual Worlds after the tone in love.”* Love infuses all true ritual. *“Love is the fulfilling of the law” (Romans 13:10).* Love is the yeast in the lump, the sparkle in the wine; love lights the flame on the altar, love is sounding in our music, our prayers, our logos.

ESSE

All of Jesus’ words and actions, throughout His ministry and His last week are filled with God essence, pure Esse.

The greatest thing a Teacher may pass to his students is the Esse. The Esse is the Essence of God overcoming absence from God. -Ann Ree Colton

The Esse is the true habitation of God, it is a vital, Holy Spirit wind; the powerful stuff of Creation, infused with love, healing, transubstantiation, and transcendence. Long has been the journey from the unknowing of God in us to the discovery of the Essence of God – Esse in us. Long the journey through the wilderness of Maya’s gross electricities, magnetic, frictional energies, heavy ethers, gravity-laden sins. Long the journey out of the muddied astral waters, beyond the veils of the lower planetary energies; long has been the journey to free us from the desecration of our body temples through lust, greed, selfishness, and sensuality. Tonight we enter into the sacred, purified space that the Lord Jesus, our

Teachers, and all who have come in His Name, have prepared for us. An Upper Chamber of cleansed ethers, a holy “iliate,” a sanctuary of angelic containment, where we can pray and wash one another’s feet, where our souls can freely swim in the rare, revitalizing atmospheres of love and redemption, Esse, prana, and holy akash. One day, this quiet, vital, sacramental simplicity will be given back to Christianity. The human spirit is destined to become partakers of Christ.

*As men evolve, the church as a habitation for God
will be as a bride for the Christ. Men will partake of
the sacraments and be initiated under Jesus.*

*The church will receive its worship impulses
directly from the Third Heaven, as did Jesus
from the Father.* -Ann Ree Colton

Thank you, Ann Ree, for this holy, inspiring prophecy:

*In former times men built mausoleum-like temples
where partial truths were taught. The disciple of this
age builds a sanctuary that he may renew within
his heart the Life and Will of God. The disciple
in the sanctuary blends in mediation with other
sanctuary servers, who mutilate not themselves as
in the ancient days, but sacrifice in their serving
and love-giving.* -Ann Ree Colton

I give my eternal gratitude for this holy sanctuary and for all here who keep the altar flame lit with their love and selfless sacrifice, and for all who come to nourish Christ Spirit in the Group Body and in the world, for all who give witness to the Christ Spirit, and for all who participate in these numinous, Esse-filled rituals given to us by the Christ and our Teachers. ❖