

Deepening Circle

for contemplation and dialogue

Advent & Christmas 2023

For Merton, the contemplative, if we can know Jesus today it is above all because Jesus is risen; because the light of his victory over sin and death shines in and through history and comes to birth--really, experientially, transformatively--in us ... because we have come to live in Christ, because Christ is the center in whom and by whom we are illuminated. The incarnate and risen Christ is hidden and revealed in us and in the world. BEHOLD!

--(adapted) Pramuk, **Sophia: The Hidden Christ of Thomas Merton**

"In every "I" which I attempt to utter, Christ's "I" is already glowing ... and since "the Father and I are One, God's "I" is already glowing."

-Sara Grant, rscj, **Confessions of a Non-dualist Christian**

"GOD was in this place & I, i did not know." Gen. 28:16

"Behold, the bush burned in fire (and God waited).
And Moses responded, "I will turn aside now so I can behold ..."

When God saw that Moses had turned aside to behold, God called to Moses from within the burning bush ..." --Lawrence Kushner

There Is a Light Within You --Meister Eckhart

I've said many things, but at the heart of them all is this:
There is a light within you, in your soul, uncreated and uncreatable; it simply is.

If you wish to know yourself, look for this light in the dark; it is ever present, even when you've lost sight of it. Look away from what you think you are, and look deeper than the darkness that is within. There you'll find that light which is ever radiant, even if no one--not even you--notices.

Translators: Jon M Sweeney & Mark S Burrows



Deep the love

Deep the love, deep the love,
deep the love that calls us
oh the love, deep the love the love that
calls us on calling calling on

Deep the river, deep the sea
deep the wand'rings of my mind, deep
the wounds between earth and me and
deep the love that calls us on
deep the roots connecting all that be
deep life's oldest dream whole and free
deep the memory singing in the song

And deep the love, the love that calls us
on. Deep the love that calls us,
the love that calls, love that calls,
deep the love that calls us
the love that calls us on

Calling, calling, calling on calling, calling,
the love that calls us on.

Carolyn McDade's Album

A Widening Embrace

As human beings, we can glimpse the depth of Love that fashions us, we can recognize where we came from, and we can respond by allowing Love entry. Do we ever pause to simply receive another's love? Receiving Love brings us to a place of vulnerability. The ones who truly love us walk into our hearts, often unnoticed, and then reveal to us how genuinely lovable we are. Being loved disarms us, brushes away our ego-defenses, and then exposes us, not only to the other but to ourselves. And it is from ourselves that we often hide our gaze.

If we are to be the new human, we must begin by embracing love, which always seeks to incarnate itself. Everywhere the Holy One is shouting, "Let me love you." And all that is asked of us is to receive.

-Judy Cannato, **Field of Compassion**



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