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- *Responding to those who feel isolated, fearful, and disrespected*

The power that is God's presence for all is with you.

You are filled with a desire to grow in the most significant ways possible within the experience of human life. You are embraced by God, and you are embraced in spirit by all those for whom you pray and by all those spirits of whom you know nothing. It is like a giant chorus that you belong to, and in your singing, you are joining with many others who are sharing the journey of discovery, the journey of love, the journey of being vulnerable.

Human life, in the end, is not to be experienced in a total isolation of awareness. You can be isolated physically, and yet you are never isolated emotionally, for even in physical isolation, you are aware of the presence of others. Human life is a life to be shared. You can share in your life through your proximity physically and emotionally. A life lived by what seems to be a solitary nature is never solitary.

There are, of course, those who seek to define God in a very private and singular manner which to others may appear to be totally withdrawn from interaction with other human beings, but such a commitment to life through seeming isolation is not a commitment to complete isolation. Those who seek to be separate are indeed experiencing a community of spirit that is invisible and yet nonetheless real.

There are also those whose lives seem to be in isolation not of their own choosing, but isolation from society through illness or other conditions beyond their control. That isolation is only a kind of visible isolation. Certainly, it can be experienced as loneliness, and yet despite that experience, they are surrounded just as you are with a strength, with a community of souls that is always present and always empowered to support, to embrace, to direct, to soothe, to teach, to inspire.

The experience of human life is vast in its diversity, but certain realities are never far away. Certain realities are never totally separated from that life, for there are those always who care, who remember, who cherish. Caring, remembering, and cherishing can exist totally independent of physical proximity. The spiritual strength that exists is nevertheless always present.

Your life is not characterized by such isolation, and yet you experience moments in life when you feel separated in some way, when you feel alone on some level. These are times when it is easy to lose that sense of spiritual presence, that sense that you are held in the palm of the hand, that you are lifted up, that you are given strength, and you are given vision. That sense of isolation can be felt individually but can also be felt collectively.

Your nation at the moment is experiencing a societal imposition of isolation. The force, the energy, that is exerted to separate, to divide, to expel is a strong force, and those who live in fear experience a kind of forced isolation. Many feel there is no

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support. Many feel there is no understanding. Many feel there is no care, no love, no compassion, no recognition of dignity. That imposed isolation leads to unconsolable despair and bitterness for many.

So, the question comes to the fore: in the minds of those who feel isolated, where is God? Where is justice? Where is the sense of mutual respect if not mutual agreement? How is it that one may find a balance and a view that God is present?

That presence can be made whole, made concrete, through the actions of others. Gestures of compassion, gestures of caring, are not lost. When you exercise compassion, care, concern, respect, when you exercise a sense of dignity toward others, those responses provide undeniable evidence of God being present. When there is recognition of that presence, there is no space remaining for a feeling of total isolation. It is what you can do that makes a difference. It is in speaking out and being supportive of those who are separated from others that such separation loses some of its sting.

Where is God when there is isolation? It is in you. God is in others. God is in the response even more powerfully than in the sense of loss of those who are suffering.

We say you are surrounded by your guides and the spirits of all. You are surrounded because God's power is a power of caring, and when you surround others who feel separated or isolated with your caring, then you are equally the presence of God as we, your guides whom you cannot see and only somehow sense or feel. It is always important in your life to stand for whatever affirms, whatever recognizes the dignity and equality of all people. That is where God is when people feel separated from one another and ultimately feel separated from any reality of God's presence.

You live to serve. You live to love. You live to embrace. You live to affirm the dignity of all life. You live to recognize that beauty we spoke of. You learn to speak of what you know to be true. That truth is based on the equality of all.

There are certainly many who believe in a truth that emphasizes supremacy of one over another. They speak of that as the truth. It is the truth that they see, but with a more open heart, you see a very different truth. You see the reality that all belong to the same entity. You see through an understanding that there is no ultimate strength experienced through domination. The real strength is the strength of spirit, and that spirit is a strength of a loving relationship with others because you have seen even a glimpse of the sacredness that permeates all.

It is understandable that human beings can be consumed by judgmental attitudes against forces opposed to one's sense of the truth. You believe what you believe. Your neighbor believes what your neighbor believes. Another society, another culture believes what it believes, but how does one sort out one belief or another as having a profound basis in Truth with a capital T?

A belief based on a loving acknowledgment of the sacredness of all is a belief based on the Truth that is supported and given strength by the presence of the Spirit

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Center. When you are rocked by opposing beliefs, ask yourself, "Does this encourage my love for all others?" That is the litmus test to determine what beliefs are built on the profound truth of God's presence in your world.

You are never isolated. You are never alone. You are never separated from this all-encompassing, loving presence that you label as God. You are never alone. You are never truly isolated although you may feel that separation. You belong to the creation of God, and therefore you belong to all that God is, not just the creation. There is nothing in your life that does not belong to the Spirit Center, to God.

Yes, you can feel anger. You can feel impatient. You can experience hatred. You can exercise judgment, but you still belong to God. You are still godly, for within you is that spark, that essence, that is God's presence, and it is that essence that can provide strength as you reach out with heart vision to embrace those who are experiencing such profound loneliness.

We are not saying that human life is not in the end a joyful life, but we are saying that human life provides an opportunity for the most important growth that is possible, the growth of love, the growth of spirit, the growth of compassion, the growth of embracing, the growth of uplifting, the growth of giving dignity to all and acknowledging that reality in all ways. It is in that acknowledgment that you surround life around you just as we, your guides and all spirits, surround and illuminate your life.

You are part of that continuum, that continuum of caring and loving that begins with the Spirit Center and emanates outward to all. Feel your connection to all through that Spirit. Look for evidence of its presence in your life, and open your heart, your heart vision, that you may embrace and love.

You are blessed in that vision. You are blessed in the embrace. You are blessed in the love.

Amen.