

INSPIRED ACTION APRIL 4, 2010
EASTER SUNDAY MORNING

Dorothy Maclean

Firstly let me say how wonderful it is to see you all here. As I look around, I see some familiar faces, and many more new ones.

I must confess that I was daunted at finding myself once again giving the Easter Sunday morning talk in another conference event. I feel nervous about the responsibility of maintaining the good start the Venerable Robina set last night. However, I got marching orders from within to go ahead!

As I read through the materials about this conference, about the other speakers and their actions in the world, I wondered just what I could contribute. For the past 40 years, my efforts to inspire others to take actions in their own lives has involved a lot of traveling and story telling, though the story I tell is primarily my own. I have not been someone to initiate projects, although there are those who tell me I have definitely been someone who sounded a call to action. God and nature being the cause. Some of you might think that the inspired action I was part of, was to start this community. But Findhorn didn't start out as an intentional community, spiritual or otherwise. Nor were we intending to create an educational centre or an eco-village, nor any of the various descriptions used about the place. It is an outgrowth of the patient dedication of a small group of people putting their inner inspirations into action.

At 90 the actions I can take myself, inspired or otherwise, are somewhat limited. None-the-less I will tell you about the latest action I am engaged in, before we finish our time together this morning.

The bottom line of my life is an unshakable knowing that each and every one of us can have a personal and direct relationship with the Divine, and that through that relationship we can also have a co-creative relationship with the soul essence of nature. Those two facts have been the bedrock of my inspired actions for 55 years now. Frankly, I don't anticipate that that will change during whatever years remain to me.

The long version of my journey is not for the telling now - those of you who have an interest in it can find it in my books. Suffice to say that in trying to answer the great questions of life, questions like what is the purpose of life, who am I, why am

I here, I came to the conclusion that it is all about love. Everything I read on the subject, all the teachers I listened to, led me to a belief in spiritual principles, of which my key understanding was to be loving. I got tested on that belief. To cut a long story short: to gain the inner strength to go through a certain difficult personal action of love, over many months I kept on and on choosing to commit myself to doing it. Then, for the very first time in my life, I experienced God within me as a living cosmic presence. My definition of God, by the way, is as the life force in everything.

As you can quite well imagine, that experience changed me completely, even changing my voice. With such an expanded experience of myself, I now had the courage to take action on my commitment. 55 years later, the reality and power of that inner contact continues to give me courage to take actions, actions like being here this morning talking to all of you!

After that initial contact, whenever I was alone a thought kept coming to my mind, to “stop, listen and write”. After being besieged by this idea many, many times, eventually I did just that, and turned within. To my wonderment, I opened up to inner perceptions which I then wrote down in my own words. I should say here that I do not hear or see anything. I have an inner experience, like an idea that arrives whole, and I then translate it into words. At first I was amazed, because those knowings revealed a God very different from the Old Testament Jehovah God of my childhood. Here was a delightful Presence, full of love, joy, play and merriment: a God of celebration, connection and empowerment.

I want to share with you the love of God I experienced in my attunements, the helpful messages I received, and how empowering and necessary these were in leading up to and in the founding of Findhorn, and of course in my personal spiritual growth.

Here is an example:

Come closer, come closer, so softly, on tiptoe. As quietly as a mouse creep up to Me. Let Me draw you nearer, in slow motion lest we disturb anyone, lest we raise any dust. Move closer to Me invisibly, hearing no evil, seeing no evil, speaking no evil. Only purity can come close to Me, and we do not want any ripple of impurity to trip you.

Draw nearer, draw nearer, with the movement of your heart. Let it expand into Me. Let it bridge any space that might be between us, until there is just one, big, glowing heart, so big that it holds up this universe.

For 10 years I attuned to that Presence daily. Initially I did this three times a day, and received thousands of wonderful teachings. Each day I endeavoured to follow those teachings, gradually building up my ability to put those inspirations into action in my life. The main theme of these messages was to empower me to bring the love that I was experiencing into my everyday living. A love, which for me embraces both the personal and impersonal dimensions. How could I not fall in love with that God? How could I do anything other than allow this energy to be the guiding force of my life?

I was not alone in this training. Peter and Eileen Caddy and our colleague Lena were all in training, each of us learning to put into action the inspirations coming from within. We each did this in different ways. But again, those stories are not for the telling now.

Here is an example of how I was helped from within:

Stretch every particle of yourself towards Me, and I will fill every particle with Myself out of My abundance. Soak yourself in the stream of love inside and out, giving yourself up completely. Relax in it, drown in it, every atom of you, until there is nothing in you not made new and pure.

Then breathe again, like a newly emerged chick, breathing love in instead of air. It is My love that keeps you alive, that sustains you. Know this. Breathe it in softly, breathe it out gently.

Let all your thoughts come to Love for their life, that they breathe forth My dimensions of love. Let all your acts come to love for their life, that they abound only with love. Let all you see be seen in love, that you see only boundless loveliness.

During those years we each learned to trust and act upon what we were receiving from our inner wholeness. Whenever there was a problem, God was available as a source of help if we so chose. A great example of this occurred at Cluny Hill Hotel, when our alcoholic Head Chef arrived in the kitchen too drunk to stand up, and with 200 dinners to cook. In this instance, Peter's intuition failed him and he was forced to ask Eileen to get guidance on this looming crisis. She went within, and received that if we wanted the Chef to cook the dinners, Peter needed to give him another drink. Peter did just that, and believe it or not, it worked! Normal sensible minds would never have thought of such a crazy solution - only God could have, and be right!

Another inspirational message that I like very much is:

You are close to Me but you can come still closer, further into My love. That is the marvelous journey ahead of you all, this glad venturing into My love, this delicate response in you to a new outpouring of Myself. This is the ever different, ever lifting, ever softening process which is the joy of My heart to behold in you and in all.

For each one My approach is different, for My one love is sensitive to all creatures. The warmth of My love, the surge of it into an open heart, is universal and unique; I am all things to all people. I pour it out on all creation, and it comes back to you as you open yourself to Me from all sides, within and without. The more you open your heart, the wider the opening through which I can come.

Eventually, as a result of more stories I won't tell now, we ended up here on this caravan site. Unemployed and living with minimal financial resources, Peter set about creating a garden to augment our diet. Unfortunately, sand and rounded pebbles, which is all that was here, are not very conducive to great gardening!

One morning in my meditation I was told that I had a job to connect with Nature. This was later expanded upon, and I was told that everything in nature has an ensouling intelligence. I was to harmonize with that essence. I was also told that the forces of nature are something to be felt into, to be stretched out to. I was told that this would not be as difficult as I expected, that all forces are to be felt into, even the sun, the moon, the sea, the trees, the very grass, for all are part of God's life. I was to play my part in making life One again, with God's help. I was told to begin by thinking about the higher nature spirits, the overlighting angels, and to attune to them. This would be so unusual as to draw their interest to the garden, and they would be overjoyed to cooperate with humans who were eager to cooperate with them.

My initial response of "Don't be ridiculous, a vegetable doesn't have a brain so how can it have intelligence", was overcome by my trust in that inner source. I chose to focus on a vegetable that I enjoy eating, the garden pea. I made contact with my inner divinity and then focused on the pea. To my surprise, I made an immediate link and received a creative, helpful response, which I translated into words as I did with my God-contact. I realized I was communicating not with an individual pea plant but with the soul of the species, with a formless energy-field that was both intelligent and responsive. The nearest word I could find to describe

it was 'angel', but that word conveyed too much form. Somewhere I had come across the Sanskrit word 'deva', which means 'shining one'. That seemed more accurate, as for me it was formless. Thus began our experiment of cooperating with the intelligence of nature in the garden.

Luckily God helped me to understand the process, by telling me:

You are pioneering in the true attitude to nature, to the one life. For this attitude, it behoves you to think of everything in terms of life force, not merely an impersonal force like electricity, but a manifestation of a being. They can teach and help you, though what you see of them outwardly may be a lowly bee, a leaf, a stone. Behind all is a great chain of life leading to Me. Humans have been given dominion over all these on Earth, but only as you, too, fit into the great chain of life.

We got many answers from the devas to our gardening questions. The devas/angels/god, whatever word we are comfortable using, do not want us to be just obedient servants, but a humanity who is attuned to its own wholeness and who can cooperate with them as equals.

Just after my first contact with the garden pea, I became aware of a presiding angelic presence which seemed to be in charge of all levels of life here, including the human. I called it the Landscape Angel. In hindsight this was a misnomer, for now I realize that this angel is the local representative of the Angel of our planet, of Gaia itself. Suffice to say that it became my mentor, introducing me to all manner of other beings and stretching my understanding into new realms. All the while the garden flourished, and the community you see here today began to take shape.

The Landscape Angel offered continuous help. I have hundreds messages from the Landscape Angel, who is ever ready to help and to be a source of inspiration and connection. Peter was always willing to put into action and form the suggestions being made to us about the garden. He was, in many ways, the embodiment of inspired action.

I continued to receive help from God in understanding this cooperation with the devic kingdom, and what I needed to do in order to listen to and be sensitive to their contact: God said:

Remember that most of the beings you contact are highly evolved and can understand human feelings, so they will try to meet you to a certain extent. The various plant devas live in a sphere of immediacy of knowledge about

anything which concerns them; that specific knowledge is open to them. This knowledge is yours when you tune into them. Their mission is to manifest My plant world.

Mingle with these beings. It is an exchange and a beginning of a unique and far-reaching cooperation. They are amazed and delighted that their cooperation is sought, and then followed so faithfully, and at this time in the world's evolution when humans are increasingly harming their work. It is not only important, but vital, that a new relationship be established.

From the devas I was continuing to understand more about their worlds and the links to humans.

One message particularly stood out. It was from the Monterey Cypress, who said:

We are not just the little trees you see in your garden. You feel in us an almost intolerable longing to be fully ourselves. We of the plant world have our pattern and our destiny, worked out through the ages, and we feel it quite wrong that we and others like us are not allowed to be, because of humanity and its encroachment. Trees are not so much Do-ers of the Word as Be-ers. We have our portion of the plan to fulfil; we have been nurtured for this very reason and now, in this day and age, many of us can only dream of the spaces where we can fulfil ourselves. The planet needs the likes of us in our full maturity. We are not a mistake on the part of nature; we have our work to do.

Humanity is now becoming controller of the world forests and is beginning to realize that these are needed, but you use silly economic reasons for your selection, with no awareness of the planet's needs. You should not cover acres with one quick-growing species, which, though admittedly better than none, shows utter ignorance of the purpose of trees and their channeling of diverse forces. The world needs us on a large scale.

We have been vehement..... we have rather dumped this on you, and you feel unable to help. You are only looking at it from a limited level. We know that a truth once in human consciousness, then percolates around and does its work.

This particular message carried a sense of tremendous urgency - it was as if this Cypress was shouting, so that the whole world would realize the need for trees

throughout the planet.

Later that theme would be developed further, though the primary message remained the same. I am most grateful to Alan Watson and all the inspired action done through Trees for Life, to follow through on the need to plant and protect trees. But it is not trees that I want to address today.

The Landscape Angel continued to guide us, as in the following:

The angelic world is poised with great love towards humans. The energies that flow through us and all of life are purposeful, forceful and to the point. Love is a firm reality which forms a bridge over which all can walk. Goopy sentiment is not love and does not exist with us. When we step towards you, we do it energetically; you can do the same. Though you cannot see or hear us, touch, smell or taste us, still we are a tremendous force. We stand here in love, a whole dynamic world reaching for an intelligent relationship with a humanity that will wield all its God-given forces for the whole. You need us and we are ready, awaiting the recognition, love and just treatment that you give to your own kin. We wait in love for your love.

This is still true now, and the initiative to make it a reality has to come from us. Cooperation between the ‘nature’ and ‘human’ parts of us, is not just partnering with nature. It is more than just getting messages or instructions. It’s more than just hanging out with fairies and gnomes. Or even with Pan! It is opening and holding a connection **through** which vital energies - nature’s forces - can flow into the world. And as the human partner in this relationship, we have energies that we can contribute to the world. As David Spangler points out to us, we ourselves are a generative source of spiritual energies. Of these, the greatest is Love, with which we can bless all that is around us.

I try to be a positive person, having been trained both on the inner and on the outer to look for the highest and best in everyone, in all situations. But I must confess that as I look out into the world, as I listen to the news, read the papers, hear the concerns and worries of so many people, it’s as if I am watching an epidemic race round the world. An epidemic that values money over love, an epidemic that values personal gain and comfort over the good of the whole. Of course there are many antidotes to this epidemic being experimented with, new solutions are being sought.

Einstein said, “You can never solve a problem on the level on which it was created”. Yet it seems to me that that is just what we are trying to do. Most of the

solutions are being created by the very thing that caused the epidemic in the first place. We seek with our minds, to understand the workings of the finely-tuned systems of nature, systems evolved over millions of years. Then, with all good intent, we set out to recreate them, to restore them. All this we do from the limited understanding that our minds can bring to bear. What if we were to listen beyond the mind to allies awaiting our invocation? What if we were to create, on a planetary scale, the same level of co-operation and co-creation demonstrated in the early days of this community? Here, sand dunes were turned into gardens. The success of the early garden at Findhorn remains a demonstration of the potency of cooperating and co-creating with nature. The simple existence of the Findhorn Community demonstrates the power of inspired action. Virtually everything you see around you here, is the result of someone putting into action their own inspirations.

Nature is so much more than a source of renewal and regeneration for our jagged exhausted selves. It is so much more than a treasure to be kept safe in selected places. We ignore the subtler aspects, the unseen dimensions, at our peril.

And let's face it, the peril on our planet is great. There are few places where the peril is more immediate, and has greater potential domino effect repercussions, than the situation we face - almost globally - with the common honey bee.

Throughout the world billions of bees are mysteriously dying. They are simply flying away from their hives and disappearing, a phenomenon called colony collapse disorder, CCD. Bee predators, looking for pollen or honey, even refrain from pilfering abandoned CCD-affected hives.

As bees are our most important crop pollinators, the vital link in our food chain of vegetables, fruits and nuts, and responsible for pollinating a third of all food crops in our diet, we need to know how to deal with this calamity. Although there are other insect and animal pollinators, the honeybee is the most used. There are many human activities, such as the destruction of the bees' natural habitat through monoculture, the spread of deadly insecticides, and other factors that cause a mighty pollen loss, that need to be considered.

Thus far the scientists haven't come up with much more than a name for this looming environmental disaster, although of course they are attempting to find the causes. One discovery is that the collapse of the bees' immune system has been an underpinning stressing factor. Also, a tiny Asian mite, *Varroa destructor*, which sucks vital juices from bees, migrated to America and Europe in the 1980s. This

mite can kill a hive within a year. There are other emerging hypotheses for bee behavior.

Of course bees have had a checkered background. They have a history of being interbred, of being moved around, of being treated in ways that help us humans but do not consider whether the bees themselves are being helped. They have been given pesticides which have proved lethal to them immediately or later, some of which have prevented them from remembering their colony's location and causing them to get lost. Fungal growth has been found in bees' guts, which may have produce toxins that killed young bees.

One stress which cannot but affect bees is transporting them, thousands of hives at a time in huge cross-country trucks, to service seasonal pollination needs. I have been appalled by this practice of considering only human gain without considering the effect on the bees, and the careless and brutal behaviour in the way they are handled. They are taken to locations that consist of acres upon acres of a monocrop, such as apple or almond trees. This is a highly unnatural situation for bees, who for thousands of years have worked in environments that gave them support and access to variety. Here, and in all bee management, their natural foraging and flowering seasonal habits need to be considered.

The problem is not diminishing, and the disease in managed hives has not dwindled. Einstein has been quoted as saying that if bees disappeared, we humans would do likewise within four years.

Not so long ago I read the following comments made over 60 years ago by an insightful bee lover saying that there is a distinct danger of overdevelopment in the culture of bees, that their organization is adaptable, but if they are over-exploited and if the hives are made too complex and artificial, harm will be done. Man must recognize the uplifting life of the bee, and not regard the insect as a mere mechanical honey gatherer for the sole benefit of the human race.

The danger he wrote of has been brought about and is here right now. The combination of chemicals (primarily pesticides), parasites and stress is essentially causing bees to develop what bee-keeper Mark Pitcher referred to as a bee version of Immune Deficiency Disorder. They simply cannot maintain their health in the face of the challenges they confront. New ingredients in the stress recipe are being revealed even as we sit here.

In my life I have learned one great truth: that love is the greatest power on earth.

This statement has been tested time and time again. So to me our solution is to send powerful love to bees. It may not sound very scientific, but it seems to me that science is not producing a solution, so we have everything to gain and nothing to lose, by trying love as an answer.

Loving bees happens naturally. I was the first beekeeper here at Findhorn and I had to collect our first hives from a retiring old beekeeper. I confess I felt no love for them. I was not really interested in them, and certainly had a fear of being stung. The old beekeeper took me to a hive and opened it, and as he did so, an obvious love and joy came into his face. This astonished and affected me greatly, so much so that I immediately felt love for them myself.

Like all beekeepers, I found them endlessly fascinating. Why? Because of their utter dedication to their hive; they give their lives to protect it; they all have different dedicated roles in it, they do intricate dances to help their fellows fly to a pollen abundant area; a Queen bee becomes a mammoth laying thousands of eggs over her productive years.

They can let their beekeeper know if they need his or her help; I had an example of this when some bees kept circling outside my bedroom window, a place which was quite out of their normal route and a behavior that I had not seen before. Wondering if they were trying to get my attention, I went out to the hives. Sure enough, a lid had come off one of the hives, something that definitely needed my help and which I easily rectified.

Normally love as a solution seems off the wall, ungrounded, crazy, psychotic, even insane. Yet to love is the way to go that is offered by the founders of all religions. Commitment to being loving from our wholeness was what we three founders were asked to do, and it worked for us.

Fairly recently I came across an interesting story. Gretchen LeBuhn, an associate professor of biology in California, wondered if there was a way to tackle the bee problem, to make fellow gardeners aware of the impact of the declining bee populations and get their help in restoring them. She distributed free 'Lemon Queen' sunflower seeds to people to plant in their yards. In return, once the flowers bloomed, the recipients were asked to report back any bee-related activity. She sent 15 emails to Master Gardener programs, and a week later discovered that 15,000 people had signed up. The project continued to expand that year, and soon had 55,000 participants in all 50 states plus all provinces and territories in Canada. It is still expanding. The story of her results gives hope and optimism.

So how can we, individually and in groups, best help the bees?

Truly loving bees entails a rich energy exchange. It is a powerful imaginative process, in which we contact the wonderful love which is the deep core of all of us, and which we then focus and send to the bees. As we do not want our beautiful world to die, we can give of ourselves with full force, and results are bound to follow. We need passionate patience and persistence, for we humans have deeply polluted our world and have used the gift of free will for selfish ends. But we can use that same free will to choose the loving whole.

Some of us might choose to manage Varroa or take on a patch of land where we can provide a proper living space for bees in our local area. If so, we will be dedicating much time and energy locally, but might not be dealing with the international problem. Then we would be putting the good before the best. I don't believe we want to do that.

I felt the need personally to do something about the bees. I decided to promise myself that the least I could do was to send love to the bees every morning, say for 10 minutes.

I would like to lead you all in such a meditation here this morning. I hope that you will then continue to include the bees in your daily practice. And if you are a beekeeper, or know beekeepers, please pass this idea on.

(meditation included below)

INTRODUCTION TO MEDITATION

The core of this meditation is a particular sentence, an invocation. You could even call it a mantra. When I do this meditation in the mornings I often vary the sentences. For the purpose of this morning's experience - I invite you to repeat the invocation (my version of it. On your own, you will of course do your own version – even change it now if you wish. I have to keep my mind on the subject.

So – to begin, take a moment to get comfortable. Accept the environment as it is (the sounds, the temperature, whatever). Now turn your attention inwards. Move to your own centre, your own inner place of safety and connectedness.

We humans have all been gifted with free will, giving us the power of choice, and the capacity to make a conscious contact with our inner divinity, by whatever face or name we recognise that Presence. Let us each do that in this moment.

The mantra I repeat is “The successful functioning of bees on the planet is a vital need. Let us choose to invoke and send the vast loving power of our inner divinity to bring about the successful functioning of bees here and throughout the world.... spreading joy everywhere.

It is one world now. As we send out this love, it spreads joy, as if this world has been waiting for this love.

The successful functioning of bees on the planet is a vital need. Let us choose to invoke and send the vast loving power of our inner divinity to bring about the successful functioning of bees here and throughout the world..... spreading joy everywhere.

Let us do this with as much passion and compassion as we can feel, for we love this beautiful world and we really want to help. And as we do this, there is always a response throughout the world.

Then joy spreads throughout, for the world is so happy that we are acting in love.

Again, we invoke the vast loving power of our inner divinity to bring about the successful functioning of bees here and throughout the world .

It needs a miracle to bring about the successful functioning of bees in the world. As we humans are the initiators of change, we can choose to evoke miracles. Let us choose now to evoke the miracle needed to help the bees.

As we act on this mantra, joy spreads everywhere.

The successful functioning of bees on the planet is a vital need. Let us choose to invoke and send the vast loving power of our inner divinity to bring about the successful functioning of bees here and throughout the world..... spreading joy everywhere.

To simply invoke this love locally does not meet the vast need of the world, thus we hold the totality of the bee world in our awareness.

Our one world so appreciates our action, as we act, that joy spreads everywhere.

The successful functioning of bees on the planet is a vital need. Let us choose to invoke and send the vast loving power of our inner divinity to bring about the successful functioning of bees here and throughout the world..... spreading joy everywhere.

If we truly love our world, we will do this with every ounce of our love. We can all make a difference. The more love and power we put into this, the greater the results.

As we do this joy spreads throughout, and we are thankful.

The successful functioning of bees on the planet is a vital need. Let us choose to invoke and send the vast loving power of our inner divinity to bring about the successful functioning of bees here and throughout the world..... spreading joy everywhere.

Thank you.

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