

Magdalene Community Gathering

AI-Generated Summary

August 31, 2025

Which Translation Speaks To You?

The group welcomed new participants who shared their locations and how they discovered our group; one found us through Betty Adam's book, *"The Magdalene Mystique"*.

Comparative Gospel of Mary Study

The group discussed a new approach to studying the Gospel of Mary, focusing on comparing different translations to enhance spiritual understanding and draw closer to the essence of the text. This month's leaders introduced this method, highlighting how translations can offer complementary interpretations rather than compete for a single correct meaning. The participants shared their preferences for specific translations, noting differences in the language that conveyed varying nuances in Mary Magdalene's actions and authority. They agreed to continue this comparative analysis in future sessions, with members taking turns reading different translations.

Comparing Gospel Translation Versions

The group discussed differences between two translations of the gospel text, noting that David Curtis's translation, published within the last year, is more recent than LeLoup's 2002 version. They examined how David Curtis's translation uses the term "material world" instead of "matter", and includes variations in terminology such as using "Savior" and "Teacher" instead of "Saviour" and "Teacher." It was explained that David Curtis, a scholar at a UK university with expertise in the Gospel of Mary, has both Buddhist and Christian backgrounds and confirmed that he works with the Coptic language in his translations.

Journeys with Mary Magdalene

The group discussed their personal journeys with Mary Magdalene, with members sharing how they discovered her significance and became involved in the community. A member described his academic research and creation of a German-language blog on Magdalene's gospels, while others shared their recent interest in the divine feminine and spiritual awakening. A brief history of the group's beginnings began, noting its origins in Houston 20 years ago with Betty Adam. The community's structure was explained, which uses PowerPoint presentations without a formal leader. Another shared her personal spiritual experiences with Mary Magdalene, including meditations and a guided trip to France, emphasizing themes of empowerment and self-creation.

Translation, Interpretation and Word Choices

The group discussed differences between translations of philosophical texts by LeLoup and Curtis, focusing on how different words and phrases affect interpretation. It was noted that Curtis' words were easier to understand and more emotionally resonant, while another pointed out that LeLoup's original text was in French, making it a translation of a translation. The group also debated the use of "Savior" versus "Teacher," with most preferring the latter term. Also compared was a translation of a passage, noting that one version

emphasized incomparable suffering and the heart, while another version focused on passion against nature and balance.

Humanizing Gospel of Mary Translation

The group discussed Curtis' translation of the Gospel of Mary, noting that while it is more interpretive and personal compared to word-for-word translations, it maintains the same substantive meaning. They agreed that Curtis' translation feels more accessible and human, with others finding it easier to understand due to the detailed explanation of the language. It was mentioned that Curtis is available for questions and can be contacted for further clarification

Biblical Translation and Interpretation Discussion

The group discussed differences between two translations of a biblical passage, focusing on phrases like “my peace rise and be fulfilled within you” versus “cultivate my peace within ourselves”, and the use of “Son of man” and “child of your true humanity” as titles. They noted that while the LeLoup translation used “Son of Man” alone, other translations included both phrases, with a member explaining that “Son of Man” derived from the Greek word Anthropos. The discussion highlighted how different translations can convey similar meanings in varying ways, with participants expressing appreciation for the inclusive language used in some versions.

Exploring the Gospel of Mary

The group discussed the Gospel of Mary, focusing on translations and interpretations. They explored differences in translations, particularly regarding the concept of becoming fully human and the Savior's role. The group agreed to continue examining other translations in the next meeting. They also discussed the vision and ascent sections of the gospel.

The conversation ended with group prayers.

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