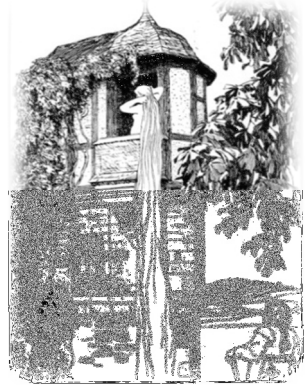


## ***Letters from Lockdown***

Hi everybody,

Greetings from the 'tower', I hope you are all having a 'good hair day'. As we settle into the second week of the lockdown, we may be beginning to wish that it was all just an 'April fools' prank in very poor taste. Mind you, there are some instances of fake news and political point scoring that actually sound a little like an April fools joke! However, cold reality is initiating many into a wider view of the world and the nature of life itself.



This can be an uncomfortable experience, for some have grown up in an environment whose parabolic arc is always attuned to the power and benefit of the individual. Both politicians and advertisers utilize this truth to gain popularity. COVID -19 has exposed the fault lines in some countries to a depressing degree. I read with a sense of horror that there are some in America who are suggesting that the social isolation should be stopped so that the economy (making money) can recover, and if that requires the death of the vulnerable and elderly they should be willing to sacrifice themselves! In response the New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo tweeted, "*My mother's not expendable!*"

Although I do not believe or subscribe to the idea that God causes tragedies and disasters, I do believe that they can be part of life's lessons. Richard Rohr speaks of a 'Copernican revolution' of the mind; when we finally realize that we are part of something much bigger, universal and even eternal - *Life is not about us, but we are about life*. We are part of a much bigger whole, in which we are called to participate, which we may discover in concert with all rather than the part. We can rage against the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune or we can use the lessons that lead us to participation in the larger wholeness and holiness of life.

I suggest that Easter is trying to convey something of this same meaning to us. Jesus spoke of willingly laying down his life to demonstrate the absolute unconditional, irreversible and non-transactional love of God which he demonstrated in his dealings with humanity. He constantly referenced this inclusion of all in God's realm, he sent out the disciples with the message 'the kingdom is (now) among you'.

By insisting on going to Jerusalem and appearing (and teaching) in the temple, home to the top religious leaders, he was 'recapturing' this essential truth for ordinary men and women. He exposed the fears of those in worldly power; the need to control and manipulate truth (even religious 'truth') to serve their own ends.

When one considers the Easter narratives and sayings one may come to the realisation that Jesus refused to 'play the power and control game', to argue and fight for his life, to accuse and blame and manipulate - and he placed Pontius Pilate in a predicament by doing so. His motivation was that of placing the ever-present realm of God above any party/political/cultural and dogmatic interpretations. Jesus did not see life being about escaping into some well run, idyllic, place where all our needs would be met; rather he sees humanity as fully part of the ongoing growth and development of God's loving plan; God's unfolding of the essence of creation's 'at-one-ment' with God-self.

Let us use this time granted to us to reflect on 'allowing life to "be done unto us," which is Mary's prayer at the beginning and Jesus' prayer at the end.

Till the next time I let my hair down!

Leigh