

The 6th Station of the Cross – Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus



This station has no biblical reference, but what a rich and beautiful image. As an external dynamic, the feminine (the soul) who tenderly wipes the symbol of love and suffering (blood and sweat) from the face of Jesus with her veil and is given the gift of recognition of her own divinity, imprinted into the very fabric of her life. As an internal story – the soul is tenderly and lovingly present to the suffering dualities of life have created, silent but there, waiting for our attention and recognition.

In the story, Veronica uses her veil – that which covers and hides her, at risk to herself because this is a violent and dangerous situation. She unveils her true face and finds her true divinity. The name of Veronica means (bearer of Victory).

Notice how the artist Hans Memling (1470) has depicted the two faces as much the same face. And indeed, it is.

Consider how you have projected all that is finest, kindest and most compassionate out on to others instead of recognizing it as you and giving it to yourself. Everything in life is a mirror image of an inner dynamic and process. Take back your projections. And how do you do this?

Every judgment you make of others is a judgment of self. When you judge another, consider how you are acting out on to others the introjected parent that hurt you with those same judgments. Go to the hurting child in you with compassion and wipe the sweat, tears and blood with your own veil of defense and you will be filled with Grace. Every act of generosity and kindness, non-reactivity and service needs to be given to you first. You must see in the other person, that the one needing your love or help, *is you*. That does not mean you stop giving to others – you merely take off the veil of defense and see what your soul needs. Beware at this stage of slipping into egocentricity and selfishness where you stop doing for others. **This is not an excuse to stop doing for others.**

Psychological projection is definitive and pervasive of the 2nd quadrant of development in which humans defend themselves against their own unaware impulses, pain, suffering, shame or qualities (both positive and negative) by denying their existence in themselves while attributing them to others. For example, a person who is habitually intolerant may constantly accuse other people of being intolerant. It incorporates blame shifting. Or someone who has not realized their own inner godliness, sees it in others. It is the splitting of devaluing and idealizing others at the same time and represents two layers of unawareness – the deeper one being the level of our divinity. In this particular image and story, Veronica is victorious because she recognizes both in herself – both the suffering and divinity. She sees her own dual nature in awareness and so is fully human and fully divine. It is a story of taking back one's projections. The term "take back your projections," is very applicable to virtually everything when you are in second quadrant. Later on as you see yourself and others more clearly you discern the difference between you and others more clearly. You know when your perception is NOT about you, but until then it can be enormously confusing, because of course, we are all the same – just at different levels and states at any given moment.

Notice all your judgments today – good or bad and ask yourself if this is about you or the other person?