

# Forgiveness

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Long before I comprehended that death and birth are the same, I struggled for life as if there was nothing else. Part of me believed in hell and part of me was sure that's where I'd go.

Early years were plagued with what I now know were mostly stress-related, self-created disease. Each time I approached a physical death, I would struggle as if possessed to live. And, at each life threatening crisis, at the instant I surrendered and asked to leave, I was healed. Kidneys were restored, bleeding stopped, breathing returned, a hole appeared in the ice when drowning seemed certain.

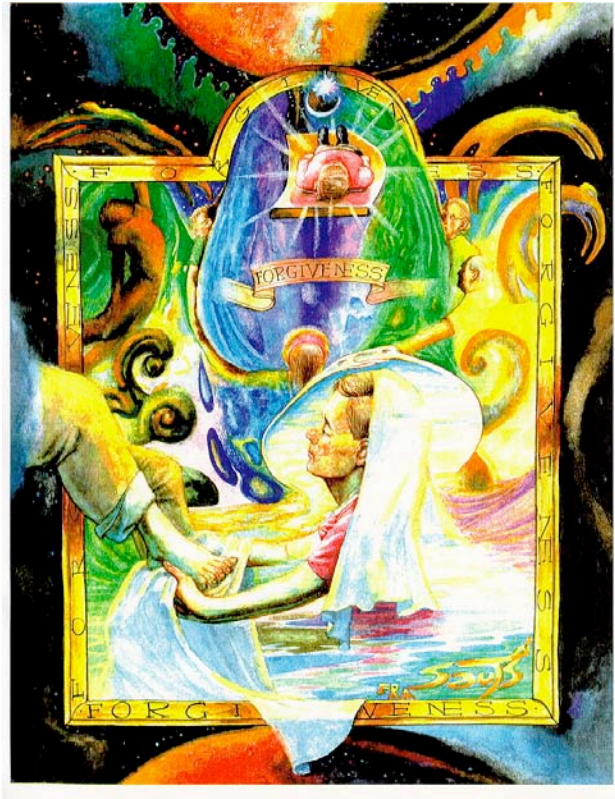
Stubborn and unaccepting of the mystery of my healings, I continued into later years manifesting near death. At one point, I was refused admittance to a hospital because of my critical diagnosis. I remember the doctors, two of them debating my condition, deciding not to accept me into their care, walking away despite the pleadings of a nurse.

Through the persistence of a friend, I was taken to another hospital and finally admitted. Still listed as critical, I was quarantined and told nothing could be done – it was a matter of waiting. They could cool my body, nothing more.

As the pain raged, I reached the point that I begged God to let me die. And, in the instant of surrender, my guide appeared and exploded into intense blue, green and violet light. The fever broke. Days later, tests for brain damage were negative, much to the doctors' surprise. They didn't know where the disease came from or where it went.

Even now, as an adult, with near death experiences too frequent to forget, I sometimes miss the spiritual significance of surrender and still require life to force my submission.

I learned this lesson quite unexpectedly in a month-long training. About half-way through the training, in a movement class, I was asked to surrender to death. No way! My mind resisted.



After all, had I not spent most of my life fighting to stay alive? Hadn't I beaten all the odds? No! I won't die. I won't.

"Tom, this is a safe place, isn't it?" Yes. "Tom, you trust these people teaching you, right?" Yes. "Tom, it's only acting." Go ahead, humor them. "Well, O.K."

I surrendered. I died. I was reborn. I was reborn with absolute cosmic forgiveness – for self and others. My reality was forever changed.

When I came back into my body, I was alone, to one side of the room. I don't know how I got there or how long I stayed there. Everyone else was at the other side of the large room still in their movement exercise. I was soaking wet, drenched in my own tears, silent tears, sheets of tears.

Upon surrender to death, I found myself transported to a space where there was no time or physical form, only soul awareness. I found myself between two lines of souls. We all had simultaneous vision in all directions. I was swept along between these souls. Recognition and forgiveness were simultaneous and instant. What seemed like souls from forever passed before me as if in a flash of earth time.

Then, I was alone in the void, bowed almost into a ball. A light began to form and it grew in intensity. I unfolded into the light. My head was the last to rise and my eyes opened into forgiveness, absolute and forever. I began to float and stayed suspended in the light. I closed my eyes. I bowed my head. I felt like I had come to rest, in peace, in an eternal home.

Then my eyes opened. I was in the room – disoriented, shaking, unable to speak. I had a gaze that my movement partner could not look into as I slowly returned to the forming circle. As a completion to the movement, we were to symbolically bathe each other's feet.

Later, she told me: Now I know what it is like to see the Christ in a person."

When I could stand, I moved to the front of the room. I did what I could to relate my experience, yet words in this realm are simply, hopelessly inadequate. I chose four people, two men and two women to hold me until I stopped shaking and felt fully back into my earthly form

I learned some lessons slowly. And some lessons, I forget. This one altered my reality beyond time.