

CHAPTER XV

The Twelve Strands

The twelve strand teachings, as described by Gwladys and Henry, form a vital part of the Faerie spiritual teachings. In the days of coming changes, you may find these teachings a source of comfort and help.

The Three Strands of Autumn

1. Gathering in the harvest
2. Preparation, making your burrow snug
3. Clarity, knowing where you are, thanksgiving

The Three Strands of Winter

4. Resting
5. Remembering old stories, reflecting on life
6. Joy, recognition of coming son/sun

The Three Strands of Spring

7. Planting the seed
8. Birth, awakening, resurrection
9. Enjoyment of life to the fullest

The Three Strands of Summer

10. Strength
11. Work, tending one's own garden
12. Taking care of others' gardens

“The twelve strands are also known as the twelve strands of life. We have many other strands, but these will help you move through your Human life. Consider these strands as a ship's compass, a map, a prominent landmark, a peak in the distance where you can look to orient yourself, a star far above in the heavens, or the movement of the sun, moon, and stars above you. Once you learn them, not only in your mind, but in your heart, they will be a dependable, proper guide and will lead you through troubled times. The twelve strands, much like the ten commandments, are a gift from the Holy Parents and Christ and Mary. The twelve strands, unlike the ten commandments, are not cords to bind and tie you. Rather, you might say they represent harp strings, which, when plucked, create the sound of

harmony, so that you, and all those who move by the strands and make use of them, live in Creation with the sound of harmony.

“All that exists is substance, and substance is all energy. The way we of the Fair Folk understand it is that energy is a substance that exists in waves, waves of love from the Holy Parents. In the beginning, the Holy Parents came together and formed a seed that was dropped in a still pond of nothingness or the void, and the ripples from the seed, which later became Jesus, rippled out and Creation was born. We see all existence as waves of love. Therefore, when one strand is plucked, or a group of strands is plucked, it forms a movement of waves of energy, of magic, of love, and creates a working of harmony in Creation. If the strands are ignored or brushed roughly aside, or if you force your way between them as most Humans do, you are not working in harmony with Creation. You are not playing a beautiful song that is pleasing to the Holy Parents or Jesus or Mary. You are violating and enslaving, or attempting to enslave, Creation herself. Therefore, learn to play the harp of harmony, which has twelve strands. Begin as a novice; gently and with reverence, pluck the strands, and learn the sound of their notes, and joy will fill your Grail or heart cup. The blessings, the living water, will overflow your cup with love and spill out to all Creation.

“Therefore, to understand the strands, it is a good concept to see them strung upon a beautifully-carved harp. We will not tell you what color the harp is or what is carved upon it. That is for you to decide. It is for you to design your harp in your mind and your heart and your spirit. It may be a golden harp or a harp of beautifully carved wood, but what is important is that it is your harp, created by you as a reflection of your spirit. Upon your harp, string the twelve strands of harmony. This teaching is not a mere gimmick, an empty shallow thing, for, once you create this harp in your mind, in your heart, and in your spirit, and you string the harp with the twelve strands of harmony, you actually create the harp of harmony in your soul. It is a gift given to you by the Holy Parents and Christ and Mary to comfort you, to keep your spirits high, and to act as a compass in troubled times. Of course, it is not the only tool or gift given to you by the Holy Parents, but it is a rather nice one, I must say.

“All of Creation enjoys music. To put it in Human terms, all Humans are guided or moved by music, whether they enjoy music or not. For those who enjoy music, music is their guide for the very fact that it moves them. If the music is pure or uplifting, it can guide them through troubled times, heal