

## HOLY WOMEN COMPANIONS: Deborah and Rigoberta Manchu

### Voices of Justice

#### Deborah (Old Testament)



Deborah, a woman of fire, enthusiasm, and inspiring speech, was a judge (the only woman among the 12 OT judges), a peacemaker, a warrior, a poet and of course a great prophet. She ruled with both a rationale and compassionate mind and heart. As the biblical narrative goes, she helped lead the Israelites against the Canaanites who had oppressed the Israelites for twenty years. Her story reminds us to remain in touch with the divine in ourselves, not permitting our ego to disconnect our souls from the sacred within us and about us.

*“God, and let those who love You be like the sun, when it emerges in all its strength.” Judges 5:31*

**Reflection Questions:** How do I temper my voice of judgment to insure that it is of God? Who and what do I allow to influence me in my decision-making? What keeps my ego in check?

#### Rigoberta Menchu (1959 -



Rigoberta Menchú Tum is a K'iche' Guatemalan human rights activist, feminist, and Nobel Peace Prize laureate. Menchú has dedicated her life to publicizing the rights of Guatemala's Indigenous peoples during and after the Guatemalan Civil War, and to promoting Indigenous rights internationally. In 1981 she was exiled and escaped to Mexico. She continued to organize resistance to oppression in Guatemala and organize the struggle for Indigenous rights by co-founding the United Republic of Guatemalan Opposition.

*“I am like a drop of water on a rock. After drip, drip, dripping in the same place, I begin to leave a mark, and I leave my mark in many people's hearts. When you are convinced your cause is just, you fight for it.”*

**Reflection Questions:** How have I experienced the loneliness of taking an unpopular position on a key issue or concern? How does my belief in the Divine support that aloneness?

**Prayer:** All-knowing God, you are God and I am not, though your very spark is within me. May the voice of your spirit as it is revealed through people and events guide me in my decision-making – especially when it significantly impacts the lives of others. May it be so. AMEN!

