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Sent: Monday, March 25, 2013 11:09 PM

To: Donna

Subject: Passover, Easter.....

Dear Friends of Nikki,

This week I am once again grieving for the death of someone I believe loved me even before I was born. I am a Christian, as most of you know, and I am referring to Jesus. I relive His last week each year, as I do my own beloved family members, who too have left this earth in physical form. I, in no way, wish to compare the horrendous death of Christ with my four-legged kids. And I'm not. But death is a teacher, and because of our experiences with it we grow and change, I believe for the better. Yesterday the priest said "He died for us, and He was born for us". They ,too, seem to be born for us, don't they? As difficult as death and grief is to experience, there is a certain wondrous-ness to suffering. It's understanding is a mystery that requires faith, not concrete proof. Having that faith, believing that I will once again be united with all whom I've loved, makes my path a little easier. Well, maybe a lot easier. I believe that Ziggy, Nikki, Danni, Doogie, and Jolie are with God in Heaven, and that I will one day join them. I understand and respect that not all of you share my belief. The important thing is to find some way to view death as an acceptable part of life. Our animal companions do. This does not mean you will not hurt and grieve. It just reduces the negative power death often holds over us, controlling our existence, and gives meaning even to separation.

Whether you are honoring the Miracles of Passover or Easter, you are offered a clean slate, a fresh start. Take the love and gifts your animal or human companions have left you with, and start anew. Even grief can be done positively.

Wishing each of you a blessed Spring season,

Donna