

The Hero and the Goddess continued from page 23...

J: Well, we have become autistic with regard to nature and the higher mysteries of life during the long industrial night that we have been suffering from. I don't find this as much in developing countries to the same degree. But there you have the problems of colonization and of course certain kinds of unfortunate decadence as a result of colonization.

But we are in the most interesting time of human history. I'm something of a cultural historian, and I have to say that in all my studies there is nothing, nothing that approaches the singularity and uniqueness of this moment. Where and what we do will make a profound difference in whether we grow or die.

That is why I take people on this journey of the soul, weaving all kinds of processes and experiences through the stories of the great journeys. Because we are ourselves Odysseus, the hero or heroine of a thousand faces. We live lives surely as mythic as theirs. We live five to ten and in some cases a hundred times more in the amount of sheer experiences than our ancestors of fifty or a hundred years ago.

A RUN-IN WITH A GREAT MYSTIC

"Don't you know you will one day become a butterfly...it is part of your intellichy, your divine deep purpose, your inner guidance". Teilhard de Chardin

A: Because you had big work to do, you had to meet big minds and great souls. Tell me about your meeting with Teilhard de Chardin.

J: Actually, I quite literally ran into him when I was fourteen years old. He lived very near me in New York and one day I was running down Park Avenue late for school and I knocked him down. I helped him up and he said, "Are you planning to run that way for the rest of your life?" I said, "Yes sir, it looks like that." He said "Bon voyage." and I continued to school.

Then one week I was walking my fox terrier through Central Park and there was Mrs. Teilhard again. He suggested he join me for a walk and we walked together quite often for the next three years. He would tell me parables, like the caterpillar and its changing, metamorphosis. He would say, "Don't you know you will one day become a butterfly...it is part of your intellichy, your divine deep purpose, your inner guidance".

I responded to him with, "Well then, when I become a butterfly, I'll fly around the world and help people." The last time I saw him before he passed away, I brought him the shell of a snail. He said "Oh, escargot!" and began to talk about spirals, and about the floor in Chartres Cathedral. And from that inspiration, I went on to start the whole labyrinth movement. And he talked about the galaxies that spiral and the patterns of flowers...that it was all the great spiral of the human journey.

That was April 7, 1955. I said, "Goodbye Mrs. Teilhard, I'll see you next Tuesday." He smiled and walked away. But my dog didn't want to leave and kept whining in his direction because he knew something. Next Tuesday I was waiting for him, but he didn't come. He had died that Easter Sunday, April 10th. And all that time, I never knew who he was. He did not use the name de Chardin. Teilhard de Chardin means 'digger of the garden'.

It was years later in graduate school, that a friend had given me a book with no cover called The Phenomena of Man by Teilhard de Chardin. I read it, and here was my past, all the subjects he spoke about: Metamorphosis, the noosphere, spirals. When my friend finally gave me the cover, there was his picture, my old friend, and I finally knew who he was.

STAY TUNED: PART 2 OF THIS INTERVIEW WILL APPEAR IN OUR APRIL/MAY ISSUE!

Ani Williams is a harpist, singer and sound therapist residing in Sedona, Arizona. Visit her website for additional articles sound medicine and Voice Spectrum Analysis. She is leading two sound pilgrimages in Southern France: May and September, 2010. Her May tour includes the annual Gypsy Festival of St. Sarah in Provence.
www.aniwilliams.com • 928.204.1124 (9:00am-6:00pm MST)

For Jean's events and books: www.jeanhouston.org or 541.488.1200 PST.

Four Corners

magazine

SUBSCRIPTION

February/March 2010



Send me 1 year of
Four Corners Magazine for \$24

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

E-mail Address _____

Credit Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____ CVC _____

Signature _____

ASSURE YOURSELF AN
UPCOMING ISSUE NOW!

Please cut out this form, fill it out and mail to:

Four Corners Magazine

P.O. Box 3910 Sedona, AZ 86340