

## Monday Quotes



### Grain

“Just trust yourself and you’ll learn the art of living.”

–Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

### Field

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ... 16 From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. John 1

### Thoughts

“Buddhists love the first chapter of John.” That was a comment I heard a Catholic priest who served in Japan make years ago. However accurate that statement might be for a broader group of Buddhists, I was intrigued. Was it the lack of concreteness of John’s first chapter that caught the Easterners’ attention? The Word (*logos* in Greek) does not bring to mind a manger. Does that help us to separate the text from any cultural trappings both Christians and non-Christians have added to Christmas? We’re left pondering eternal truths not possessed exclusively by any group of people.

Interestingly, the writer of John’s Gospel was intentionally trying to reach people beyond his own culture. When speaking to Greeks, he used their language, *logos*, for the Word. Being a follower of Jesus suddenly didn’t feel unfamiliar. Ah, *logos*, divine reason, a Greek might have thought. The creative order that was in the beginning. Truth in the midst of untruth. The Gospel writer must have counted on people’s innate sense of reality and love for one another.

All through history, when truth has seemed most obscured, even those who didn’t resist evil had to on some level sense that systems were off. Dr. Joy DeGruy talks about how during slavery and Jim Crow, she believed that white people who actively participated in the corruption experienced cognitive dissonance. We know about that dissonance in our personal lives and public policies. To deal with it, we can find ways to justify evil. We can also recognize the way of compassion, that what the world rejects is also where we sometimes find the Word. That Word became flesh full of grace and truth. No darkness will overcome the light. Great news for whoever we are and from wherever we hail. Happy Monday!

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy Crane