



轉障成道

Transforming Obstacles into the Path...

汀娜·佩卓娃 文 WRITTEN BY TINA TARA PETROVA

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我出生在加拿大梭特史提瑪莉的天主教家庭，雙親為移民。

打從孩提起，我就深愛羅馬天主教的禮拜儀式——葛利格里的吟唱、管風琴、唱拉丁文的聖經文句…。很早以來，我便展開跟聖母瑪麗亞的深層聯繫，直到現在。

祖母有位姐妹擁有天主賜予的非凡能力，一向熱衷於率眾為患者代禱，與按手禱告治療。而母親晚年成為一個天主教神父的管家。我生長在一個深為禮拜、儀式與濃厚信仰所薰陶的環境中；正是它們，造就了今日的我。

1997年12月，我駕車落下懸崖——這事既真實，復寓象徵意味；當時我正在開赴「卡馬馬哈西迪林」(高踞在加州棕櫚泉叢山中的一間佛寺)作晨禱的途中，這一事件永遠地改造了我的生命。途中，我搭載一名搭便車的旅人，一位披著布外套，渾身哆嗦的中年婦人；臨下車時，她留下的警語令我毛骨悚然——「今天可別墜落山崖…」。

二十歲前後幾年的歲月，我曾投入鑽研宗教，研究世上某些偉大的道統——印度教、佛教，以及美國原住民教義。我對生命之網絡、人際間的關係、一切導向聖境的禮儀和禱告儀式，都深感興趣。

做為一個年輕人，我經由在麻塞諸塞州的印度瑜珈精舍住過一段時間，讀印度經，並學瑜珈和奧義文，而加深了我對宗教的研究。

在紐約州我遇到一名印地安女巫醫，她收我

I was born into a Roman Catholic family in Sault Ste. Marie, Canada to immigrant parents.

From childhood, I loved the Roman Catholic liturgy - the Gregorian Chant, the pipe organ and the sacred texts sung in Latin... Early on, I developed a very profound connection to the Virgin Mary, which has stayed with me until present day.

One of my grandmothers's sisters was a Catholic Charismatic. She was deeply involved in leading prayers for the sick and hands on healing. My mother was a housekeeper to a Roman Catholic priest in her later years. I grew up surrounded by ritual, ceremony and deep faith, which was to create the foundation of who I am today.

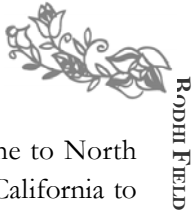
In December 1997, I drove off a cliff - both literally and figuratively. I had been on my way to morning prayers at Karma Maha Siddhi Ling, a Buddhist monastery high in the mountains above Palm Springs, CA. This incident was to forever transform my life. I had picked up a hitchhiker along the way, a shivering middle-aged woman in a cloth coat, who had offered this disturbing warning when I dropped her off "Don't drive off the cliff today..."

I had spent my late teens and early twenties immersed in religious studies of some of the world's great traditions- Hinduism, Buddhism and Native American teachings. I was deeply interested in the web of life, our interconnectedness, ritual and the liturgy of all paths to the Divine.

As a young adult, I had deepened my religious studies by living for periods of time at a Hindu Yoga Ashram in Massachusetts, studying the Hindu scriptures and learning yoga and ayurveda.

I met a Native Indian Medicine Woman who adopted me, and began to teach me the path of the Medicine Wheel and the four Directions - in New York State.





為徒，教給我「符咒方位輪」之道。

1990年代中期，達賴喇嘛蒞臨北美，我僕僕風塵地趕去加州親聆教諭。成年後的我，把自己安頓在佛教的修學上；因我覺得正是這些長久累積的學習，才將我引到了那兒。就我而言，佛教解開了我多年來一直累積心頭的疑團、難題。

由於車禍後遺症的緣故，整整一年，我生活於無休無止的慢性頑痛中。既擔心自己心理上無能為繼，又深為焦慮、失眠的折磨所苦；於是在1998年的12月24日前往加拿大，到多倫多的某天主教堂展開了一段朝聖之旅，以求減除令我衰弱的痛楚。在天主教中，供奉著耶穌、瑪麗亞和各聖者的神龕前，皆置有信徒的許願小蠟燭，以供人點燃做治療之用；我燃亮一根蠟燭，虔心祈禱……

後來發生之事，絕對令我準備不及。

當天夜裡，有位長袍人來入我夢，要我籌辦一個聯合信仰大會——將信仰與文化各異的人集中一處——共同讚頌一神。

我認出夢中述及的文章，出自十三世紀波斯帝國(今之阿富汗)的一位神秘主義家。他是中東國家公認的聖人，他的名字是梅波蘭那·耶拉路丁·魯米，簡稱「魯米」——在西方亦是備受推崇與喜愛。

說也奇怪，魯米，這位在西元1207年的波斯神秘家，過去20年內，在北美他的書竟然比莎士比亞還要暢銷，成為當今美國最受喜愛的詩人。

我發狂了，我該如何來解析夢中的含義呢？我不知道籌辦此事跟療治我全身的創痛有何關聯，可是無論如何，我決定放手一試。

我打聽到，科爾曼·巴克斯是西方世界翻譯魯米的佼佼者，他也是喬治亞大學的名譽教授；我問他可願來多倫多，在我籌辦的大會擔任主講。他毫不遲疑說道：「好啊！我願意。」現在輪到我犯疑了，老天！天天跟劇痛奮戰的我，如何能完全振作起來，使此事順利完成呢？

好了，科里曼·巴克斯確實來到多倫多。很多奇蹟出現了，上千名不同文化、宗派和信仰背景的人都來參加了這個盛會，不只一晚，連續兩晚客滿。

When His Holiness the Dalai Lama came to North America in the mid 1990's, I traveled out to California to receive teachings from him.

I settled on the practice of Buddhism as an adult, as I felt that all my studies thus far had led me there. To me, Buddhism answered many of the disturbing questions that had built up in my heart over the years.

As a result of injuries sustained in the car crash, I lived in chronic unrelenting pain for a full year, with no respite. Fearing I could not go on mentally, burdened by anxiety, sleeplessness and suffering, I made a pilgrimage to a Catholic church in Toronto, Canada Dec. 24th, 1998 seeking healing and relief from the debilitating pain I found myself in. In Catholicism, there are shrines to the various saints, and to Jesus and Mary, with small votive candles that can be lit for the purpose of healing intervention. I lit a candle and prayed with all my heart...

Nothing could have prepared me for what happened next.

A robed figure appeared in a dream that very night, and instructed me to organize an event of interfaith unity - bringing together peoples of different faiths and cultures - all in praise of the One.

I recognized the writings spoken in the dream as coming from a 13th century Mystic from the Persian Empire (present day Afghanistan.) He is considered a Saint in Middle Eastern countries; his name is Mevlana Jellaludin Rumi or simply Rumi, as he is known and loved in the West.

Strangely enough, Rumi, a Mystic from Persia in 1207 AD, has outsold Shakespeare in North America for the past two decades, becoming the best-loved poet in America today.

I was beside myself. How was I to interpret the meaning of this dream? I had no idea what organizing an event had to do with healing my extensive injuries, but I decided to give it a go anyway.

I tracked down the world's leading translator of Rumi in the West - Coleman Barks, a Professor Emeritus at the University of Georgia, and asked if he would come to Toronto to be the keynote speaker at this event I was to organize. He did not hesitate in saying, "Yes! I'll do it," which left me wondering how in heaven's name I was to pull it all off, with the immense pain and challenges I lived with daily.

Well, Coleman Barks did come to Toronto, miracles abounded and we had a full house, not one but two nights



不曉得什麼緣故，製作這個展覽會的帳單都付清了。有天早晨醒來，我發現受傷處的疼痛消失了——從此不復受。我被指點做一個工作，我想不通它為我此生恢復健康有何關係；但回顧之下，完成這個工作已賦予我一個新的願景、任務和目的。

全世界靈內信仰最大的廣播網——加拿大電視台的製作人來參加此一現場大會，此因緣成就了他創作一輯關於「魯米」的生活、工作及作品的報導影片。

我所做的這件事，至今為止，是我生命中一個最大的禮物，這影片名為「魯米——轉為欣喜」；自此影片2005年秋天完成以來，我很榮幸能將它攜往圖書館、大學院校、各教派教堂，以及各個教育體系。

其他奇蹟紛沓而來，如：各方贊助影片的捐款，以及數位世界知名的研究魯米的學者不僅接受我的訪談，最後還出現在影片中——有牛津學者安德魯·哈維、獲得聯合國獎的建築師納德·卡利利、「入門協會」創始人，暨數種魯米書籍的出版者凱比爾和卡米利·赫爾明斯基，當然還有柯里曼·巴克斯。

關於這位如此契合當今時勢潮流的中東聖者，他的生平如何呢？魯米生於十三世紀的「聖戰時期」——成吉思汗征戰歐洲十字軍。儘管形勢如此，那時，正在土耳其埃肯寧（他家逃難至此）的大學擔任教席的他，依然以其徹底的忍耐、悲憫、堅定的信仰，與尊重信仰，而名重一時。以下幾行詩句，摘自魯米廣為人所傳誦的四行詩之一：

「超越對錯的觀念，自有一片天地

我將與你在那裏相會。

一旦你的心靈憩息在那片草地，

觀念、語言，乃至文字

彼此不存在任何意義……」

在這段旅途開始之時，我除了13年前在美國參加過一個心靈饗宴，聽到過他對神熱烈的頌歌之外；對於這位神秘詩人，我可以說是所知甚少。

如今，我已然了解——過去這五年間，尤其自9/11以來，由於基本教義派、恐怖主義、對聖典的曲解，這個世界，渴望一個和平、包容及尊重各種

in a row. Over 1,000 people of all cultures, creeds and faiths attended the event.

Somehow, all the bills got paid for producing the show, and one morning I woke up to find the pain of my injuries- gone - never to return. I had been directed to a task, which I could not figure out for the life of me what it had to do with my healing, but in retrospect, fulfilling that task has given me a new vision, mission and purpose.

A producer from Canada's Vision TV, the world's largest network of interfaith programming, attended the live event and planted the seed to create a documentary film on the life, the work and the writings of Rumi.

This I did, which has been the single greatest gift of my life, thus far. The film is titled: *Rumi - Turning Ecstatic*, and I have had the honor of bringing it into libraries, universities, churches of all denominations, and the separate school system since completing it in Fall 2005.

Even more miracles abounded, as funding for the film came together from diverse sources, and several world renowned scholars of Rumi granted me interviews and eventually appeared in the film - Andrew Harvey, an Oxford Scholar, U.N. Award-winning architect Nader Khalili, Kabir and Camille Helminski, founders of the Threshold Society and publisher of many of Rumi's books, and of course- Coleman Barks.

So what is it about this Middle Eastern Saint that is so timely for the current state of affairs in the world?

Rumi was born into a time of Holy Wars in the 13th C. - Genghis Khan and the European Crusaders. Even so, he was renowned widely in his position of professorship at the University in Iconium, Turkey (where his family fled to) for his profound tolerance, compassion, unshakeable faith and interfaith respect. A few lines from one of Rumi's widely read quatrains:

“Out beyond ideas of wrong doing and right doing,
there is a field.

I will meet you there.

When the soul lies down in that grass, ideas, language,
even the words

each other don't make any sense……”

When this journey began, I had very little exposure to this Mystic Poet, other than hearing his ecstatic love praise to God at a spiritual conference I attended thirteen years earlier, in the U.S.

Now I understood that with all the fundamentalism,





信仰的聲音。在當今之世已有許多呼聲——德雷莎修女、甘地、馬丁路德、曼德拉——對此作出呼應的正是生於回教國家的魯米，與今日東西方因恨意而激起滿佈折衝與協商的岌岌可危戰場。

魯米是伊斯蘭世界凸顯和平的聲音。聖母瑪麗亞為回教徒與基督徒共同敬奉。聖母瑪麗亞、塔拉、聖女——以其無所不知、深慈大悲，通過我的手與心，照亮了罕為人知的神秘主義——在中東博得衷心的愛戴與尊敬。

常被找來拉開揪鬥中的孩子的人，不正是母親嗎？為創口敷藥、推動搖籃、給予慰藉，在需要時刻，施與強勁愛護——如當孩子把單車騎上街頭如水的車流，不惜刮他一耳光的，不也是母親嗎？

在佛教中，我從老師處學到——倘若我們能夠認出彼此——在輪迴中，我們或為他人的母親；如此一來，我們哪會對任何眾生產生貪求、仇恨或敵對的感覺——因為在這個大輪迴的過現未來中，他們也有機會成為我們的母親。

對我來說，聖母塔拉與基督教、伊斯蘭教的聖母瑪麗亞一體無二——沒有差別，來自同一意識流。

我真的心知，我們正邁入一個充滿不確定以及雜亂無章的世紀——若欲全身得還，我們需要極佳的鑑識力、勇氣、力量和指引。靈修與鮮活的良師並不奢侈，二者皆為亂世之所需。

唵 他惹 特他惹 特惹 娑訶—聖母請來救我們。

編按：國際科文教組織定今年為魯米年，並於紀念他八百歲冥壽，梅波蘭那·耶拉路丁·魯米是回教最偉大的詩人、哲學家和學者。

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terrorism, misinterpretation of the holy writings that have gone on these past five years in particular since 9/11, that the world is starved for a voice of peace, tolerance and interfaith respect. While many voices of this century could fit this description - Mother Teresa, Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Mandela, it is Rumi that was born into Islam and it is all the hatred between the East and West today that is stirring up such a mine field of treacherous navigation, and negotiation.

Rumi is an emerging voice of peace from within Islam. The Virgin Mary is revered by both Muslims and Christians alike. The Virgin Mary/Tara/The Divine Feminine - who in all her knowing and ocean of compassion and mercy, has shone light on a little known Mystic through my hands and my heart - happens to have a profound amount of clout and respect in the Middle East.

Is it not the mother who is constantly called upon to pull fighting children apart? Is it not the mother who anoints wounds, cradles and gives solace and who dispenses tough love as needed, such as cuffing a child's ears who has cycled out into busy traffic?

In Buddhism, I was taught by my teachers that if we all recognized each other as being one another's mother at some point in our reincarnations, then we could not possibly feel greed or hatred or malice for any human being - as they are now, had been, or will be our mother at some point in the great wheel of reincarnation.

For me, Holy Mother Tara and the Virgin Mary of Christianity and Islam are one and the same - no difference, just emanations from the same stream of consciousness.

I really have come to know in my own heart, that the era of uncertainly and chaos we are moving into needs exceptional illumination, courage, strength and guidance to get us all through in one piece. A spiritual practice and a living teacher are not a luxury, but a necessity in these perilous times.

Om Tare Tuttare Ture Soha - Holy Mother please come to our rescue.

Editor's Note: 2007 is designated the year of RUMI by UNESCO. A day of commemoration is organized at UNESCO on 6 September 2007 to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the birth of Mawlana Jalal-ud-Din Balkhi-Rumi, one of the greatest poets, philosophers and scholars of the Islamic civilization. The author reserves all rights to this article. Please go to www.rumi-turningecstatic.com to contact her.

