

The Sacraments

Baptism

The sacrament of Baptism is the outward ritual of symbolically washing oneself of the realm of the “earth” and sin (ego). Water is the symbol of the psyche/soul and it is the soul that washes away the impurities of the mind and body. When one is purified, then wholeness of Spirit, symbolized by the dove, descends and soul is filled with spirit, (is made whole, all opposites are reconciled) rather than the ego. The dove is a symbol of renewed spirit or infusion of energy from Above. Alchemically, it signifies the change from the Black Stage to the White Phase of transformation – i.e. from an external locus of control and focus to an internal one. It is God descending into matter and man ascending into God and is the foreshadowing of the possibility of man becoming not only fully human but also fully divine. It is represented in the Star of David – one triangle being the involution of God into Matter and the other one being matter involving itself fully into God. Meister Eckhardt says,

“I never ask God to give himself to me, I beg him to purify, to empty, me. If I am empty, God of his very nature is obliged to give himself to me to fill me.”

And what does this mean? It means that when your allegiance is to the wisdom and love of your soul instead of sin (split from your soul by ego defenses) then you receive the gifts of the Spirit – the deep mysteries of consciousness, access to the universe, Love and Truth itself.

Water also symbolizes emotions and becoming aware of the individual and collective suffering of humankind can lead to the temptation to escape back into the ego defenses. Setting an intention to purify oneself for the forgiveness of sin (the reconciliation of dualities and separations) will throw up into awareness all the obstacles to attaining your heart’s desire (power, greed, addictions, materialism). When you see this clearly then they can be removed by the heart of love - your own soul. You yourself must find within the Christ Consciousness (Wisdom and Compassion) to do this. **Jesus did not die for your sins. You must die to your sins through the embrace of them by your own loving heart. The Christ is the archetype of the Mature Soul that represents what each of us is to do.... Which is to integrate all splits and dualities. (die to sin). To believe otherwise is to buy into a theology of dependence, power and control instead of a theology that is life giving and salvific.**

Baptism represents a commitment to the inner life and to returning to the source of your being with awareness. In our culture the vow is made for the infant. How did you godparents live up to the promise to encourage you on the mystical journey of the inner life?

Confirmation is a rededication to this commitment, when you are old enough to understand the symbolic, deeply sacred inner journey and happens at the age when it is possible to reason abstractly, learn to observe yourself and your own inner life. However, I suspect few of you by then were anything but bored and confused and couldn’t wait to be done with it!



~El Greco – Museo del Prado



Something opens our wings.
Something makes
Boredom and hurt
disappear.
Someone fills the cup
in front of us.
We taste only sacredness.

Rumi

