

Soul to Soul Festival with the CRC written by ~hag
All Hallows Eve Saturday October 31st Online
11 am - 1 pm PT / 1 pm - 3 pm CT / 2pm - 4pm ET

Lisa: Welcome - Please post in the chat where you are joining us from. And we welcome you to also include the names of your beloved ones across the threshold who you would like to invite, bringing them with you in spirit – into this cyber space which we are sanctifying with our collective intention to be a sacred space, aligned with love and light, and the power of the Living Word, to honor & bring healing to those you'd like to be remembered. (We all silently light candles)

Alberto: (Introduce the author and name of the poem; and perhaps speak about why you choose it?) "Sun in Pisces" by Olga Orozco.

Hazel: Only the dead know the reverse of the stones.
 Only the stones know the reverse of the dead.
 I know it.
 Sometimes statues open up in me certain wounds
 Or they take the color of accusations that spoil my sleep.
 But there are proofs that no one wants to see.
 They ascribe to time, to thunderstorms,
 To the shadow of the bird with whom days rise or plummet down to earth.
 No one wants to think there are many deaths in each heart.
 As many as there are dead crying for us.
 As many as there are stones lamenting them.
 There is a song rising from the cold lips of the weeds.
 It's a cry of castaways that waters propagate to make the thresholds fade,
 A gust of yellow wings,
 A great snow crystal covering the face,
 The motto of dreams for the eternity of the guardian.

Alberto: (In Spanish)

Song: Carol Kelly

Marianne: During this time of year the veils between the worlds are thin, & the spiritual realm beckons. Having put the iron will of Michael to work in our thinking, we now have the courage to look beyond the veil of the material world into the spirit realm, the place of our beginning, the place of our ending when we shuffle off this mortal coil, only to begin again & yet again...for every ending is a new beginning...

Hazel: Every culture has a festival celebrating their Beloved Dead. For deep in our bones we know that those who have passed through the gates of death want to work with us on the physical world, reminding us that everything physical is an outer expression of spirit. Materialism has alienated us from the world of the “so-called-dead”, as Rudolf Steiner would say. He teaches that Spiritual Science can connect us with that world; it is our estrangement that prevents us from working to spiritualize the physical world. We are not just human beings, we are also instruments of change to the spirits who have passed through the gate of death.

Lisa: Our experiences belong not only to this world, but to theirs, when we thoroughly spiritualize what we experience in the outer world with spiritual ideas, & pure thinking. Otherwise, what we experience as the effects of matter, remain dark & incomprehensible to those beings. To the dead, a soul devoid of spirit is a dark soul. This causes the dead to be estranged from us & from earthly life. We must overcome this estrangement. The so-called-dead & the so-called-living must learn again to live together inwardly...

Marianne: Yes, dying is part of the cycle of life. During the last few centuries, we as a society have preferred to deny death. In this time of pandemonium we even deny life so as not to acknowledge that death is part of life. We lost the feeling that the visible world is merely the tip of an invisible reality.

Hazel: Life, my dear friends, is boundless; it is greater than our wildest dreams. And we are part of it-forever. As those who strive to understand Spiritual Science, it's not possible to believe that meaning, & love & purpose in the universe are restricted to what we can achieve with only our brain & our brawn during the few years allotted to us in a lifetime on earth!

Lisa: On the contrary, life goes on, life continues, life is endless. We live it now. We live it every moment. This means that all life is always here, now, & that the dead, as well as the unborn, & the hierarchies of angels & the Christ & The Sophia & all the divine beings - are always with us, seeking our participation & help in the ongoing work of evolution in the universe.

Marianne: The implications of this are staggering. It implies that the earth we inhabit makes a profound difference in a multitude of worlds. As the cabalists say, "Every time I move my finger, an angel awakens."

More startling still is the message that it sends us: Wake up! Get real! Cause you know what? There's more than our own personal enlightenment or pleasure at stake here. More depends on you, my dear friends, than you may know.

Hazel: Heaven & earth are in a sense not really two but one: a single reality in two forms. After all, they interpenetrate & reflect each other so perfectly, point for point, that there is nothing "There" that is not also "Here" in a different form. Therefore our lives & our work are continuous, & the relationships & connections we form Here, continue There, as does our activity & participation in the divine-spiritual-human cosmic process we call the universe. We need only realize that we are surrounded by the spiritual worlds & can then work to awaken our organs of perception to perceive these consciously.

Lisa: We can all communicate with the dead & the spiritual worlds. They are always around & with us & it does not take priests, mediums, or otherwise specially chosen people to enter into the working relationship that is our collaboration between heaven & earth.

Marianne: Death, however, is experienced only on earth, that is why, of all the beings of the divine-spiritual worlds, only The Christ-Being has experienced & conquered death - Bringing that knowledge back to the godhead. The presence & knowledge of The Christ, whether recognized by that name or not, is therefore tremendously important.

Hazel: Earth is above all the place of connection, of relationship, of love. These are the fruits we take to heaven. We learn that we do not live or love or experience for ourselves alone. All our experience feeds the universe. We are the books the dead read.

Lisa: For us the fact remains that a human soul becomes a memory after death. And our memories rise to them. They experience our memories & loving thoughts & feelings as art, or creation. Not only do we become living books for the dead, we also become their art.

Marianne: Our thoughts & feelings are the works of art that brighten & instruct their lives. When we meditate, or pray, & do our spiritual practice; when we organize our lives to serve & make manifest the good, the true, & the beautiful; then we are doing so not only for ourselves, but for all beings in all worlds.

Hazel: Truly, we are called to serve: to offer up our experience for the sake of the world's evolution. Not only do we take it all with us, we must also give it all away. When we do, we live together with world evolution.

Lisa: We cannot do it alone, but only in & through & with those we love - in & through & with love. For the work of the earth is love: that the substance of the earth become love.

Marianne: And work with the so called dead, as Rudolf Steiner & Spiritual Science shows, is an important part of this task.

I have made ready a room
 Here in my heart
 With walls of warmth
 and windows of color
 Toward every side of the cosmos.

Oceans, mountains and clouds are without;
 Within - loving and light;
 And here I invite you to come,
 Dear being I love.

Lead me in what you have learned
 Now you have left your body
 After so long suffering,
 And become a heavenly star;
 The uprising in dying.
 ~ Albert Steffan, trans: Christy Barnes

Hazel: The souls of the dead need nourishment, just as we need food on earth. Thoughts filled with heart & love become food for those who have died.

Lisa: Meditation & concentration – the practice of attention – are ways that we can begin to experience ourselves as soul-spiritual beings independent of our bodies.

Marianne: Spiritual thoughts are those we make our own. We try to rise them up to their highest meaning, then, emptying ourselves, we offer the experience to the spiritual world.

Hazel: Once thoughts can become a living reality for us in this way, they are able to cross the abyss between the living & the dead. Then the dead can share in such thoughts & learn from them...they can even act within them & take them further.

Lisa: To communicate with the dead we need to speak the language of the dead. Steiner tells us that this is a language of verbs, everything related to activity & movement, not nouns. The dead do not understand nouns. Their world is one of openness & connection. They live in a heart world, an image world -of weaving, interconnecting feeling.

Marianne: Like the world of dreams, the world in which we encounter the dead is not a world of things, but primarily a world of images. There, we are not outside, but inside, what we perceive.

Hazel: At the same time through this process, & through the process of living thinking & living feeling, the dead can also communicate with us. So Steiner recommends that at night, right before we fall asleep, when we enter that elusive hypnogogic state, that in-between space, outside time & place, it is there, we can connect with the 'so-called-dead', then they can partake in our life of thinking & feeling.

Lisa: Holding the soul quality of gratitude, we can pose a question. And in the morning if we can be still, & open, insights & feelings arise from soul depths, the cosmic web of thoughts that we share with the spiritual world, & an inspiration may come forth.

Marianne: But Steiner says "we must adapt ourselves to hear from them what we ourselves think, as we receive their answers through our own soul-forces." In other words, we may think it's all our idea, when perhaps it is inspired into us, whispered to us, by a loved one on the other side.

Hazel: In his autobiography Steiner tells of how two people who had passed through the gate of death helped him create his main philosophical work, a little book called, 'Intuitive Thinking as a Spiritual Path: A Philosophy of Freedom'.

Lisa: We may also begin to notice how, chance encounters, & synchronicities may bring us insights as well. Meditative reading of spiritual literature can also be a way of reaching out, & is a great comfort to them.

Marianne: So as you can see, establishing relationships with the dead requires intention. Work with the departed souls is not only a source of individual consolation; it provides a nourishment that civilization needs in our time, in order to steer toward a healthy future. This effort is part of the greater work of overcoming materialism & spiritualizing human life on earth. Since this work is an aspect of cosmic evolution as a whole, it involves the entire spiritual world & all the beings in it.

Hazel: The need for consciously building bridges to this world is met by Spiritual science in a clean & healthy way, with proper safeguards against illusion & errors.

Lisa: Rudolf Steiner foresaw this need & gave many lectures to bring our attention to it as an essential condition also for the flourishing of the Anthroposophical movement.

Hazel: Here in America, Halloween calls for an interaction with spooky strangers, that come out of the night, knocking on our door, shouting, give me a treat or you'll get a trick. On a spiritual level, trick-or-treat, can be seen as a demand that strangers, a symbol of the unfamiliar parts of ourselves, give up their gifts to us. There is a lot of energy that gets locked up in the dark, & Halloween is an opportunity for us to dialogue with this hidden side, this shadow side of The Self, & call that energy back. Light & dark are not opposites, but 2 parts of the same cycle. In order to fully appreciate the festivals of light, that return with the winter solstice, we must 1st grow in the dark womb of our perennial inward journey. With the veil between the worlds so thin, great transformations are possible. And it is not only the veil between the physical & spiritual worlds that thin, it can also be the division between any 2 polarities like the left & right hemispheres in our brains for instance; or between any 2 realities that are struggling to coexist, like war & peace for instance. This Hallowed Eve can represent a resolution of paradox, a respectful meeting of the different sides of the same coin that can initiate the healing transformation required, in order to let the light back into our lives, once we've come to understand & own our side of the dark to hopefully negotiate a smart new treaty with our dark side, To ask questions, like: Who have I been? Who am I now? - & where am I going...? Who do I want to become? And these are the kind of questions we can ask our beloved dead... In the Celtic tradition, All Hallows Eve is the 'Witches New Year' a time to dress up as who you want to become in the New Year. In America this has become a gory counter image. Let's reclaim it.

Song Carol Kelly

Marianne: **Break Out Groups: Who do you want to be in the New Year?**

Alberto: **Groups of 3 for 15 minutes**

Marianne: **Large group share 15 minutes**

"...if as modern initiates we understand how to improve ourselves with a Christ as he disclosed himself in the mystery of God with us; if we understand the saying of Paul "not I but Christ in me "in the deepest inner most sense and then the Christ

even guides us through this death” then in death man finds the spirit which now begins to speak to him out of the whole world of external nature. When we allow ourselves to be attended by the Christ we bare our dead thoughts in the company of the Christ out into the starry world into the world of the sun the moon the clouds the mountains the rivers, The minerals the plants and animals; we carry these dead thoughts into the whole physical human world and everything comes alive and perceiving nature as if out of a tune there arises out of all beings the living spirit who heals us who awakens us from death the Holy Spirit and we feel ourselves accompanied by the Christ we feel ourselves revitalized with what we have experienced as death we sense the living the healing spirit speaking to us out of all beings in this world this is what we must require and spiritual insight in a new initiation knowledge then we shall comprehend the mystery of Golgotha as the meaning of all earth existence.”

Lisa: And so here we are in 2020, & Tuesday is Election Day. Has anyone else ever wondered at the fact that this influential event occurs at this powerful time when the portal to the spiritual world is so accessible?

Hazel: Have you ever marveled at the fact that we call Autumn the fall? Friends we are called to stand up in this world, & by honoring & remembering our beloved dead we will not be standing alone. ‘What is Remembered – Lives’. Let us rise in our thinking to work with those on the other side, to co-create a world where the highest good for all is the goal.

Marianne: And then when we leave here, that work asks to be continued. We close now with a few words from Rainer Maria Rilke: *"Everywhere transience is plunging into the depths of Being. It is our task to imprint this temporary, perishable earth into ourselves so deeply, so painfully & passionately, that its essence can rise again, invisible, inside us. We are the bees of the invisible. We wildly collect the honey of the visible world, to store it in the great golden hive of the invisible."*

Lisa: Now dear friends, we invite you all to join in the gestures of the Halleluiah; Which Steiner suggested is a word that could be understood as “a cleansing of the

soul to receive the spirit” – Perhaps you would like to dedicate this healing gesture to your beloved ones that you have called in to join us today.

And then when the gesture is done, how about we give our dearly departed thanks & praise; and then let us release the dead from the internet – let us take our beloved ones back into our hearts, as we blow out the candle, as part of our goodbyes!

All: Goodbyes