**Finding Ground in the Age of Groundlessness – Margaret Wheatley**

Mystery – we are called to be careful listeners to the still small voice leading us to the edge.

If we can’t hear the small voice it’s our problem. Still small voice is not small. Our resistance is where it leads us. The edge is not a comfortable place to be. Willingness to be used by God. Enormous risk.

With mystery we need to bow down, to surrender our plans, our goals, and our certainties. Can we enter a different realm which will bring peace? It takes being mindful, being contemplative, and releasing ourselves from our ego and our need to be in charge.

How we are in this groundlessness can only come about with contemplation. Path requires level of commitment, to stay in the chaos, to be with people in their suffering and not to alleviate it. Simply standing with, open, listening.

Staying rather than fixing – we are in a cycle of collapse. There will be more terrorism, more violence and hatred. We can use these experiences to stay with people as the suffering increases.

Chinese symbol for Perseverance - Patience - Tolerance (knife over a human heart)



How do we stay on this path and keep our hearts open and have patience? By dwelling in the silence and the space of mystery. Staying and being the presence of love. It is not theoretical. How do you stay and be with someone who has been terrorized, violated and not add to the fear, the pain and the hatred. By going into a contemplative lifestyle. Increasing our capacity of peacefulness, patience, tranquility.

We need to be the presence of peace wherever we are. Training people to be warriors of the human spirit. Warrior – someone who is brave but not overcome by fear and anger by developing a stable mind through contemplation. Being able to watch your thoughts without reacting.

Thinking has disappeared from leadership. Leaders are reactive. They say, “Just tell me what to do. I don’t have time to think.” Decisions made in the moment that effect the future. Future eaters – eating our future by making the decisions that will devour the energy needed for the future.

Becoming more contemplative is not removing ourselves from the world but surrendering our own ego and willing to move from a deeper wisdom, clarity and greater confidence. When I surrender I become infinitely more courageous and confident because I know this does not come from me, it is all from God.

“There is no way to peace. Peace is the way.” Thich Nhat Hanh (Vietnamese Buddhist monk)

Contemplate when you have surrendered and when you were working, not as you, but in full relationship with the Divine. Joy is different than happiness. Joy is the experience of humans being together with each other with not different or separate, we are together in oneness and community. A feeling of communion that transforms human experience, a fullness. A feeling that transcends your humanness and is a presence when another or other human beings are present and barriers disappear. We will not solve the terrible, horrible events that will continue to take place but through deep inner contemplation that leads to surrender and mystery will be the path that raises up our humanness and will heal others.

“We do not need hope. We have vow.” Daido Loori, Zen Priest

Vow gives us the container for our life. We cannot be tied to the seeds of hope. What keeps us motivated and grounded has to be more than hope. It is a transcendence. Hope is not the expectation that something will turn out alright, it is the constant spirit that leads us in the knowledge that life is worth living in a surrender to mystery. I want to be able to stay and not flee.

 [Margaret Magee osf – 8/15/2016]