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The OM (the One Moment) ~
Life's Truisms in Balance
A weekly column by Nenari, Princess of the Sea

This week's column I present to you the first in a two part discourse on what Love and Family truly means in the moment. Enjoy being in this OM, the One Moment.

What Does Family Truly Mean?, Part One

By Nenari, Princess of the Sea, the "Diamondlady" of Lemuria

The bond that links your true family is not one of blood, but of respect and joy in each other's life. Rarely do members of one family grow up under the same roof ~Richard Bach, Illusions

Ah! The holidays. Many of us are celebrating Hannukah or Christmas, Kwanzaa or Yule. With St. Lucia Day, Winter Solstice, Soyluna, Boxing Day, Omisoka and many other holidays in between. For many this is the season of Love and Light, Family and home. I have always loved the winter for the blanket of white dressed upon the land and the slowness of growth still unfolding behind the scenes of the frozen land, of the coming home within, and of playing in the snow as the diamonds fall from the sky softly on your hair, of creating snow angels, and letting the essence of winters embrace warm the heart rather than chill it.

I always delight in the holiday seasons and within as many traditions as possible. It is always wonderful when we can embrace the Love and Light, Family and home of the magic of the season and entwine in into all seasons and be such not just because "its Christmas" but because it is who we are in each OM, each One Moment. I have always been one to and I raised my children as well to embrace the holiday season (as well as all year through) and the many different cultures as all of them have such beautiful amazing gifts to give us when we look past indoctrination and illusions we call barriers.

While my children are teens and adults now, it is still always the magic of the season that delights me. I watch lovingly as my eldest son whom even though he is an adult, delights in still putting the holiday lights up. As we would celebrate Hanukkah when he was small we would always say 'Let's light the lights' and every year no matter what we would light every single candle on the Menorah. Tradition is to light one candle for each night, but not my son Christopher. We

always had to light *ALL* the candles! ☺ So we indulged in such simply for the sure delight of the smile on his face and the twinkle in his eyes.

It is that same twinkle that I see whenever he puts up the holiday lights too. This year he has grown his collection, in upwards of 30,000 plus Christmas lights, along with 25 or so blowmolds, and a whole host of outdoor decorations. He even helps a local man with his Christmas display that is in upwards of 200,000 lights, which is a lot of work and no small undertaking indeed. It is his passion, his love. Not so much for the collecting of possessions, it is for a deeper meaning. Like his mom he too delights in seeing the smiling children's faces (and adults too) full of awe and wonder as they come by to see all the lights and trimmings. Many say he looks like Santa as well, because of his red hair and his beard. He loves it and delights in such of giving his gift of love for the season that delights so many. To him and to me, that is what makes it all worth it.

I myself collect Santas actually. Why? Not for hoarding possessions or for commercialization of Santa, but for the Love of who Santa is in my heart. Santa is free from representing just some icon of commercialism that we as a society created him to be. Santa to me represents all that is beautiful, loving, and giving in the world and in the universe. Of believing, believing in the magic of Love and all Love creates through us. The reindeer represent the magic of all infinite possibilities that we create in this world and universe. In fact, since I have long loved the Northern Lights and the wondrous gifts of the ethereal night skies at this time of the year, one of my favourite songs is by Mannheim Steamroller called Up Above the Northern Lights and to me it really captures the magic of the season.

Such magic of the season that is meant to be about family and Love. Yet, a lot of us come the holidays dread such things as family gatherings, eating way too much food, and dealing (or being free from dealing) with things in life that we seem to avoid all year until the preverbal holidays. And as I began to have this article pour through me for the column this week, I began to wonder ~ why is that? Why is that a season that is just as all of our seasons, held with such magic and wonder each in its own way, why is it that it becomes such a source of dread for so many?

I Will Love You If... ..

Some may say its because here in the Northern Hemisphere that the days are shorter, that we don't see the Sun for as long. Some may say that it is because we are all so busy running around that we forget what the season and what each day is really all about. I believe these are possible. I also believe it is something much deeper than even this.

Normally the Master Artist helps me to choose a Gibran or Rumi quote for the column. Yet this time, I felt called to give a quote from one of my other favourite authors, Richard Bach as it so in alignment with this article series. Richard's gifts

have been treasures of mine for many years. I have most if not all of his books and I love the way he writes. There is just a sense of resonance within what he writes. From his books *Illusions* and *Bridge Across Forever*, to *One* and my all time favourite *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*, Richard's messages really hit home with me in a very special way. Even his lesser known books to some like *Biplane* and *Running from Safety* are gems.

I remember years ago the first time I read the quote in the book *Illusions* that I gave at the beginning of this article ~ *The bond that links your true family is not one of blood, but of respect and joy in each other's life. Rarely do members of one family grow up under the same roof* ~ Richard Bach, *Illusions*. I remember such a quote striking a cord within me, although at that moment in earthly time I had no idea why. It would be many years later that I would come to understand why.

We have been indoctrinated to believe that our family is our family of origin and that is it. Like in the movie and play *Fiddler on the Roof*, that Tevye speaks of tradition, that tradition is tradition and that is that, that we just "deal" with it the hand that is dealt us. That yes we may have friends and yes we may even have friends that we may call a sister or brother, an aunt or uncle, yet family is family and that's that. Growing up we had my Grandma June. She was "technically" a family friend, yet to me, to us she was our grandmother. My mom used to say she was our "adopted" Grandma. Yet few of us really take family such as our adopted family seriously. And many of us believe that because we are born into a family, that this means no matter what even if it is out of obligation, we are to simply "stick it out" and "deal" with our family, after all we were born into it. And then we wonder *why* we are so dreading the holiday season! Where does that source of obligation come from? Something we call on this earth called conditional Love.

The absolute soulful loving truth (as this is what absolute means as the Master Artist has given it through me) is that most of us have never known unconditional Love or true soulful absolute Love. Yes, when we first came into this life maybe. Our parents were such to us, for us, with us. Yet somewhere along the way, conditions became part of the game. First starting out very innocently with 'do you want to help mommy with the trash?' and then to a list of "chores" that we "had to" do or we would be 'punished' in various ways. From that we in turn 'learned' as it were that I will only love you if you do this or that, behave this way or that, and when you do such you make me happy and if you don't I don't love you. In other words love with conditions.

Now, this is free from saying our parents are somehow 'bad' or anything. Quite the contrary. Our parents gave us a Divine blessing indeed. They were simply doing and being whom they were meant to be and the only way they knew how at that moment. They were the catalysts for the opposite for us, showing us conditions, obligations, the ego consciousness of have to's, shoulds, and musts ~ all divinely designed within showing us the opposite to help us to 'unlearn' the

ego consciousness ways and step into remembering who we really are which is unconditional Love or absolute Love.

The Path of AbSOULute Love

Sometimes we feel that because we are born into our family (thus we in Spirit call such our family of earthly origin) that we are to simply "tolerate" such a family. This is free from being so. The absolute truth is that family is what you create it to be, free from being what you are somehow "born into" or "indoctrinated" into. It **CAN** be such if you and all members of such a family choose consciously to be such, yet most of the moments on this earth especially in our ever changing shifts in consciousness such family is free from being the case. Thus is **CAN** be, yet it is free from "having to" be.

So what is family truly then? As Richard Bach's quote from Illusions shares with us, it is rare that family is under the same roof indeed. For what family and Love, true Love and true family are far different than that of what we have been shown. As Bach shares, true family, true love is one of respect and joy in another's life, and that can be with family of origin, or it can be in a myriad of ways. This is why we have seen many divorces and many changes in families over the more recent earthly years, as it is the Master Artist's way of just like when my son Christopher was younger of how we "broke" tradition with lighting all the candles, so too are we breaking the illusions of what we once thought family is, to come to know and understand what family and what Love truly is. Just as Tevye comes to see in Fiddler on the roof that through his struggles to let go, that when he lets go he understands that some traditions are to be embraced and cherished, and others with the changing flow of the universe, are meant to be "broken" as it were or transformed. It is all within what resonates within our hearts and that changing such traditions is ok.

Next week in part two, we shall delve deeper into what family and true love really is. Until then ~ May your holiday season be filled with infinite blessings of *Absoulute* Love, Infinite Light, Abundance within its infinite forms, Peace, and Bliss always, in all ways. Espavo ~