

Come with Peace, Love and Humor in your Hearts

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There must have been a few times during these last 10 months when you were sure the changes you were enduring would certainly have been over by Christmas!!

Most of us who have survived this threat imposed by a virus in the year 2020 will some day in the future be relaying to our children and grandchildren these times filled with a lack of comfortable certainties, pain and fear. Sure, they may look at it like. . . “ I used to have to walk five miles to school in deep snow and rain.” But, we know, each day has brought us to a different place of changeable rules and ways we are to exhibit human behavior. Conversely, in each day there is a glimmer of hope seen through man’s humanity to man even though it fades with the next newscast one hears. Most of us have thought that never anything like this would happen in our lifetimes. We read about such in our history books but always with that feeling that it would never happen again. Life is about learning lessons. We know that. But when we grapple with how to live with the lessons, we many times have to turn to. . . . “What IS this lesson in particular for me!”

The perplexing thing is that all the circumstances that influence one’s life during “normal times”, still happen in the midst of changes imposed on us by lockdowns, stay at home measures, wearing masks and socially distancing. People still fall in and out of love, people lose jobs and start new ones, people get sick and have terrible medical problems unrelated to the virus.

I started to think about what I miss that God has permitted in my life before the pandemic; things I took for granted like walks in the mall. I would linger and talk with people as I shopped. I pondered how many times I told myself I was going to take a walk at Balboa Park and didn’t but now have to fear the unknown of unpredicted crowds.

I asked my friends what they previously had taken for granted but now realize how God’s hand in their lives had blessed them. One friend relayed how now that she thinks of it, how grateful at these times, she can at least go outside in her yard and bathe in the beautiful sunlight. Her sister in Indiana cannot. Another friend who took for granted those hugs from parents and friends and now misses them so much. Another who misses visiting with family and friends and bringing sweet treats. Oh, how I personally missed my traditional Christmas Eve gatherings with all the Sicilian traditions of fishes including stuffed squid cooked in red sauce, crispelle with anchovies, etc.

But, in view of all that is transpiring in lives all over the world, we must look at all the God stories that this virus has contributed to the growth and miracles in our lives. Just take a glance at God’s hand in these happenings.

One family member was called by her son who lives 2500 miles from her. He was clinically depressed and experiencing anxiety attacks. She knew she had to go to him but also worried about her husband and two other children she had to leave behind during this holiday time. She planned to go, staying only less than a week. But God had a different plan. When she was about to embark on the trip home, she was tested before boarding the airplane. She tested positive for the Coronavirus!! There was no choice. She was told she must quarantine for 14 days and be retested before she would be able to board the plane to return home. For fear of infecting her son who was already experiencing dismay in his life, she had to find someplace to live for 14 days! Another God story. Her only option was to live in the home of her ex-husband who by God's hand just happened to be out of the country!! Perhaps the current husband might have raised an eyebrow otherwise.

Well, God's plan worked out perfectly. That extra time she got to spend with her son could never be replaced. In her words, "My son's depression brought him and I closer and gave us the bonding that we really needed since my divorce from his dad. There were so many angels and friends who helped us and reminded us how blessed we are." She said that during her stay, every time that she felt worried or uncertain, she saw a messenger from the Divine; a blue hawk flew low over her head. It has long been believed that birds of prey, such as hawks or owls, are messengers of Gods, angels, Archangels, spirits and many other spiritual entities. On a hike with her son, they saw what she called a "crazy bright light" come across their view in the night light. Another time, a family of deer who came right out of the bushes and crossed their path with a sweet hello.

A Spiritualist Minister wrote: "I realize (with this pandemic) that there is so much more to learn with patience. It has made me realize that I am unique and special as is everyone else. I now have more of an awareness and appreciation of nature which is new to me."

Another evolved friend writes: "I miss traveling to foreign places, meeting people and making connections with strangers; finding those things we have in common no matter where we live or what language we speak".

Another friend who is experiencing a dreaded cancer diagnosed in November, is so closely watching the signs that God presents to him. Continually, he awakes at 3:33 every day. Upon checking a site called ***Willow Soul Heals*** he came to realize the messages that were being given to him through the many 333's she saw at other times as well. The site revealed to him what he needed to hear: "Ascending masters are guiding you to move forward. Your call for help has been heard. Living your life on earth is your artistic masterpiece for humanity and it is a creative expression for your human life's plan. Being creative is part of your Spiritual evolution. Your ability to create is a blessed gift and when you create you enhance life's beauty. It is a spiritual form of your self-expression and a reflection of the divine within you. Have the courage to express your soul's truth. . . release the fears that are stuck in your throat. Transform your life into play because playfulness is a Spiritual activity." Richard is embarking on developing his creativity through cooking of which he has done little previously. He is using

a book on special diets which is recommended by the Pastor of First Spiritualist Church! He has lost 22 pounds and feels good!

Richard feels so good but reminds us that we must see the humorous side of the events in our lives also. He is speaking about his ordeal at the hospital. Turns out the surgeon was a comedian and even though Richard was under anesthetics, he was kept laughing as he entered the OR. The attending nurse who was going on and on about her wedding that had taken place the day before presented other diversions. The humor continued when he awoke later and could feel three holes in his belly but told he must get up and urinate! Next thing he remembers is that he is being discharged and his niece is waiting for him in the car. On the ride home, he discovers they had neglected to take the IV port out of his hand! Off to Urgent care where it was carelessly removed displaying lots of blood! I know. You're saying, "And he found all of this humorous?" Well, he did and perhaps it gives us a few hints at how we need to view our perils. If we must go through them, then, perhaps we can see a funny side to things also.

In closing I would like to quote the words of Rev. April Cunningham in the last paragraph of her recent sermon. "...love comes with many faces and names; the world has been seeded time and time again. The Divine reality is not tied to humanity's ego. It dresses up and plays the part to show that there was never a vacancy in the ways of love. Some stories are bigger than others. . . The goal is to evolve and unite as a cohesive and loving family, to put one hand out, if you are on the step about to lead your brother or sister forward, without ownership or greed. Nothing comes from no effort; all comes from diligence and dedication. Our relationship with God is with self. I want to thank you for the gift that you are!"

Dear HGSA members: Know how much we think of you. Know we send our blessings and healing to those in need. Know we will all be together soon. Peace, courage and love to all.