

St. Mary Magdalene

- Early in the morning, while it was still dark, St. Mary Magdalene searched for Him whom her soul loves. She asked the angels whether they had found Him whom her soul loves.
- Scarcely had she asked them when she found Him whom her soul loves. She found him because she had already been found by Him. She held Him and would not let Him go. She clings to Him because she loves Him. A beautiful image of intimacy and a portrait of paradise regained.
- The scenery is reminiscent of the book of Genesis, where the man and woman were in the garden. God was searching for them, and they hide because of their sin and were driven out of the garden by an angel.
- And now it is the woman who is searching for her God, because her sins had been forgiven, it also happened in the garden.
- Now, she is worthy to converse with angels because the demons in her had been driven out.
- It is true that she had already seen that the sepulcher was empty, and had already reported that the Lord had been taken away. But, why did she stoop down again, why did she want to look again? It is because it is never enough for a lover to have looked once, the intensity of her love does not allow her to give up the search.
- She sought the first time and found nothing, but she continued looking. She persevered in seeking and she found our Lord.
- Then he called her by her own name, as if to say; "Recognize Him who recognizes you." And she called him at once Rabboni, which means teacher.
- He was at once the one she was seeking outwardly, and the one who was inwardly teaching her to seek Him.
- Now I found Him whom my soul loves. I held Him and would not let Him go until He blesses me.

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"Make us a god we can worship" (Exodus 32:23)

"Make us a god we can worship" (Ex. 32:23), they cried. Then they made the golden calf and

made an idol of it. These were the indignant words of the Israelites when they were in the desert after being led out of Egypt.

We know that there are many idols in people's lives? Money, power, pleasure, possessions, sex, the body...the list goes on and on. However, the deeper question we may ask is, "Why do people create idols?" In this reading today, we find the answer. The Israelites felt bored. They could not wait any longer for Moses, when he went up to the mountain to meet God. Thus, they sought a way out of their boredom..."Let us create this idol!"

In the spiritual life, it may also be the same. People of faith, people of religion can create an idol out of the faith and religion, as well. This happens when we can no longer wait for God. Like the Israelites, we become impatient waiting for God. No one can create our own thoughts, our own ideas about God as a means of easing the internal boredom. We become restless, since listening to God becomes a chore or a burden.

As monks, we have left the world and its many idols, but we can still create our own idols. Our life is that of seeking the Lord. If we lose the desire to patiently wait for the Lord, to patiently listen to God, spiritual boredom creeps in, then we create our own idols. It may be an easy way out. With God's help, may we be protected from desires similar to the early Israelites? "Make us a god that we can worship."

Let us pray:

Dear Lord, You make Your friendship known and reveal Your will to those who wait. Most of the time we become impatient waiting for you and become restless.

May we be given the grace of silent waiting? May we imitate Your Mother who allowed the unfolding of God's will in patient waiting...in your own time, in your own way and not in ours.

Deliver us from the idols of the body, mind and spirit which will distract our gaze towards You.

In your name, we ask this. Amen

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