

Michael's 2015 Easter Message

Dear Friends and Awakening Souls,

On February 2, Punxsutawney Phil, the famed groundhog oracle, saw his shadow. So, we waited another six weeks for Spring to arrive. But, arrive it did - with a bang! The March 20th equinox, brought us the rare, new moon - supermoon total solar eclipse. Astronomers tell us that this won't happen again until 2034. Astrologers tell us that this intense event is related to something major in our life that happened 19 years ago and it portends the time for a major "out with the old, in with the new." Then, on Holy Saturday, right before Easter, the celestial heavens graced us with a lunar eclipse in the sign of Libra, the scales of justice ruled by Venus, the goddess of love herself. But, it won't take an astrologer, will it, to tell us that it's high time for a deep and thorough Spring cleaning of our psyche, our lives and our relationships? By the time you sprung forward your extra hour this year, as an awakening soul, you've no doubt already found yourself knee-deep in that process. Although Spring is already here, now is a good time to learn from Punxsutawney Phil the secret to seeing your own shadow.

Spring is the time of the greening of the grass and the trees. Flowers bloom. Birds sing and put out their calls for likely mates. Yet, all that is now revealed and expressed with the arrival of the warming rays of Springtime was just a short while ago hidden from view in the shadow of its hosts. In the darkness of the earth, seeds give way to become plants in the light of the sun. So, too, when Spring arrives in the dark recesses of our mind, our seeds of karma must give way for us to grow the fruits of our purpose.

Spring speaks to us about rebirth and new life, yet, Easter reminds us of resurrection and eternal life. Rebirth means reincarnating to an immortal soul, whereas with resurrection, we gain freedom from the cycles of dying and being reborn. To raise ourselves up from death, we must learn to wake up from our dream of being a body. If we believe that we are a body, we believe that we were born and we will eventually die. We believe and live as a body when we believe and live as if we are separate, independently existing entities. Resurrecting ourselves means we must raise our consciousness fully to that of being spirit, limitless and eternal and being in, but not of, the body. We must be able to welcome back, into the light of our awareness, all that we previously shunned and foreswore and held to be existing separately and independently from us in our own shadow of ignorance and fear. Forgiving resurrects us from the embers of our blame, the ashes of our self-righteousness and our resulting destitution of isolation. Rather than choosing to complacently remain crucified on the cross of pain and suffering as a body, we need to exercise our true free will to welcome the joyous celebration and never-ending peace of God. As

Jesus said to his closest disciples just prior to his arrest, "In the world you shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

When I was twenty-one years old, while deep in meditation, I was shown a vision of Jesus crucified upon a rough-hewn wooden cross floating above a dark, still lake. The evening sky was further darkened with clouds. Suddenly, Jesus looks up joyfully and gracefully swings his nailed left hand and arm free from the wooden cross beam and reaches skyward. Brilliance replaced the somber darkness as he resurrected himself off of the cross of the illusory body. He was ready to ascend into the now opening radiance of heaven.

Some twenty-five years later, Raphaele and I were invited by our friend, Magda, to her home in the Malibu Hills. She showed us the ravages of the devastating fires that had blazed into Malibu from the Santa Monica Mountains in 1993. 268 homes perished in that fire. Magda's house was one of only two homes unscathed by the flames in her immediate area. The other belonged to a neighbor who had built a costly fire-proofed, fire-fighting home. She showed us the charred remains of her grassy yard that completely surrounded her home. The fire had burned to a crisp everything in its path right up to the enormous wooden stand upon which her artist-inventor husband, prior to his death, had erected a massive, multi-ton statue about fifteen feet from the front door. The wooden base showed the distinctive patterns of searing flames charring parts of it, but, the rest of the statue remained completely untouched. Not only that, but, the charring of the dry grass stopped abruptly at the statue's base and parted, a veritable flaming Red Sea, as if to make way for the statue and Magda's entire house all the way around until the two halves of the sea of fire reunited fifteen feet behind the house! Everything else, as far as you could see, was burnt devastation. A miracle? Yes, of course. And the statue? It was made from thousands of 1/4-inch diameter iron rebars cut, soldered together and sculpted into an enormous Jesus, whose little pinky alone was an inch in diameter and over 4 inches long. He was crucified onto a massive rough-hewn wooden cross. This Jesus, however, had his left arm flying off of the crossbeam and left hand pointing heavenwards as he poised to soar! It was almost identical to my vision.

We are living in increasingly stressful times. Often, all that is going on in the world around us may seem overwhelming. But, perhaps why, especially at Easter time, I'm always reminded of Jesus' words that even though we may experience many challenges in this world, to be of good cheer, is that it teaches us one the keys to resurrecting our consciousness from fear and death and pain and suffering. He had overcome the world, which means we, too, are free. As spirit, there is only one of us. By choosing the limitless joy and peace of living the eternal life of spirit that we all are, we have overcome the world. So, no matter what trials and tribulations you may be going through now, remind yourself to say, "Hello," as the eternal spirit that you are to everyone you meet as the limitless spirit he or she is. When you do so consistently, the illusory barriers that you have built up to secure your isolation begin to fall away to reveal the truth that's always been there right in front of you. Hello, beautiful spirit, you!

May the brilliant light of Truth reveal your next step and gladness and joy welcome you ever homeward.

With deep gratitude, love and laughter,

Michael



