



The Souls of Millions of Light Years Away - Yayoi Kusama

It was in early 2018 that our monthly men's meeting was patiently pondering a series of good questions. The most salient question seemed to stem from asking ourselves: How do we/I serve other men in mist of their pain?

Contemplating such a question required the dissent into our own story of pain. Those stories that we don't want to talk about. We each have our particular experience of pain, our own rendition of a "death, desertion, or divorce" that crashed into us and crumbled us to our knees. That open place on our knees, "...where our hearts would not only break, but where our hearts would break... wide open".

That Holy Night of being birthed: torn apart, dissolved, unknowing-confusion, filled with Cosmic Christ potential-floating in the sacred womb ---that in-between place where transformation happens. That sacred in-between experience of being broken and broken open. O Holy Night where we within the lost and found.

"Life is full of inevitable losses, including the lives of our loved ones and, eventually, our own bodily vitality. The ability to grieve, then, is one of our most important psychological skills, and it's best cultivated sooner than later. When encountering the grief evoked by your Loyal Soldier work, you might remind yourself that within each loss are the seeds of a new life, just as, after a devastating forest fire, the seeds of a new forest wait in the dark soil. It helps to remember the archetype of destruction/creation: new life arrives only after the end of the old way, and grief is a necessary part of any deep transformation." (Wild Mind p. 146)

The Loyal Soldier(s) may seem like one particular overbearing voice or, perhaps we painfully realize, we are confronted with our Loyal Army a whole collection of prison "bricks" that leave us defensive and defended from our own mind, body, spirit, family and community.

Perhaps somewhere during 2019, we can be open to the grace of radical Love and non-violence. Accepting the potential for a power beyond ourselves, to take us, heal and whole us, into the human being, the men that the Divine would have us be. Perhaps this is the incomprehensible grace that is spoken of in the 12 steps: the spiritual foundation ever reminding us to place principles before personalities. The principle of Love before, our own personalities, our own loyal soldiers and placing the principle of Love before the personalities of other people, places and things as well.

"The best thing for being sad is to learn something. You may miss your father, your mother, your dog, your only love. There's only ting for all of it...Learn!" Merlin to Arthur, CAMELOT

Merlin (the Dark-Muse-Beloved of the West) has a transformative gift for you: A New Beginning. A new deep and true beginning that includes and honors ALL of YOU.

So, this is our request: Contemplate that place where a new beginning seems impossible. Where - the miracle - of a new beginning would be welcomed even though the odds seem insurmountable. We will hold a fishbowl council to honor these new beginnings.

Follow the link for this song: <https://binged.it/2LEJp2c>

Such a Simple Thing

Ray LaMontagne

Tell me what you're feeling
I can take the pain
Tell me that you mean it
That you won't leave again

Tell me what your heart wants
Such a simple thing
My heart is like paper
Yours is like a flame

I can't make you see
If you don't by now
I'll get through these chains
Some how, some how

Take it if you want it
I'm so tired I just don't care
Can't you see how much you hurt me?
It's like I wasn't there

Tell me what your heart wants
Such a simple thing
My heart is like paper
Yours is like a flame
My heart is like paper
Yours is like a flame

I can't make you see
If you don't by now
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