

How Mari Received A Course of Love

Mari discovered *A Course in Miracles* in 1996.

I read about ACIM in a newspaper article that did not name it as a book that came in the voice of Jesus. When I started reading it, I still didn't realize that it was, and when I became aware of it I didn't believe it. But by then I wasn't about to put the book down because I felt everything in it was Truth with a capital T. . . . After a while I started to figure maybe it really was Jesus.

She was enthralled. Although usually Mari voraciously read many books, for two years she read little other than *A Course in Miracles*, many times through, especially the Text. Well over a year before she actually heard the voice, preparation had begun. Mari says:

A Course of Love began with a dream. The dream came to me in July of 1997. In the dream, I heard, You can no longer sell your mind for money. Your mind now belongs to God.

Months of soul-searching followed. Eventually Mari left her job and held herself ready—for what, she had no idea. After nine months and much financial uncertainty she considered going back to work, but an inner knowing kept telling her that she “had work to do for God.” Then her friend Mary shared a dream in which she saw “a new course in miracles.” Mari felt that somehow Mary’s dream was an announcement of the work to come—a work so monumental that Mari had been unable to accept signs that now, looking back, had pointed toward this scribing work all along. A week later, on December 1, 1998, Mari began to “hear” the voice.

*As soon as I heard the familiar voice of Jesus, not as I remembered it from my youth or the Bible, but as I remembered it from many readings of *A Course in Miracles*, I was awestruck by the task set before me. For the next three years, I dedicated myself to receiving the three books that combine to deliver this new message.*

Referring to Mari, Jesus said that “the first receiver of these words can ‘hear’ these words as thoughts. Keep in mind that she has thoughts she is not thinking.”
(D:12.7)

How the Book is Organized

A Course of Love was received in three distinct sections, or “books”—**the Course**, **the Treatises**, and **the Dialogues**. With this Combined Volume all three sections are brought together for the first time.

- **The Course** complements the thought system of ACIM by establishing wholeheartedness, an integration of mind and heart, allowing them to work together to create a state of unity which can be experienced.
- **The Treatises** are four in number: A Treatise on the Art of Thought; A Treatise on the Nature of Unity and Its Recognition; A Treatise on the Personal Self; and A Treatise on the New. *“You stand at the beginning, with a Self now devoid of the meaninglessness you attempted to assign to it. You stand empty of untruth and about to embark on the journey of truth. You stand in the transformational moment between the unreal and the real.”* (T3:2.10)
- **The Dialogues** are a catalyst for sweeping changes through a profound, highly personal call back to Self, utilizing the preparation provided in the first two Books. In “The Forty Days and Forty Nights” you ascend the mountain with Jesus as an equal, sharing in companionship and dialogue as you prepare to return to level ground as a new Self. *“As you engage in dialogue...your ability to embrace all while focusing on your own purpose will begin a new process of individuation. You are now ready to reclaim your Self.”*
- **The Foreword**, written by the editor, presents the story of how ACOL came to be.
- **The Introduction**, beginning on page 1, was received by Mari Perron on Valentine’s Day, 2006, several years after she received ACOL itself, and as she was preparing to self-publish ACOL as a series of three volumes. It was evidently intended to introduce ACOL.
- **The Addendum, Learning in the Time of Christ** was received by Mari Perron in 2003, as she prepared The Treatises and The Dialogues for initial publication. It was evidently intended as an aid to the reader, and also anticipated the formation of discussion groups.