

MAGDALENE CHRISTIANITY

Mary's  
Gospel

Inner  
Themes # 2

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## Mary's Gospel - Inner Themes #2

### THE SUN BEING

Because Mary Magdalene and Lazarus-John are paired souls we find the seven I AM statements in both their gospels. With her prescience Mary hears 'I AM the way, the truth and the life' when she first encounters Jesus as a foretelling of what is to come. We will explore its meaning, which they experienced as a post-resurrection revelation in a later post.

In this musing we contemplate the first of Jesus's I AM sayings as it appears in John's gospel.

#### **I am the bread of life (Jn 6:35)**

This statement follows the miracle of the feeding of the 5000, which appears in all four gospels. I understand that the beloved disciple witnessed this event.

A crowd had gathered on the eastern shores of the Sea of Galilee eager to hear from the prophet and to see him perform some marvel. The people were hungry, but the only food anyone had was five barley loaves and two fish. Nevertheless, Jesus told the disciples to go among the crowd and feed everyone. And all were fed.

It was recounted as one of Jesus's miracles. Yet, this was spiritual food the people received. Jesus in whom the Christ was working offered spiritual food and the power of Christ was released temporarily through the disciples, so that every person in that gathering was so nourished. In this saying, lies a powerful truth concerning the I AM. It is food that nourishes the soul and brings the gift of life.

That message lies in the surrounding writing in all the gospels, including Mary's.

In her autobiographical gospel Mary has already encountered Jesus, who pointed to her dependence on the senses and the deeper need for this spiritual food and drink.

The ordinary human situation is that life is built around the senses – the needs and emotions arising from sense experience, and the mind's ability to interpret and judge what comes from the sense world. We say this is real life, or simply 'the world'. Experiences, imaginations and dreams that sit outside this framework may awaken a feeling for something more but usually, if not for Mary, this is not enough to intrude on 'reality'.

'I AM the bread of life' speaks of a different reality. The Christ power of I AM brings life on a higher level, life that belongs to the eternal realms.

But why is bread chosen?

It concerns the interaction between the power of the Sun Being and Wisdom's inspiration. With the beginning of agriculture humans learned to choose, cultivate and harvest the raw materials for bread. Wheat is the most common, but other seeds and nuts have been used around the world. Bread making is a creative activity in the realm of nature. Bread has not been plucked from a tree or pulled from the ground. Wisdom enabled the discovery. Human intuition and imagination led us to the idea of bread.

I have always felt that women discovered how to make bread – through Wisdom. Bread is associated with the divine feminine and I wrote from this understanding in *Marriages of the Magdalene*. Here Mary the visionary is speaking:

People came to my vision. They were from a long-forgotten Canaan, a time even before men built their cities. I saw women observing banks of golden grain laughing in the wind with the sun's raw power surging through each head. The women, servants of the goddess *Havvah*, asked the ripening heads to hold their seeds rather than scatter them on the wind. Some acquiesced and the women took these mysterious germs of sustenance into their hands. I watched as they learned to winnow and separate the potent grains from the chaff, to grind and pulverize the grains into a powder, to bind it with liquid and cook the mixture in a fire. Ages passed in no time until the moment when a woman discovered that leavening the dough made the result softer and more appetizing. I thought, what a marvel that the sun's power was harnessed through human creativity and effort to make something completely new: life-giving bread.



In bread when made by hand as it was in Mary's day, we have a fine example of practical creativity. There is an honesty in the work involved and truth to the source. The women of the home would honour this source.

Working though the sun, the power of life fertilizes the seeds of the earth. Mother Earth nourishes those seeds and encourages them to reach for the sun that will

enrich the growing seed heads. In this way the Sun-being works in harmony with the Earth soul. That is a model for us.

The sun that shines light on the world has long been associated with divine light. The Sun's light-filled rays are an image of the Christ, the Word, the I AM whose light is the life of human beings.

The Life in us is I AM. Any artist or scientist who wishes to bring something good into being experiences the truth of this. In our myriad creative activities, however insignificant they may seem, it is important that we are nourished by spiritual food, the bread of life that comes from the divine Sun. Creating anything in the world without this bread of life is to welcome the lies that limit, distort, or destroy. For then we are blind and work in darkness.

### **The Soul work**



✿ I AM the bread of life – I acknowledge your truth

While quietly contemplating the words of this saying, allow them to enter your feeling levels and your consciousness. How does this image of I AM speak to you? Do any pictures arise? Any memories? Perhaps there is guidance for your onward journey. Or there may be a new personal truth-telling that brings you unexpected nourishment. To acknowledge the truth of your spirit is to allow it to awaken your soul to life in its full potential.