

# Greetings from Your Editor

## Hello and Welcome Readers of the Rose,

In my mind, this issue is a very special one. You will notice a certain theme flowing throughout, this is both synchronistic and intentional. For some time, I have been holding on to submissions that were connected to carrying the work of Wisdom into the world. Many spiritual directors, dream workers, clergy, lay persons, and inspired teachers of all backgrounds send in accounts of their work and practices for our review here at the Rose. At the beginning of this year, we lost a giant in the dream community, Jeremy Taylor, and I knew then, that these articles were waiting to find a home with him.

I think Jeremy would be very pleased with the themes of this issue. In thinking back on Jeremy and his life's work as a dream minister, Unitarian Universalist minister, co-founder and past president of the International Association for the Study of Dreams, author, teacher, social activist, his life seems centered on images. In death, he becomes an archetype for many of us, an archetype of a life well lived, of love for his wife who preceded him in death by only a few days, and of passion for the plight of the marginalized. Jeremy is also a powerful image for me, one that will live on in my heart. Specifically, my memory of him as the leader of the very first dream group I ever attended. This experience kicked off a search for knowledge that has continued for over a decade. I was extremely intimidated to attend his workshop, especially after a woman informed me that Jeremy's knowledge of dream images was best described as "a library of encyclopedias."

Imagine my shock and surprise when he picked me to share a dream with the group! It was a very poignant dream, I had only just started recording them: *it was all in black and white and there was a Wizard of Oz feel to it. The abiding image was of an old-fashioned horse-drawn style cart that somehow moved on its own power. My father's family was riding in it and there was popcorn. Lots of popcorn.* Jeremy was a gracious and wise guide as I navigated my way through the various layers. He was so adept at this journey through the dream that he made me feel instantly comfortable and accepted. Even the strangest image had something to offer in the "service of health and wholeness," as he always taught. We journeyed from my ancestral connections, to a corn farm in Indiana, to the grand adventure that was Oz. There was more there than I could have ever imagined, and I was hooked!

As I was preparing this issue, I came across an interview with Jeremy in *DreamTime* magazine (C. Johnson, Winter 2017, p. 32-33). I have heard him tell many stories over the years at conferences and events but this was brand new to me. It was about his first remembered dream when he was five or six. In the dream he is exploring a dark castle with a figure who turns out to be Disney's Goofy. They are searching for a treasure and trying to avoid being caught by the Giant. To young Jeremy's dismay, Goofy, despite his pleas to the contrary, turns on a light. Instead of being captured by the

so-called Giant, they find themselves enthralled with a miniature toy model of the castle, complete with moving figurines of themselves and other Disney characters! He wakes excited and runs downstairs to tell of the exciting adventure. Though his beloved grandmother told him that this was "just a dream" and meant nothing, he knew there was more there. This began a lifelong quest, the end of which leaves us leagues ahead but still with so much farther to go, just the way it should be. He will be missed, but the stories we tell about him will live on, as will the many books he published and contributed to, and the great wisdom of dreams he gifted to so many.

Throughout this issue you will find articles, poems, and images that bring us closer to Jeremy's work and suggest how we might carry it forward into the world. Jeremy was concerned with not only dreams in and of themselves but the way that they can connect us as individuals and the way they may be used to give voice to the marginalized in our world. Jeremy worked in many varied and diverse communities spreading the message of dreamwork to many who may never have been exposed to it without his seeking them out.

He shone a light into the world, a light which we all have within us if only we work to find it. In this way we can each embody the brightness of the season, the last glistening rays of the summer sun as we head into darkening days of fall and winter. The last of summer was often associated with the Feast of the Transfiguration and the pleroma or fullness, the fulfillment of God's plan for creation. Jesus goes to the mountaintop at this time of year. At the summit of Mt. Tabor he is at the height of his glory, radiant. He returns and tells his disciples of what is to come. He gives them a great feast of knowledge, a vision of light and wisdom. In many ancient cultures at this time of year grand feasts were held, in the Celtic culture it was termed Lughnassadh, this was the time to celebrate the bounty of the summer in anticipation of the harvest. In the East, one of these feasts was called Vartavarh or the "Rose Flame." My greatest hope for this issue is that it can be that feast for each of us. An illuminated Rose of wisdom for each of our readers to enjoy, remember, and be inspired.

This rose flame is everywhere, within and around each of us. Jeremy was but one conduit. The continued care and transmission of this Rose-colored light, this feast of Wisdom, this ripe pleroma, must be carried forth by those of us who recognize its beauty. Just as each of the contributors included in this issue shine this light in their work, so do each of you, our readers. It is our job now to carry this work forward. Know that the Rose flame of Wisdom is there with you always. In a world that can sometimes feel so dark, be the light.

~Sarah D. Norton

