

The Global Heart

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Easter is over. The journey of immersing ourselves in the mystery of life and death has been celebrated. Our consciousness has been awakened to the deeper significance of one man's death and the point at which suffering tips over into new life.

The Easter story has become the story that reaches deep into the human psyche, becoming the ground on which Christians stand. On this story ground is built the belief that enormous suffering can be transformed by enormous love and that death is not the end of the story, only the end of one chapter.

Teilhard de Chardin once described a mystical experience he had early in his life whilst gazing on a picture of the Sacred Heart. The experience became a central element in his spirituality where "*the Divine took on the form, the properties of an energy, a fire...able to insinuate itself everywhere...and so amorize the cosmic milieu.*"ⁱ



During this experience the picture of Christ underwent a metamorphosis before his eyes. The outlines slowly transformed, melting into a radiant field of energy the primary locus of which was the heart of Christ. Teilhard witnessed this radiance spreading from the image out into the universe and radiating into infinity. The whole universe was vibrating. "*It reached down into the very powerhouse of my being, flooding through it in one surge, so that my whole self vibrated to the very core of my being, with a full note of explosive bliss that was completely and utterly unique.*"ⁱⁱ He compared the luminosity of the garments of Christ to what we read in the account of the Transfiguration. The power of this experience stayed with him and gave a whole new meaning to his mother's devotion to the Sacred Heart, now translated into cosmic proportions for him.

This image of the Sacred Heart of the Christic, drawing all into itself and radiating a Love that penetrates all things, bringing them to their greatest manifestation of life and wholeness, is one that can speak to our attempts to commune in the heart of the Divine for the healing of our troubled world. As we sit, or gather with others by intention at 4 pm each day, we enter once again into the deeper ground of being, into that field of vibrant Love that holds all together at the heart of the universe. We enter the 'Global Heart' that pulsates at the centre of all things. In these 'pulsations' we ourselves melt into that Love that wrought the mysterious shift in the axis of world suffering which we remember at Easter. Here we become one with the ALL. In this place we know again something of the potential of this 'Global Heart' that beats to the rhythm of compassion and radiates vibrant life to the whole. In this Heart, we see and feel the pain of the world as our pain. Every image of suffering that flashes onto our television screens or sounds through the airwaves of our radios or confronts us in daily newspaper headings, we take deep into the holding Love of the Radiant Heart at the centre of all life.

The Global Heart of compassion expands and grows by our loving attentiveness to and holding of the pain around us, both in our immediate circles of involvement as well as in the larger world. Like Teilhard before us, but without his mystic's vision, we too trust that the growth and expansion of this Heart creates a vibrational field of compassion and healing that radiates far beyond itself. It is a field which can penetrate the strongest bastions of violence and hate. Dwelling for a time in this conscious communion in Love at the Heart of all things can help create a new order of being, one which draws others into its radiant field.



The enlargement of the Global Heart can happen through you, through me, through us together. Belonging to this network of contemplative healing loving can help break through the 'compassion fatigue' that can come upon us each time we hear a new announcement of a local or world disaster. Instead we can be urged onward and deeper into the Radiant Heart of the Divine as we are confronted with each new expression of pain or disaster in the world we inhabit. We can do this because we are not trying to hold all of it alone. We hold it together with countless others deeply attuned to that Love that goes beyond pain, suffering and vulnerability of any kind.

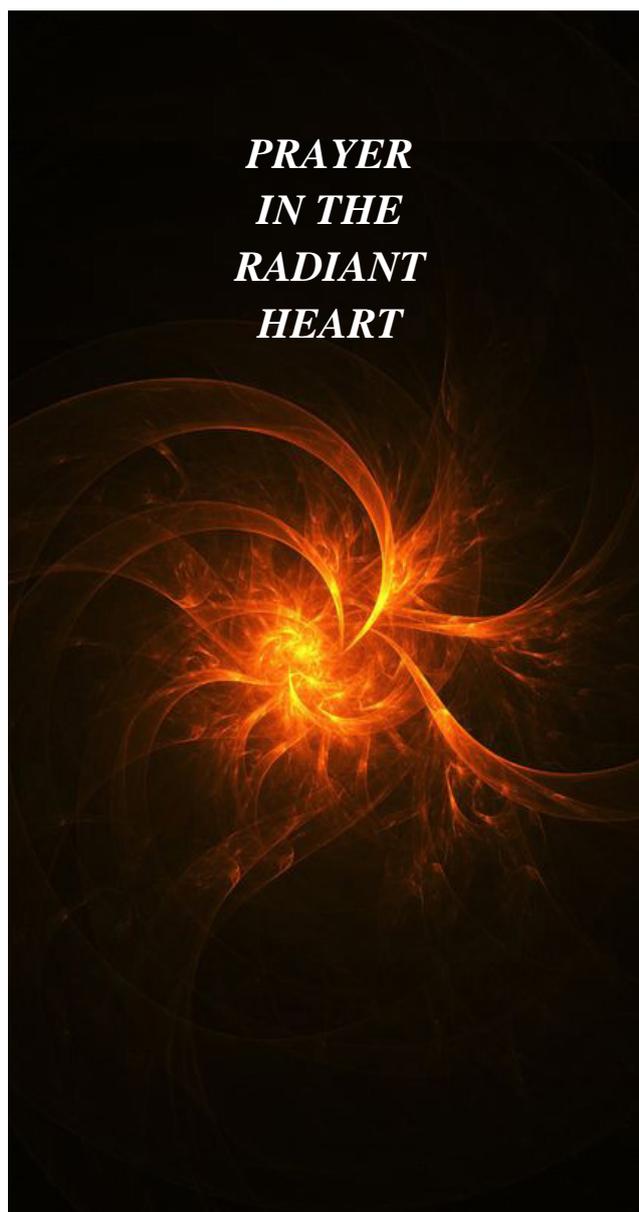
As we, along with many others, contemplatively attend to earth, world and local suffering, we can feel safe enough to 'unblind' ourselves from the tendency to normalize massive suffering in order to cope with its impact on our soul's sensitivities. We can let ourselves really SEE what is happening and know it is held secure in a compassion that emanates beyond ourselves and reaches into a greater healing and hope. We are more than we think we are! The Global Heart at the centre of all life throbs with a larger Love. Belief in the

power of such Love can help overcome all that stands in the way of hope for a better, safer, more peaceful and just world.

All of this is part of the transformative movement of suffering Love – loving enough to heal a world!

- ✚ Can we love that much?
- ✚ Can we begin to SEE this way?
- ✚ Can we trust that a larger process is at work in global suffering than we could ever dream?
- ✚ Can we know ourselves to be open vessels of the Love vibrating from the Global Heart of the Christic, channeling healing towards all that cries out for relief in the world around us?

I say YES! We can be and do this in the communion we share across space and time in our Contemplative Evolution Network. YES we can be and do this as we become more and more conscious of the Radiant Global Heart as the source and power of our prayer, our love and our hope.



*O Radiant Heart of the universe,
field of powerful, intimate energy,
You embrace and hold me
in a constant flow of Love.
Like the pulsating heart in my body,
Your powerful rhythm draws me
inwards - ever inwards -
to the 'within' of all life.
Then It sends me outwards
to serve in love, our world...
becoming cosmos for me.
You, O Radiant Heart of Love
are forever the Beloved
the origin, centre and burning core
of that which attracts all
into unity and wholeness.
You are within me now...
you are within US together,
drawing us into silence,
drawing us into stillness
drawing us into awareness
of YOU
the hidden wholeness
beyond all difference and fragmentation.
Draw us onward now,
deeper and deeper into
communion in OMEGA LOVE.*

ⁱ Teilhard de Chardin, *The Heart of Matter*. (London: Collins 1978) p. 44

ⁱⁱ *Ibid* p. 65