

Magdalene Community Gathering

AI-Generated Summary

September 28, 2025

This month's topic was on visions.

The group compared translations of the Gospel of Mary by two authors, French theologian, writer, and translator of Greek and Coptic language texts, Jean-Yves LeLoup, and author David Curtis, discussing how different translations affect the interpretation and understanding of the text.

The group compared two translations of the text from page 10 of the Gospel of Mary. They discussed the differences in wording, particularly around the concept of “*yet heard*” versus “*things which you know and we don’t*” with one member noting that “yet” implies a possibility of future teaching. The group analyzed how the translations created different dynamics between Mary and the other apostles, with Curtis’s version suggesting a more collaborative sharing of knowledge.

Comparing Gospel Translations

The group discussed translations of the Gospel, comparing the work of French Orthodox priest LeLoup with David Curtis’s more recent translation. They noted that LeLoup’s translation from 1997 aimed to capture the original Greek and Coptic texts’ meaning for the original audience, while Curtis’s 2023 translation sought to make the text more accessible to modern readers. The discussion touched on how translation can affect understanding and interpretation, suggesting that Curtis’s additions were more interpretive than translational. The group agreed to continue their discussion on the concept of *Nous* in the next session.

Understanding Visions and Consciousness

The group discussed the nature of visions and how they are perceived, referencing a passage about seeing visions through an understanding that arises between the soul and the spirit. Several expressed confusions about the terms used in the passage, particularly the distinction between soul, psyche and spirit. One member attempted to explain the concept of *nous* as representing the mind. The discussion touched on the universality of visions across cultures and the question of how ordinary people might experience visions, though no clear answers were provided.

Mary’s Vision and Theological Debate

The group discussed a text about Mary’s vision of Jesus, with several debating whether Mary’s questions were typical of her character. One member suggested considering the original Greek and Coptic audiences, noting that the text focused on epistemology and ontology rather than revelation, while one argued that every line might be important despite the limited verses available.

Mary’s Vision and Audience Context

The group discussed the Gospel of Mary, focusing on how Mary might have described her vision of Jesus to the disciples. One member suggested that Mary was asking on behalf of her own about how she would perceive the teacher in a vision, through her soul or spirit. She interpreted Mary as seeking to authenticate her vision to the disciples by explaining how it happened, showing her sincerity and

curiosity about the experience. Someone explained that the audience for the Gospel of Mary was diverse, including both Jewish and Gentile Greeks, and that there are many versions of the text.

Divine Visions in Judeo-Christian Tradition

The group discussed the historical and religious context of visions, particularly in the Judeo-Christian tradition. They explored biblical references to visions being given to both men and women, highlighting the divine's promise of visionary experiences to all believers. The group also examined the concept of visionary knowledge as an ontological reality, distinct from personal experiences, and discussed the inner prerequisites for entering the visionary realm.

Mary Magdalene's Visionary Contemplation Practices

The group discussed Mary Magdalene's inner readiness and ability to remain undisturbed, which they connected to practices like meditation and contemplation. They explored how Mary accessed a visionary or imaginal realm through silence, emphasizing that this experience is accessible to everyone. The discussion also touched on Cynthia Bourgeau's unique perspective on Mary Magdalene, highlighting her connection to the wisdom tradition.

Women's Role in Early Christianity

The group discussed the historical treatment of women in early Christianity, noting how women like Mary were initially recognized as apostles but were later marginalized, particularly in the third century. It was suggested that this was a strategic response to criticism from other groups who disapproved of women's roles in the church. The group agreed to explore further resources on this topic, though it was acknowledged that they might not reach a definitive conclusion.

Teilhard de Chardin's Nous and AI Evolution

The group discussed Teilhard de Chardin's concept of nous, with one member sharing her research and interest in its connection to consciousness and human evolution. One noted that Ilia Delio's understanding of AI fits within this evolutionary framework, though some in the group expressed caution about fully embracing AI's implications.

The conversation ended with group prayers.

"This overview was created with the assistance of AI for clarity and brevity."