

How Did We Get Here? (Exploring our spiritual journeys...so far)

Chalice Lighting

In the mystery of life about us there is light.

It gives us a place to be, to grow, to rejoice together. It opens the pathways to love.

In this place of friendship there is freedom.

Let the light we kindle go before us,

Strong in hope, wide in good will, inviting the day to come.

--George Kimmich Beach

Check-in

Reading

Story Water by Rumi

A story is like water that you heat for your bath.

It takes messages between the fire and your skin. It lets them meet, and it cleans you!

Very few can sit down in the middle of the fire itself like a salamander or Abraham.

We need intermediaries.

A feeling of fullness comes, but usually it takes some bread to bring it.

Beauty surrounds us, but usually we need to be walking in a garden to know it.

The body itself is a screen to shield and partially reveal the light that's blazing inside your presence.

Water, stories, the body, all the things we do, are mediums that hide and show what's hidden.

Study them, and enjoy this being washed with a secret we sometimes know.

Sharing

How did you get here? Start with childhood, if you can. What were your first learnings about religion? Your earliest unanswered, unanswerable questions about life, death, spirit? Early experiences that may have shaped what you believe – or disbelieve – now?

Likes and Wishes

Briefly, what did you like about today's session, or what did you wish had been different?

Closing Reading/Extinguishing the Chalice

Lighting a candle is somewhat like the beginning of life. If that is true, then perhaps extinguishing a candle is like the ending of life. But death may not be the end of us. We live on in the memories of friends and loved ones. The influence we possessed in life works on, moving persons or causes forward.

Let us not forget that most candles have more than one life, and so, perhaps, may we.

--Lee Huebert