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Mary Magdalene embodies the capacity we all have to merge with the soul and receive divine guidance through a love that never ends.

Mary was born in the 1<sup>st</sup> century in Magdala, Israel. She was the first to witness the resurrection, and for this reason is revered in Christianity as the Apostle to the Apostles.

In 'the meaning of Mary Magdalene', author and Episcopal priest; Cynthia Bourgeault relates that the gospels of Thomas, Philip and Mary Magdalene all reveal Mary not only as Jesus's beloved companion, *koinonos*, but also as an equal partner in teaching and transmission.

Bourgeault believes that Mary Magdalene's gospel contains a secret teaching



that Christ gave to Mary so that she could pass through the seven stages to reach the Soul, or the *nous*, which is the highest point of the Soul. And it is this union with her soul that allows Mary to see the risen Christ.

MARY MAGDALENE

In Classic iconography, Mary Magdalene is associated with an egg and the colour red because of an Eastern Orthodox legend. It says that she used an egg to teach the court of Tiberius Caesar about resurrection. Caesar doubted her and responded that a person could no more rise from the dead than the egg in her hand turn red. The egg turned red immediately.

Legends relate that Mary then travelled to the south of France to escape persecution and to continue her ministry. It is believed she lived the last 30 years of her life in the caves at Sainte-Baume.

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There she met with Christ with a love that inhabits the human heart but that lives on beyond it.

### When your Soul selects this card

Mary Magdalene represents the fierce, unwavering love that we all have access to within our own vulnerable hearts. It's a love that renders all things sacred from the animals to the angels, from the poorest to the most powerful. It's a love that sees the inherent worth of all things. And it's a love that remains, even though the darkest times, even through death; her love is a one that resurrects.

The Gospel of Mary relates that Jesus came to unite us, to demonstrate to us a 'true human being', an *Anthropos*, meaning a person who is both fully human and fully divine

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This is what Mary became, and it's why she was so beloved to Jesus. She didn't seek to follow him; she sought instead to become her true self.

Mary Magdalene reminds us that we have the power to receive vision from within. We are worthy of such proximity to the divine because that's the other half of what it means to be truly human. She reminds us that there's a bridge between heaven and earth, and that we are that bridge. And she want us to remember that the truest church we can ever enter is the heart.

This is where our true power rests and where love never ends.



ı am the bridge between heaven and earth ı am fully human and fully divine

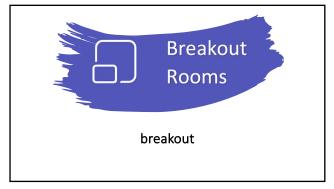
## Reflection

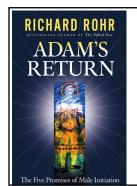
What does this reading evoke in me? Where has my love not yet reached?

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### **Five Promises of Initiation**

### **#2. YOU ARE NOT IMPORTANT**

Transformed people tend to transform people (and hurt people will hurt people).

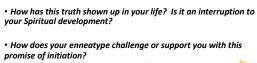
- The basic idea:
   getting out of our own way, and we can't do that without help.
- learning you are not in control means reeducating the will.
   Predictability might be good for science, but it is not helpful for the soul.

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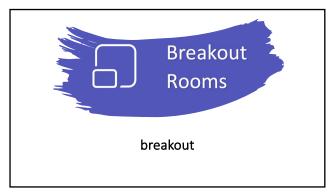


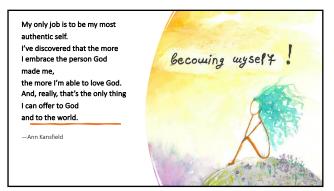
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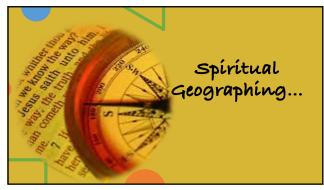












## Spiritual Geographying Exercise 0-10-20-30-40-5-60-70-80-+ Instructions 1. Indicate the three most challenging events / experiences since embarking on this track with a downward arow below the time line 2. Indicate the 3 most life giving events / experiences since embarking on this track with an upward pointing arrow along the timeline 3. Assign a simple theme to each of these 3 events Most Stressful periods of your life 1. 2. 3.

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# Spiritual Geographying cont Most life giving times of the period 1. 2. 3. Reflect on the correlation between both sets of events









