

Starbird Lectures on the Missing Bride and the Sacred Union in Christianity

by Sandra Pope

Margaret Starbird spoke in three separate venues in Raleigh, April 11-13, 2008, where through her presence and her teachings, she opened minds and hearts to the recovery of the inner Lost Bride and to the Sacred Union of divine feminine and sacred masculine energies.

After a four-hour intensive seminar on the Sacred Union on Sunday, the weekend's events culminated in an empowering meditation, provided by Magdalene author Joan Norton, and a deeply moving anointing service in which Starbird anointed emissaries of the Sacred Union, many of whom were weeping.

At each of the three events, Starbird was erudite, absolutely convincing of her scholarship, witty, personable, loving, and able to open her listeners so that they would have "ears to hear" her message. Beverly Bockover, mistress of ceremonies and manager of Dancing Moon, hosted Starbird in her home.

"Margaret is the embodiment of the sacred union, a woman through whom divine love and presence flow uninterruptedly," Bockover said.

"The first clue that Margaret was able to harmonize the divine feminine and the sacred masculine was that my two dogs loved her," Bockover quipped. "She is a woman of love and peace."

At the author's reception on Friday evening at Dancing Moon Books and Gifts the metaphysical bookstore that sponsored the event, a group of twenty gathered to buy books, and as Starbird signed them, she spoke intimately with each person.

At one point in the evening a young woman, who was interested in ways to make her church's architecture more feminine, sat at Starbird's feet and let herself be fed by Starbird's presence and wisdom.

One woman, who did not know Starbird was there, stopped in to get a copy of *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene* (LeLoup), spent time talking with Starbird, and signed up for the intensive seminar on the Sacred Union.

A circle gathered around Starbird at the end of that first evening and listened as she spoke about the Sacred Union that was originally at the heart of Christianity before the church wrote The Magdalene out of the scriptures. The divine and the divine union isn't out there, she said. "It's in each of us, in every moment."

The next evening Starbird lectured on "The Lost Bride in Christianity" to a group of about fifty, many of whom had walked a labyrinth and set a sacred tone for the event in the beautiful Founder's Hall of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Raleigh.

She told of her personal journey: Her initial resistance to accept the call to restore the lost bride of Christianity, and her eventual acceptance of revealed truth through synchronicities and oracular readings from the Bible.

Through her lecture and her slideshow of art and artifact, Starbird showed how the sacred union of the divine masculine, as embodied in Yeshua, and the sacred feminine, as embodied in The Magdalene, was once at the heart of Christianity. Her research demonstrated that Yeshua and The Magdalene were united, both on the earth plane through marriage and on the inner spiritual plane through the Sacred Union, the *hieros-gamos*.

At one point, she asked rhetorically, "How would the world have been different if Christianity had kept this model of the Sacred Union at its center?"

She noted, "Once in a much smaller group than this one, when I asked that question, an older Polish woman answered, "There would not have been the Holocaust!"

Several in the crowd gasped audibly in recognition of that truth and perhaps other inner, unspoken truths about how their own lives and worlds would have been different had the Sacred Union not been hidden, had the divine had a feminine face as well as a masculine one.

About the Author:

My answer to Margaret's question about how my life would have been different if the Sacred Union had remained at the heart of Christianity: My father would not have raped me. He would have known I was divine, as all other men would know that they are the divine masculine and that women are the sacred feminine.

I chronicle journey of recovery in my spiritual memoir, **Growing Up Without the Goddess: A Journey through Sexual Abuse to the Sacred Embrace of Mary Magdalene**, which will be out sometime this summer.

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