

WELCOME  
to our  
MAGDALENE  
GATHERING





A Moment to Remember

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Author

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# Magdalene Feast Day

Last weekend, many of us attended the celebration of the Magdalene Feast Day hosted by Mythica and led by David Curtis and Ella Rozett.



Our intrigue of the past week has been the phrase *“Do not cling to me, ....”*

As we take a few minutes to calm our minds, we ask that we find comfort with our findings from our gathering.

# Do Not Cling to Me

- John 20: 11-18
- But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down *and looked* into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.
- Then they said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.”
- Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing *there*, and did not know that it was Jesus.
- Jesus said to her, **“Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?”**
- She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, “Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away.”
- Jesus said to her, **“Mary!”** She turned and said to Him, “Rabboni!” (which is to say, Teacher).
- **Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.’”**
- Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and *that* He had spoken these things to her.



Photo credit to Lawrence OP

# THE HEBREW WORD devakut

- THE HEBREW WORD devakut (.) ותבִּקֵּד means "cleaving" and refers to communion with God.
- Davak is used to describe how a man cleaves to his wife so that they become basar echad – "one flesh" (see Gen. 2:24)
- In Jewish mystical tradition, devakut is considered **as the highest mystical step on the spiritual ladder back to God**, similar to the "beatific vision" of some Christian traditions.

• <https://www.hebrew4christians.com/Meditations/Devakut/devakut.html>

The Greek expression *Μή μου ἅπτου* (*Me mou haptou*) is best rendered,

**“Do not go on clinging to me”** because *haptou* is a verb in the middle voice.

The middle voice is one that English lacks. It is midway between the active and passive voices and indicates that the subject of the verb (in this case, Mary) both acts and is acted upon.

- What the Lord asks of Mary is that she not merely cling to what is familiar but step back and see what is new. Jesus is no longer a mere rabbi or teacher. He is not merely the Jesus she knew; He is Lord and He is risen.

- <https://blog.adw.org/2019/04/what-did-jesus-mean/>

### Isaiah 43:18-28

- [18](#) But the Lord says, "Do not cling to events of the past or dwell on what happened long ago.
- [19](#) Watch for the new thing I am going to do. It is happening already - you can see it now! I will make a road through the wilderness and give you streams of water there.
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# DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS, SAME BIBLE

**Matthew 28:5** But the angel, addressing the women, said: "You need not be afraid. I know that it is Jesus who was crucified, for whom you are looking. He is going before you to Galilee. Remember, I have told you. They left the tomb quickly, in awe and great joy, and ran to tell the news to the followers. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings!" he said. The women went up to him, and clasped his feet, bowing to the ground before him

**Mark 16:1** Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James and Salome brought spices so that they might go and anoint him. They saw the stone had already been rolled back; it was a very large one. Going into the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on their right and they were dismayed; but he said, "Do not be dismayed, ..... But go, and say to his followers and to Peter, "He is going before you into Galilee." They went out and fled from the tomb, for they were trembling and bewildered and did not say a word to anyone for they were frightened.

**Luke:24:1** But very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb, taking with them the spices that they had prepared. They found that the stone had been rolled away and on going into it, they could not find the body. While they were at a loss to account for this, all at once two men stood beside them. But when in their fear the women bowed their faces to the ground, They said to them: " Why are you looking among the dead for him who is living? Remember how he spoke to you before he left Galilee...Then they remembered his words, and on returning from the tomb, they told all this to the Eleven and to all the rest. They were Mary of Magdala, and Joanna and Mary, the mother of James. What they said seemed mere nonsense and they did not believe them.



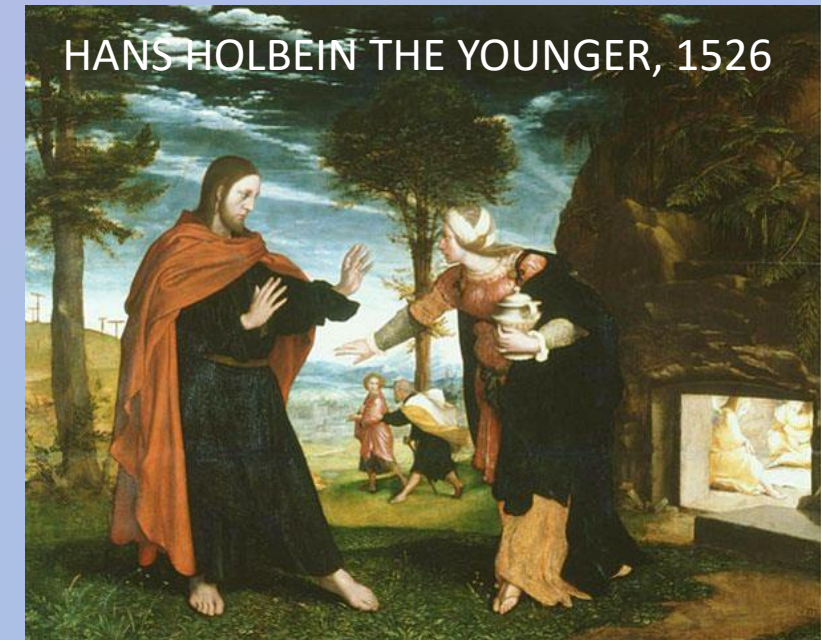
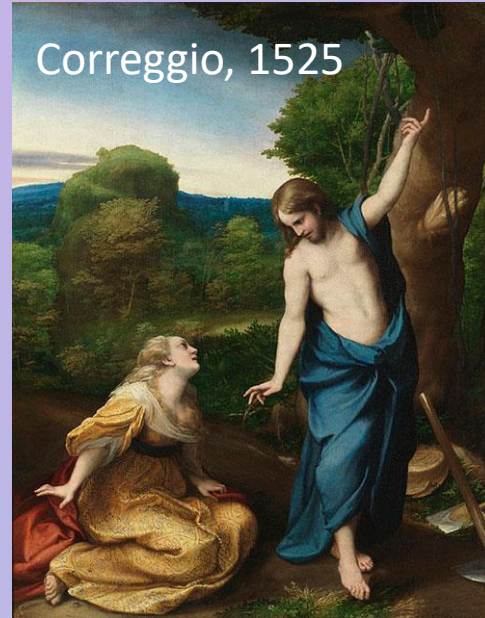
# The Gospel of the Beloved Companion

40:6 Yeshua said to her, “Miryam, do not hold to me, for I am not of the flesh, yet neither am I one with the spirit, but rather go to my disciples and tell them you have seen me, so that all may know that my words are true and that any who should choose to believe them and keep to my commandments will follow me on their last day.”

40:8 Also there, were the disciples Levi, whom some have called Mattithyahu; and Joanna; and the other Saloma, to whom Yeshua had spoken at the well of Ya’Akov. The Migdalah told the disciples that she had seen Yeshua and that he had said these things to her. And they knew the truth of her and were all filled with great joy and believed.

'Noli me Tangere'  
is Latin for ***let no one to touch me.***

# Was she kneeling ?



Can we imagine our Mary clinging?

The woman who understood all?

The woman who was called blessed because she did not waiver?



The woman who, according to Jane Schaberg  
*was the true successor to Christ?*

# Jane Schaberg

February 1938-April 2012

*You were so courageous when you brought the Magdalene out of the attic, ...when you saw her as Jesus' Elisha and revealed how women like Mary are silenced who question the patriarchal order of our world.*

April DeConick

## Resurrection of Mary Magdalene

**"Mary Magdalene of the Christian Testament is the one who stands by the dying...Each of us wishes for one like the Magdalene to go down with us into death, to stay with us to the end.**



# The Gospel of Mary Magdalene

## A new translation by David Curtis

### Ascent of the Soul

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These formed the sevenfold Authority of Wrath, which interrogated the Soul, demanding: “Where do you come from, murderer? and, where do you think you are going, deserter?”

The Soul responded: “It is what constrained me that has been vanquished, and what surrounded me that has been overcome, my craving has come to an end, and my ignorance has died.

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Through a world I was set free from another world; from one design I was liberated through a higher design and from the chains of forgetfulness which exist only for a time.

From this moment onward, now and for all seasons,

I am released into silent restfulness, where time rests in the eternity of time.”

After Mary had said these things, she became silent, as the Saviour had spoken with her up to this point.

# Gospel of Mary

## Ascent of the Soul

### Chapter 8

20) They asked the soul, Whence do you come slayer of men, or where are you going, conqueror of space?

21) The soul answered and said, What binds me has been slain, and what turns me about has been overcome,

22) and my desire has been ended, and ignorance has died.

23) In an Aeon I was released from a world, and in a Type from a type, and from the fetter of oblivion which is transient.

24) From this time on will I attain to the rest of the time, of the season, of the aeon, in silence.

### Chapter 9

1) When Mary had said this, she fell silent, since it was to this point that the Savior had spoken with her.

# An Invitation

## Reflection and Discussion

What comes to you?

Do we have another version?

Do not Cling/hold on/cleave to me



Prayers

Requests

Announcements

- *Why cling to one life till it is soiled and ragged?*
- *The sun dies and dies squandering a hundred lives every instant*
- *God has decreed life for you and He will give another and another and another*

• — Rumi



# CLOSING DIALOGUE

**SOLO:** Are you aware of the light and the peace within You?

**UNISON:** We have the feeling and the movement.

The passion for the well-being of all.

**SOLO:** Light spreads, just as love spreads

Are you willing to speak your feelings of light?

**UNISON:** Yes, indeed we must speak the feeling, we must act the peace

**SOLO:** Let us practice the feeling.

**UNISON:** Let us practice the peace

Let us dance the feeling

Let us dance from the light.

**SOLO:** Let us move together in the Light and the Peace

**UNISON:** Let us go forth in the power of the Spirit



**Our next Gathering will be on  
August 28 , 2022  
2 pm CST**