

Boundless Love

my mind is peace, my mind is love, my mind is happiness.

New Year's Day Message from Ven. Samu Sunim
December 31, 2009

Love was sky. Happy and content she remained vast and empty. When bored and listless she spread her wings wide and roamed the vast expanse as clouds. When feeling lonely and unfulfilled she would change herself into a little star and look down upon the vast emptiness with a curious eye.

Then Love became water. As water, Love felt different. She became more conscious of her creative energy and power. She felt heat rising and her body burning with intense longing for the common good.

When the heat and her longing reached its limit she burst into infinity. Then to calm her down, storm and lightning inundated Love with heavy rain and high wind. Afterwards it took Love a long while to recover herself. Then the same transformation process repeated itself. Finally, after laboring 11,800 times, Love succeeded in transforming herself into a giant womb that swallowed all the water from the sky and ocean and turned it into life-giving fluid.

The giant womb helped the blue sky and blue ocean coalesce into good mother earth. The good earth was fertile and bountiful. The moon and sun cooperated with each other providing daylight and nighttime for work, play and rest. The changing seasons supported food production and gathering.

Love planted a wide variety of seeds from her heart, all good and fit to sustain new life. Soon the seeds began to sprout and grow. They became pastures, woods and forests, which attracted birds, insects and animals, and offered them shelter.



Art by Toan Sunim

Embodying the spirit of Love, the land was peaceful and sentient beings were content with what came with the land. However, things began to change. With the birth of carnivores, aggression and violence descended upon the land of Love. Eventually the law of the jungle, of the weak falling prey to the strong, prevailed. But this aggression and violence was motivated by instinct such as hunger and fear, not by hatred or resentment. The problem of overconsumption was largely absent among carnivorous mammals. Gradually a food chain developed: the weak became smart and learned to protect themselves. Accordingly aggression and violence in the natural and naked world were contained.

The real trouble and threat to peace and love began when humans learned to use weapons and began to conquer the animal world. The story of what happened to the humans after they conquered the animals belongs to history. They fought amongst themselves: tribe against tribe, state against state, people against people, religious against religious, and the oppressed against rulers.

Now with development of weapons of mass destruction, pollution of air and water and climate change, human beings are facing the final stage of self-destruction. Faced with this global crisis, we are desperately trying to rediscover our root, our origin and the ground of our being, that is, love. With the advancement of science and technology we have become so stupid that we have forgotten that the story of Life is the story of Love. In love, we are interconnected to all horizontally in place and vertically in time. In other words, we are an interrelated whole and we are in kinship with all beings. This is the Buddhist teaching of love.

It is true that there are incredibly bad people and horrendous human and animal rights violations and cruelties committed in the world. It is true that there have been many innocent victims of social injustice and a justice system gone wrong. Pain and sorrow and hardship borne by these innocent victims are often beyond our imagination and comprehension. It hurts and breaks our hearts even to think of these innocent victims. It is difficult not to hate the perpetrators, let alone forgive them. However, as the Buddha said, "Hatred does not cease by hatred. Hatred ceases only by love." It is in the nature of our good heart and love to forgive or forget in order to make peace and heal ourselves.

The practice of love comes in many forms and also in disguise. Basically we are in love with life, physically, emotionally and spiritually. The two most important ingredients of love are peace and happiness. No peace, no love. No happiness, no love. But without the sustaining power of love there will be no lasting peace or happiness. For love is the mother of all that is good among the living. Stand aloft with life and love, and give your life to love.

Love each other unconditionally. Love strangers. Love the hated and despised. Love eccentrics and wierdos. Love the crazy and mad. Love them all to promote peace and happiness. Keep loving people with a true and sincere heart until it hurts. Be faithful to your love and do not betray it. Let us make love work. Let love work for you and the world. Begin to love now and never give up. We have to learn to love all in order to heal the world! Love works and heals. Love is awesome!