

July 2022

2022-4

Encountering Our Spiritual Wisdom

I have been thinking about the variety of ways we encounter or seek out spiritual wisdom. Certainly, reading and classroom options have been at the heart of my seeking for a broader perspective on my life and ways to become more conscious about life's gifts. One of the early ways Karen and I jointly sought this out was our first trip to England to a workshop about Celtic Spirituality. The workshop was in Oxford where we were housed in an Anglican convent. It was clear there was so much more to the Anglican and Episcopal tradition than we had ever been exposed to.

This time inspired trips to Ireland, Wales, and Scotland, including the isles of Iona and Lindisfarne. Also, time along the scotch trail with a few samplings of the nectar. These trips became more than vacations and our souls were on fire. Over the many years since these early explorations, we have made many pilgrimages, almost all with Monks and friends of the Order

There are so many ways to feed this inner longing and awareness of the openings given to guide our inner spirits. One that has arrived on several occasions is the guidance that has come from dreams. Not the general dream that comes in the night and gone so soon after waking, but those few that arrive in full color and clear as a movie. The most recent one arrived Sept 19, 2018 It keeps coming into my life and I recognized it as providing important guidance but never completing my understandingAnd I may never fully get it. I did make several notes right after I had this dream as I have done at times in the past.

I considered cleaning up my notes and elaborating a little but below is my first and only summary of the dream.

The Dream Sept 19 or 20 2018 (My Birthday)

I am driving a large bus, the size of a typical Greyhound bus, which has, I think, about 20 passengers.

I am driving because I was selected, I do not know by whom, because I know the way and it is difficult. It feels like driving the crazy mountain roads in Colorado. Up and down. Narrow with no rails and steep drop offs. I hug to the mountain side when I can. I see no other traffic as I drive. The road appears to turn left and down but I know it turns a hard right into a previously unseen road and starts a steep ascent. I continue driving and soon arrive in a small town. Feels like a medieval town but looks a little like old western town with a single dirt road through town and wooden buildings, maybe logs.

The passengers leave the bus, except for 4 men. One of them asks or orders me to take them to an appointment. Someone is going to make them a "stick", but I think he means something like a staff. We begin walking across what looks like a desert landscape. Sand and some cactus and hills/mountains in the distance. As we walk, I see a house sitting on the top of a mesa. The house juts out on its perch looking north. The sky is a soft rose color, and the sun is disappearing in the far distance beyond the mesa.

The house appears to be constructed of rows of stone or brick, primarily alternating rows of soft grey and white. Within the rows are scattered colors of red like adobe. The roof is flat rising from left to right. I imagine the north end has windows that look out across the open desert space.

Then we enter (no climbing or walking, just inside.) it is dark like evening light. The ceiling is wood and low. Wood construction on the ceiling and supported by wooden beams. In the far-left corner Yeshua sits with a ¾ turn away from us and I cannot see his face. I instinctively know who it is, and I feel anxious or afraid and I am quite warm. He appears to be working on something. One of the men with me says "you are not working on our stick". Yeshua responds, "I am not working on what you want but working on what you need." His voice was soft and smooth but direct.

I am now immediately home, I think, but I see nothing other than the phone, an old black rotary dial like the 50's.

I dial a number and someone answers, "Yeshua is not here." I do not think I asked for anyone, but I am not sure. The voice continues, "this is JamesPaul is here with me.....our cook, Peter is fixing a meal for our journey (or Trip).

I asked them "Where are you going?" "Through the universe" James said.

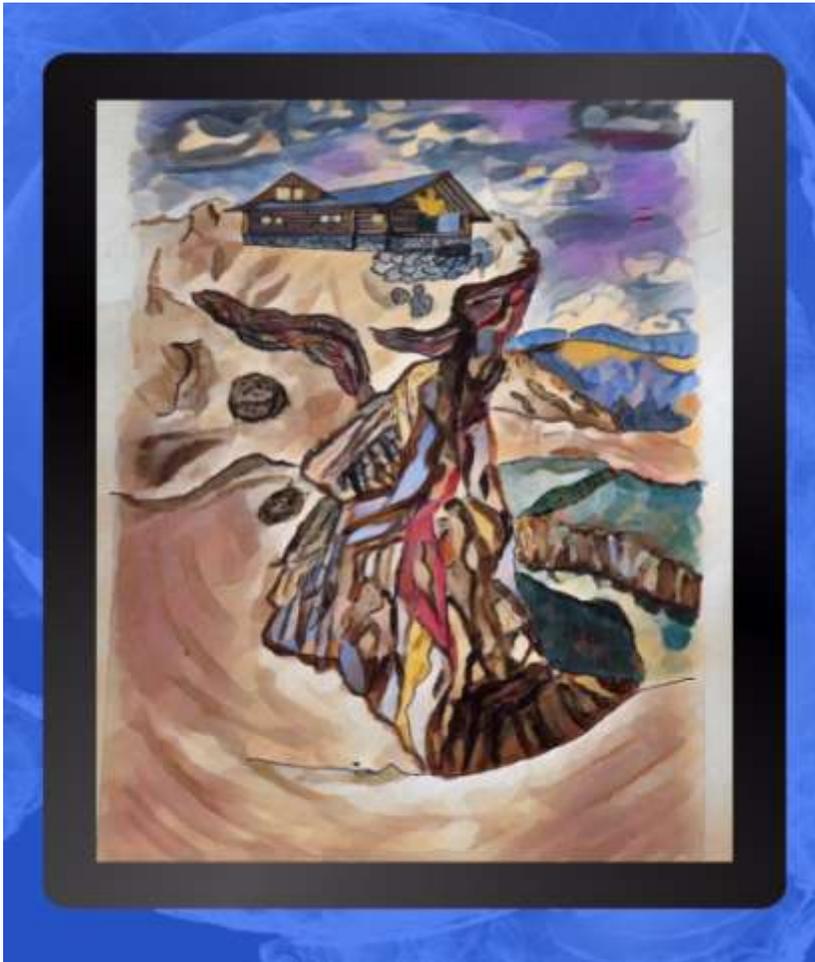
"How long will you be gone?" Again, James answers "For eternity.....Ron, you should join us"

I woke up with a clear head knowing this dream would stay with me. I felt energized and I felt apprehensive not knowing why I have the invitation.

This year I considered trying to express it in a painting. Now after a couple of attempts and many side efforts I did get it done and one more piece fell in place. No, the image is not exactly as the dream but emphasizes the key points through a dreamscape. Some of my thoughts about the dream:

- I have been called to lead a trip or Pilgrimage
- I have knowledge of the path and danger
- Route was in danger of descent and quick change to initial ascent. (Vertical)
- Bus stops in dirty old dark town ---- Feels hollow.
- Again, asked to lead further and long walk into the desert begins.
- View destination on a high Mesa and a house (Temple? Ascending?).
- Arrival, Yeshua offers what is needed to others not what they want.
- James, Paul, and Peter --- purpose in the Order? James in charge.

- James outlines the Journey -----Next steps?



Each of these has had my attention with the primary questions of:

1. Is this an affirmation of how my path is unfolding?
2. Is this an area needing my attention and renewed commitment?

Over these years, it has been some of both and generally each takes time and commitment.

Recently I had an opportunity to discuss with a grandson, possibilities and hopes for his future. Most of what he said started with "I want..." I avoided giving grandfatherly advice and asked, "What do you want to contribute along the way"? He did not know but did ask how to separate the two. I suggested he plan for both. Then the big shock!!! He asked if I would help him develop a plan in August. Maybe something new will

happen for each of us if this really happens. If this happens or not, I will be present for him.

One more key in the dream: Invitation: "Ron, you should join us". All of the above offers much to meditate upon and listen with the heart. Yet the final question has been the one I kept returning to try to understand, **WHY me?** It seems I needed to paint the image to spend enough time to see the obvious intent. An invitation that has been offered since the beginning of time and will never expire It should be: "Hey! All y'all You should join us!"

To you, my many friends and wisdom guides, may you know you have been called upon to share a lifetime on earth and all that has been set before us.

The Great Feast

With blessings, I wish you peace, good health,

And dreams that make your heart sing!

~~ Ron Poidevin, Abbot (Emeritus)