

BOOK LAUNCH HOLY WISDOM MONASTERY

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3:20-4:50 APRIL 25, 2002

I. OPENING

Thank you for coming to launch this book into the world with me. And for all the help you have each given me in so many unique ways.

Let's begin with one word that might sum up this book: disaster!!! Really, yes! Disaster—it's ok to say the word. Turning and Being Turned is not a doom and gloom book. It's a realistic book about considering 'disaster' as the way to be awake, loving humans. Have you recently called a personal experience a "disaster?" Or said a political situation is a "disaster" or seen the future of life on Earth as heading to disaster? The other day I heard myself call various stressful situations "disasters." Not having the books shipped in time for today was one. But here is excellent Kira Henschel and here are the books! The disaster was a concoction in my own mind. "Providence can provide. Providence will provide. Providence did provide" -favorite OP mantra of Great Faith. For we often cannot see what the Source of Ineffable Good is providing for our awakening. And so we label something a 'disaster.'

The word "disaster" is from the Latin root meaning not aligning with the stars. "Dissing" the "Asters" or the way of the stars. My stress began with ignoring the way the stars -the Universe – is working. In the midst of my frantic searching for glasses I'd lost for the 4th time, I stopped and opened this book. I turned into practice and I was turned by what showed up: QUOTE-"**YOU ARE NOT IN CHARGE:**"Get beyond the 'I' pronoun. You are not in charge of your true life. Things exert themselves; things realize us." (p.46 of Diane's Turning Phrases) Allowing the glasses to present themselves – eventually....

Laughing a lot lately – I better read my own book!! I stop to recall the Zen motto, "Take considerable care" of my own heart mind. "Considerable" or "Considerere" ...Another good Latin word: "Con" meaning "with" and "sidere" another term for "stars." To be with the harmony of the way the universe is working pretty much sums up Zen practice as well as most of humanity's mystical and Earth based wisdom. The Wisdom of our early ancestors and today's indigenous peoples

which the West suppressed about 12,000 years ago. We evolved to prioritize frontal lobe thinking and devalue whole heart*mind unity with the wisdom of Earth. Now humanity must take another evolutionary leap. Many of you in this audience are leaders in this work -- I see Penny and Clare and Mary Ellen.... And I honor Joanna Macy whose wisdom moves through this book. Joanna led about 80 of us in this very room 10 years ago where we became a Council of All Beings speaking as the other-than – humans in the voice of the tiger, the bees, the glaciers. This “**Work that Reconnects**” us with each other and the Earth which is sometimes called “**The Great Turning.**” (See Penny)

So be grateful Joanna says **QUOTE p. 143** to be alive in this moment.

Commented [PH1]:

We all participate in Humanity’s Great Turning when we turn into practice. We recognize greed energy or hate energy or confusion arise. If the ego grabs on we recognize the thoughts. If we let go we are free to BE Turned by the Big Life of the Universe. The same energy is now being turned by the ineffable universal Love that is always present. “The work of love is always going on...beneath all other movements...at the bottom of the bottom.

Changing our mind is changing the world. Commenting on a newly published book titled Unstainable World by Peter N. Nemetz, a UC Berkely scientist admits the limits of science. “When one is guided only by science, he says, the survival of our way of life in this planet is in serious jeopardy.” We know how any tech. or scientific discovery – or religious teaching - can be misused. “The structure of our hearts is influencing the structure of the Universe.” A quote of the great Benedictine Hildegard of Bingen It is our heart*minds that are creating a future of **disaster** or a future of **considerable care**.

How are we each being turned by the current Earth Emergency? It takes great courage to show up and wake up as a mindful human being in this moment. This moment of humans killing other humans – homicide, of genocide, of the biocide of myriad living beings and even Eco-cide. All of these dyings are, of course, suicides. We are one body. But be not afraid....This is also a celebration and the book is really encouraging. Why? Because we are gathered at a monastery of Holy Wisdom. Holy Wisdom, I.C.U. – an Intensive Care Unit for Earth Emergency. We are not going to “Zen Out” – a phrase often heard and a misunderstanding of our

practice. We do not go blank or transcend or escape the pains of the world. We are going to Zen In...to this I.C.U.// Intensive Intimate Care Unit STASIS

II. MEDITATION

3 breaths RRR whatever arises....staying present...trust that ultimately Love permeates and energizes the suchness of everything. Opening, we allow breathing inexhale relax open space...wait... "Something profound is entering ...something that needs our presence....You are the attending care giver for yourself and thus for the world... Breath in a word or an image – if you like – that offers you care –perhaps breathe in “love” or “peace” or “trust”... or breathe in spacious, silence...slowly exhale this energy of life...offer your breath, your life force, beyond yourself to a person or situation or the whole world. Conclude: The structure of our hearts in this moment is changing the structure of the Universe...changing the course of evolution.

III. DOGEN

p, 71 -- Bringing Dogen out of the ivory tower in a practice realization Handbook is a key reason I had for writing this book. This is a practice HAND book – for embodied heart*mind use. Heart*mind is one word in Asian languages. The wisdom of the heart is also central in Hebrew, Sufi, and Christian mystical traditions. The open heart is our innate connection with the wisdom of the soul of the world, Sophia, of Gaia and the Universe. I am deliberate in using the word LOVE when teaching Zen on these pages – a lot. The tradition has been over intellectualized – but not in Dogen. He consistently calls for intimacy....Enlightenment is intimacy with all things. He asks us to “expose every bit of our heart.” So I hope a whole body heart mind practice orientation is new approach to Dogen.

Please consider these other key assumptions – they are why I wrote this book

- * Being precedes doing – change your heart*mind in order to change the world.
- * Wisdom functions as Love. A loving response – skillful and ethical - is always possible.

- * The Universe intends human awakening. No split between matter and spirit.
- * The future of viable religious traditions will be evolutionary and planetary

IV. DIANE'S TURNING PHRASES. HANDOUT and EXERCISE

V. HAND MEDITATION - other sheet

VI. Dialogue about book's assumptions – see sheet

VII. CONCLUSION - FORMATION of GALAXIES - a transient moment about 13 billion years ago when mycelium networks formed – suddenly there were pathways for galaxies to form within immense clouds of hydrogen. A one time synchronicity. No galaxies, no stars, no Earth. BERRY TRANSIENT MOMENTS OF GRACE p. 97

Macy and Ukraine. Elm Dance