



Grains

“The endless sky does not prevent the clouds from drifting.”

From the *Shobogenzo*

“You’ll find there is room for us all.” –Mahatma Gandhi

Field

2When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?” ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.” ¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷“In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Acts 2:1-5, 7, 12 & 14-17

Thoughts

There is a lot we can say about the Holy Spirit but often don’t. Maybe it’s because the Holy Spirit seems ethereal and ephemeral like the Hebrew feminine word for Spirit, which means breath or wind. You cannot control movements of the Spirit.

In the book, *A Tale for the Time Being* by Ruth Ozeki, one of the characters continually refers to the Zen Buddhist work, *Shobogenzo*, by Zenji Dogen, to talk about time and being. I happened to read parts of Dogen’s work while in school and recalled from it my favorite line about the endless sky not preventing the clouds from drifting. I’ve never been Buddhist so cannot say what the line means from that religious perspective, but loved the way it allowed for room for everything. That is one aspect of the Holy Spirit; she points to the generous space for us all.

In the Pentecost story, the Holy Spirit is a powerful wind taking down silos people created around cultures and languages. Her disruptive message about unity in which individuals in the crowd could understand one another, came out of the same conflicted Holy Land that is in the news today. Ruling cultures and targets of oppression shift through the centuries. The most recent cycles of violence can seem endless. But many people from around the world also hear and understand the message that when we abusively enforce silos, other unjust forces will be kindled, and innocent people on all sides will die. Learn more via [Peace not Walls](#). Also, here is Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber’s [interview](#) of Rev. Mitri Raheb.

There have always been difficulties in breaking down barriers. But the Holy Spirit communicates that they will come down and, on another level, were never really there. In response, do you want to “sneer” or like Peter, take the opportunity to preach? Happy Monday!

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy