

MAGDALENE CHRISTIANITY

*The Once
and
Future
Magdalene*

HELEN MARTINEAU

THE ONCE AND FUTURE MAGDALENE

Walking song of the Magdalene

O let us now tell of the Mother's fine offering,
Of bright sunlight dancing on blossoms she kissed,
Of the time of the turning and cool weaving mist,
Of seeds windward flying,
And snow deeply lying.

Then hear in the birth pangs, in each newborn crying,
In lovers' heart-speaking and whisper soft sighing,
And on the last breath when a dear friend lies dying,
The echoes that ring,
The mysteries they bring
Of the life and the love flowing forth from the light of the Word.



How far did she journey? What new places have heard her songs? When has Mary Magdalene reappeared?

Many influential spiritual guides and mystics, both male and female, spoke from within the walls of church or monastery – the Desert Mothers and Desert Fathers,

Clement of Alexandria, Origen, Bernard of Clairvaux, Hildegard of Bingen, Thomas à Kempis, Julian of Norwich, Teresa of Avila, Thomas Merton and others up until the modern shift to a dominant secular thought-space. And those are just from the Christian tradition.

As well, there have been so many amazing women in the last two thousand years who offered the message of love, wisdom and courage; so many women who have shone their feminine light in a world dominated by men; the visionaries, those who campaigned for female rights, for the value of motherhood, for the civil rights of oppressed groups, for the living environment, women who created beautiful art and made scientific discoveries yet were pushed aside. Many of these women are recognised now and are honoured on various lists of significant women down the ages.

My challenge has been to seek those who connect directly to Mary Magdalene. And I am sure her role would lie outside the walls of religious establishments – as it was from the beginning. Her ‘Walking Song’ came to me as a kind of summary of her loving, knowing, independent spirit and as a guide to her ongoing influence.

The souls with a spiritual link to Mary may be famous or unheralded. What they have in common is the Magdalene soul’s continuing mission, in words that each age must hear, which is founded in her vision of Christ that forms the rainbow bridge between heaven and earth, and in a love that speaks of what she knows.

The Johannine and Magdalene paths of love



My spiritual teacher Mario Schoenmaker often spoke of the initiatory level within the gospels, especially the Gospel of John. In this gospel Jesus is described as loving a family in Bethany (Jn 11:5). Because the mention of his personal love is so unusual in any gospel, it points to a special kind of relationship. The quality of love portrayed here is *agape*, spiritual love for an inner circle of three close pupils. They are Lazarus the gospel’s anonymous author, and his sisters Martha and

Mary who is the Magdalene. The three may be family, although in connection with initiation we are looking at spirit-siblings.

Lazarus, the beloved disciple as ‘John’ founded a community in Ephesus. This Christian impulse came to be known as Johannine. Because of Lazarus-John’s soul connection with the two women, Johannine Christianity is different from the Petrine form that would become Roman Catholicism. The Eastern Orthodox church recognised this, at first, hence the tradition that Mary was in Ephesus with John.

Martha (surely somewhere in the story) I will set aside for now to focus on Mary Magdalene’s continuing influence through the centuries. Through the research for my novel *Marriages of the Magdalene*, I was alerted to the deep spiritual connection in the first century between Mary and Lazarus. That connection continues. In seeking the Magdalene, I was guided towards the Johannine way that would be overridden by the dominant patriarchal churches, Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant. Shining out in beautiful colour were the significant times in the historical tapestry when the Magdalene and Johannine paths were interwoven, where the feminine soul could flourish. I would find Mary there.

Mary Magdalene and the sacred marriage

Mary’s personal initiatory journey was about harmonisation of polarities in her soul as the uniting of head and heart, action and contemplation, masculine and feminine that led to the sacred marriage of her soul with Christ. Our website explorations have helped us to understand how this took place for Mary Magdalene.

The legend of her thirty-year sojourn in her ‘cave’ rings true symbolically if we consider Mary the Christed initiate as a true expression of Wisdom – because it points to her pure inner beingness, of the fulfillment of her soul destiny as she became the chalice from which others can drink.

Her charisma and understanding were denied by conformists. Yet through her own inner knowing that took her to the very foot of the cross, and beyond, she walked the path with Christ. Thus, the Grail would come alive in her through her deepest mystical union with the Christ.

Mary Magdalene was the woman who understood more than the twelve male disciples. The divine Word was alive in her being, and she gave it expression in her speaking, from her announcement to the grieving disciples that ‘he is risen’ to her voice in the world today.

Here is one example from Dominique Oyston, written in 2020 after leading a song-based meditation especially for women who are seeking their inner strength in our unbalanced societies:

Mary Magdalene, with her soft, soft, beautiful feminine strength showed us how to ground ourselves deeply in her light and release our shame. The power of this woman to walk through life and carry her mission of love into the world, in spite of the role of shame that she was falsely cast in, is extraordinary.

— <https://www.goddessvoiceacademy.com>

When the initiate reincarnates

Approximately every seven years in our lives on earth the substance of our body has changed so that we are no longer the same person. Our soul, however, does not change. It evolves. We may learn and discover more, become more conscious, we may become happier or more disillusioned, we may ‘grow’ spiritually, but essentially the same soul makes the journey. We feel this inwardly. Then we die. The soul continues, but we do not bring what our minds knew with us when we are reborn in a new body. We have to begin again with new tasks to fulfil, and occasionally an insight arises or a memory emerges as karma to help us.

The highest initiates retain full consciousness from one life to the next. An initiate on this level consciously makes the choice when and where to incarnate.

These initiates have been here again at significant turning points in history. They are always available to work with the spiritual forces who serve the mighty Logos and divine Sophia, to assist the evolution of human consciousness. Those initiated to their human fullness by Christ Jesus when he walked the earth retain this impulse from life to life in its enormous power. Mary Magdalene is one such initiate. She speaks even now with truth and grace, singing her songs of love for all life, beautiful as only the fully empowered, fully Christ-filled female voice can be.

I believe the Magdalene’s ongoing experiences are especially relevant today for all regardless of gender, or indeed culture, as we undergo a seismic shift towards a new age. Our mechanistic, materialistic, egocentric societies are crumbling, potentially to be replaced by a holistic, unifying world view reconnecting us with ancient unity, but without losing our hard-won individuality. This involves a revolution in consciousness that integrates the spiritual with the physical again, which can inspire us to live in harmony with all creation.

This portal is dedicated to the Magdalene soul in her further incarnations, or perhaps her powerful influence from spirit. I don’t claim to have clairvoyant sight, or absolute certainty. This is not about proof. I come to the Magdalene’s beautiful soul through what I describe as ‘thinking into’ – after informing myself about the exoteric circumstances of a character’s life and times, plus knowledge of esoteric and spiritual history, I allow myself to link with the soul through imagination and intuition. I hope something of Mary Magdalene’s Christ-imbued ‘I’ has spoken through my thoughts to live on in the words of this portal called ‘Mary Magdalene the Universal Guide’.