



The global pandemic requires all of us to wear masks, but is this anything new? We began wearing masks when we came under the belief of universal human conditioning.

Masks used to be fun this time of year, when kids pretended to be ghosts and monsters and demanded treats to dissuade them from playing tricks. Adults enjoyed partying in costumes to gain a bit of freedom from the person they normally presented to the public. The Swiss psychiatrist Carl Jung called this *The Persona* – “a kind of mask, designed on the one hand to make a definite impression upon others, and on the other to conceal the true nature of the individual.” J. Krishnamurti, the Indian philosopher, said that images have relationships.

Perhaps this is a good time in human history to stop and look deeply into the nature of who we are. What is the true nature of our being and why do we want to conceal that from the world? Can we live truthfully in this world without fear? That seems to be the purpose of mysticism. Can we truly know who we are?

The Master, Christ Jesus, revealed that knowing the truth will set you free. Joel emphasized that revelation by saying it is the knowing and accepting that is the agent of freedom; the truth is always free. He said that there are no degrees in truth; it is either true or it is not. Truth to be true must be absolute and that absolute truth is what we individualize as infinite power. We must not look for a power outside of, or apart from ourselves.

The revelation of truth as freedom is the climax of the following story from the Book of John. This story dramatizes not only the nature of truth, but how to live in the truth while dealing with the world.

The setting was a temple, which is the classic allegory for that place in consciousness where we contemplate and examine our spiritual relationship. In the temple with the Master were his disciples, those seeking inner revelation, and the Scribes and Pharisees, those most righteous of men who seemingly had the authority of life and death over the people. A woman accused of being a prostitute was brought before these men for judgment. The set-up of that story reveals

the nature of our world today, a world of duality, of competing ideas about power, competing ideas about justice, and competing definitions of truth. The most righteous men recited the law out loud, which required the woman to be killed. Jesus interrupted their deliberation and said, "Whosoever of you who is without sin should cast the first stone." The power of that statement caused the woman's accusers to walk out, one by one.

When Jesus was alone with the woman, he asked her, "Where are your accusers?"

She replied that they had all left.

Jesus then said, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."

This anecdote has nothing to do with sin as is commonly thought of today. It has to do with power. Who has the power? Is there power in the law of mortal man, or was he teaching the woman and his disciples that power is in the individual realization of the presence of God?

In the next scene the Master reveals that He is the Light of the world. Remember, we are still in our inner temple, contemplating our relationship with the Divine. Those most righteous of men, representing the conventional idea of power, came back and accused the Master of lying.

The Master said that they were judging after the flesh – judging from the material concept of power. When a judgement is based on a misconception it prevents the individual from realizing the truth. Judge no man (person) after the flesh.

The rulers of the temple, those men representing a state of consciousness wanting to maintain domination over the public, argued that if two men said a testimony was true, it was. They would discredit the activity of the Christ, the activity of Love and Grace based on the evidence of their senses.

The Master replied that he did have two witnesses – he and the Father. The Oneness of Spirit in the illumined individual – *if you can see me you can see the Father who sent me* – bears witness to the Truth that humanity is not captive to the rules of material belief.

And then the argument continued:

Where is your Father?

*If you know me, you know my Father.*

The persons living under universal human conditioning did not understand.

*When you have lifted up the Son of man, then you shall know that I am He, and you shall be free.*

They said that they were from the seed of Abraham and had never been in bondage.

*Whosoever commits sin is a slave to sin. Where I go you cannot come; you shall die in your sins.*

The self-righteous were insulted. Yet they could not kill the prostitute. Their sins were the belief in a power outside of and separate from the inner truth of One. And they said, "Who are you?"

The Master said to them the same thing he had said in the beginning, *"I am the Light of the world. If you recognize this you are my disciples, and you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."*

Wear your mask in love but know what stands behind it.