

No man can prove the worth of his essence to another
Truth, perception and reality bound
In the strings of now

The Interpretation

The traveler and his young student went to discover the middle way. Together they went back into the traveler's familiar territory, back among the people. The traveler went into a shelter that the poor were using to escape the elements. There were other helpers there, some proving counsel, others offering food. The traveler noticed a woman huddled in the corner of the building sobbing and he asked one of the helpers if he knew what troubled her. The helper responded that she was a regular customer and had been for many years. She was known to do this "crying in the corner". He then said, "Nothing we have done has helped her so we leave her to cry. Eventually she will come out of the corner, get something to eat and talk a little. No one has been able to talk to her while she is crying and any attempt has been met with louder crying and sometimes anger."

The traveler slowly walked over to the lady in the corner, while his student watched from a distance. As the traveler approached the eyes of the other helpers were focused on him and the woman in the corner as they all waited for the inevitable.

No one could hear what words were shared between the two people sitting in the corner. But to everyone's surprise the lady was talking with the traveler. They talked for

quite some time and then the traveler stood, she stood, and they shared a parting embrace. For the first time anyone could remember the corner lady had a smile on her face.

As the traveler came back to his student the helper asked, “What did you say to her? I have never seen her so happy?”

The traveler responded, “We walked together past her suffering and now she has found some peace where there was none before.”

The helper said, “We all work here to help people move beyond their suffering, but we have never been able to help this lady. What did you do special?”

“I did nothing”, said the traveler, and then said, “I am sorry I cannot talk longer but I must leave to meditate.”

The student knew that after a dramatic healing event the traveler often took time to meditate. It was explained to the student that this cleansing was a necessary part of helping others. The student had noticed that sometimes the traveler would engage in a quiet breathing for a few minutes after helping someone and then return to helping others. At other times the traveler would enter a deeper state of calmness in which he stayed for hours. The traveler told the student that he needed some time alone and the student knew that he needed to leave.

The student left the traveler and was headed back to the shelter when a very attractive woman stopped him, introducing herself as Marion and as a student of the traveler. She asked if the student if he was studying with the traveler and asked what had

just happened. The student explained and Marion asked if she could accompany him. The student agreed.

When Marion and the student arrived the lady seemed quite excited about what had just happened and the helpers were firing questions at her trying to understand her transformation. The student could hear her saying, *“I don’t know what he did. One minute I was feeling terrible and the next I was feeling good. It has never happened before. It was like he knew everything about me and for a moment I was scared and then the suffering seemed to fade away.”*

“What do you mean he knew everything about you? Had you met him before?”, asked one helper.

“No, I had never seen him before.”

“Then why did you feel he knew you?”

“He said things about how I was feeling and why I was crying, things that only I knew deep in my heart.”

“Are you saying that this stranger walked over to you and entered into your deeply private self, a part of you kept hidden from view?”

“Yes!”

“I think that is a violation of trust and personal rights. There is no way I would have allowed it to happen.”

“But after I talked with him I sort of wanted it to happen.”

“That was because he forced himself upon you and made it happen.”

“It didn’t feel that way to me.”

“And then he hypnotized you to feel good about the experience and to not say anything bad about what happened.”

“I didn’t feel hypnotized. I felt like I was in control of everything that happened. I was in charge of the experience.”

A second helper asked, “Well, if he didn’t hypnotize you then what did he do? We were all too far away to hear anything said. I did notice that at one time he moved closer to you. Perhaps he did something then that made you feel different.”

“I remember when he moved closer. We were talking about my crying and the deep sadness I was carrying. I wanted to run away from him and then he asked if he could move a bit closer. I said yes. Even though I felt like running there was something in this man that I trusted. I felt that his moving closer was comforting, a way of keeping me safe in my suffering.”

“Then what happened?”

“He described my suffering in details that I thought only I knew.”

“That must have been very frightening.”

“A little at first, but I was glad that finally, after all these years, someone knew me, saw the real me, even the darkest parts. There was some comfort in this even though I was scared.”

“What did he do next?”

“He asked me if I wanted to stop suffering and I said yes.”

“Did he tell you how he was going to accomplish this?”

“Not at first, but then he said that all I had to do was to believe that healing was possible and to trust that he would help me discover what that meant.”

“Did he say that you had to believe in healing miracles?”

“No.”

“Did he say that you had to believe in him or his abilities to heal?”

“No.”

“All he asked is if you believed healing was possible and if you trusted the relationship between you and him?”

“Yes, exactly!”

“Did he ask you to do anything else?”

“Well after I said I thought healing was possible and that I trusted him, he asked me to take a deep breath and relax.”

“Then what happened?”

“Then everything changed. It was as if a great weight was lifted off of my chest. The whole world looked different. I wasn’t crying anymore. I became as you see me now.”

“Did he say anything or doing anything else?”

“No.”

“It sounds very strange to me. I have never heard of anything like this. I wasn’t taught things like this in school. How could he do nothing and then have something like this happen?”, said a third helper.

“I don’t know. But I do know that I have changed. There can be no doubt of that”, responded the lady.

“Perhaps it was your time to change. Perhaps it was all stored inside of you and finally released by this stranger. It could have been any stranger. You were ready, it needed to happen, and so it happened.”

“But it didn’t feel like that to me. I have always felt stuck behind so many walls. Yes I knew those walls. All the helpers in my life have showed them to me. I was told about ways around the walls, but I was never shown. I had never experienced what it was like on the other side. So how could I be ready for something I didn’t know? He showed me the other side. Now I can say that I am ready, but before this experience I was not.”

Another helper said, “I agree that he didn’t do anything. That makes perfect sense to me because it was all a process of self-healing. The mind is a powerful tool for self-healing and I think that he didn’t do anything. You healed yourself.”

The lady responded, *“I believe that I was a part of the process and that without my permission to engage in the process nothing would have happened. But giving permission is not the same as accomplishing the task by myself. For years I have been giving helpers permission to help me – without success. If I had the potential to heal myself then why didn’t it happen before? I think it was because I did not know what ‘healing myself’ felt like. That is why healing had always escaped me. Once I was able to experience healing,, to know then where to direct my self-healing, then the abilities I had deep within me seem to rise to the surface.”*

The student of the traveler left the shelter. Marion stayed with the lady to share in the journey and the lady was deeply thankful. The student found the traveler still in

meditation. He sat near him and joined him in meditation, happy to have been part of such an experience.

Don't hide the sadness of seeing those in the dark
Feel but do not change to fit them
Reach out and stay One

Feel the pain of the compassionate and tender soul
Smile with the twinkle of a star and
Cry in the arms of friends.

Being

A pebble thrown ripples the calm waters
Cradled in the palm brings stillness
Be the still stone

The fragrance of the rose, the evening sunset
The wind through crisp fall leaves
Being knows not defined

Each wall is unique but built of our stones
Humanity shares these stones
Yet each is unique

To clearly see is to be alone and connected
A heart filled with gentle wisdom
Being one's calling

For the light to shine the best must become dull
The first - last, the fighter - peacemaker
Seen and forgotten

Inner storms yield their own predictions
Lightning mixes with gentle breezes
Guided and not planned

Knowing and doing and then being are separate
Answering the wind knocking at our door
We find nothingness

Peace

In the light of humility vision unfolds gently
Empathy shatters the dark soul
Eating without food

So calm, brilliant, without judgment
Penetrating the soul with peace
Calling us to grow

The fire never dies nor do the flames consume
Warm your hands by the fire
Sit and rest in peace

Expect nothing, remove craving, and seek quality
Not settled, a quiet peace, improving
One with all that is

Believers in darkness see it as truth, the light false
Can't see the forest for the trees
Can't see inner peace

Seeking inner peace is seeking the divine light
Filled with the light is to be called
Wrenching and uplifting

The self dies so that the light can shine outward
Letting go continually revisited
Peace without struggle

The Flow

The language of life, a voice of wisdom
It ripples through all existence
A force touching souls

An eagle freely soars on nature's turbulent winds
A natural flow guides the flight of freedom
Out of the nest - free

Beauty moves through strength in mind and body
The strong survive the onslaught
Harmony brings health

The hand does not cause the fruit to ripen
But it is there to provide help
Let go and balance

The mind view cannot know the soul or heart views
The deaf do not hear the sweet sound
The blind remain so

Our technology outpaces our morality
Rationalization applied
God absent

As leaves in the stream pulled and tossed by the flow
Courses change, time yields wisdom
The quiet pool

The Search

The traveler began to search for this middle way between the path Paul had chosen and the path the traveler had come to know. He started his search where he had been traveling for years, with the people in need.

The traveler helped many people. He met a man who was clearly suffering from a back injury. They talked and the man agreed to receive help from the traveler. He then helped the man experience relief from his suffering. The traveler met a woman who was suffering from mental illness and helped her find relief. The traveler also helped drug users find different paths from their suffering. In all this work the traveler saw that there was suffering, then there was the relief from suffering. He sought to understand how this happened.

Somewhere inside the volumes written on healing there should be information to help him understand. He wanted to find that middle way between being and knowing. He began his search in the library, in the history of man's search for enlightenment. The traveler hoped that the books from men's hearts would reflect their understanding of the middle way. After his first year studying the traveler met a young man who was continually in the same section of the library, reading similar books.

One day the traveler spoke to the young man, “I have seen you here many days. What is it that you are studying?”

The young student, responded, “I am studying about man’s relationship with God.”

Curious, the traveler asked, “I, too, am looking to know about the way to Him. What have you discovered so far?”

“I have found the words of a wise teacher who stated that he was the way, and he describes how to live a life that would bring one closer to God”, the student responded with enthusiasm.

Pausing, the traveler then commented that he had found similar writings by many wise men. The student argued that his teacher professed to speak of the only way to know God and that all other paths were journeys leading away from God.

The traveler asked, “Does your teacher describe some basic guidelines to help us understand this way?”

The student described two: love God with all your being, and love others, as you would have them love you. The traveler again stated that these descriptions of the way could be found in many writings. The student then responded that his teacher spoke words that touched his heart and helped him feel closer to God. They were words he had shared with others who also professed to be moved and changed.

“How does this change occur?” asked the traveler.

The student described the change as one of belief in the divine way, of receiving a connection to a universal healing force that is part of the relationship between man and God. This can happen with the aid of someone who has been healed and is following the divine way. Without this divine way and the connection, the healing transformation will not occur. The traveler again had to point out that this description was found in the writings of many teachers. The traveler also spoke of how the writings had moved people across the globe toward a healthier state of being. The student, a bit irritated now, said that many of the other people were not moved that they were living a delusion because they did not accept his master as their only teacher.

In a calm voice the traveler asked, “How do you know that they are living this delusion? Who makes the judgment that this is a delusion?”

The student said, almost forcefully, “They can not have found the true way to a relationship with God. They do not speak of the words of my teacher and they do not believe in him. My teacher speaks of people who are lost, apart from a relationship with God, because they do not know the way. Some may profess to know, but if they are not following the divine path described by my teacher then they are lost and doomed to a life of torture. They are living the delusion that they have found the way but they have not. Ultimately, only God can judge that nature of man’s relationship to God. But those of us who follow the divine way of my master

have been given the mission to teach others not to live a life of delusion, but rather to strive toward a better relationship with God by accepting the master's teachings."

"Striving toward a better relationship with God is a universal part of man's teachings. Would you agree that this relationship one seeks to form with God must be personal. Must it not come from the depths of one's being?" inquired the traveler.

"Absolutely", said the student.

"Would you also agree that each of us has a uniqueness, an identity, and that no two people are exactly alike?" stated the traveler. The student nodded and the traveler continued emphasizing that one's relationship with God must be personal, and must be personally understood, and then personally integrated. In addition, because God offers us that which is infinite we can only touch upon the nature of this personal relationship. As we touch upon it we then seek to understand its nature. As we seek to understand we also personally integrate the pieces of what we have come to know about God's relationship into our own lives. This integration process is how we learn to live the way, and show it to others through our being. This process of integrating the knowledge of God's relationship must be interpretive because it is connected to the depths of our personal being. There is no perfect solution to this integration process for it is the process itself that is unique to each person. It is this process that is very much a part of the way.

The student, appearing perplexed, then stated, "I can't believe that everything is an interpretation. This would mean that anyone's interpretation of God's

relationship could be correct. There must be a set of rules to judge what is an incorrect interpretation. If we can apply these rules then we can help people to see the right way to God.”

“The idea that rules could be applied to man’s quest for a relationship with God suggests that the rule maker knows the mind of God,” the traveler said. “I agree that rules can be established to address human behavior, and I agree that teachers with wisdom can share their insights after decades of seeking the way, but I do not think that any man can place rules on how another person forms their personal relationship with God. There are many sources of suffering linked to this idea of man as the rule keeper over one’s relationship with God. Instead the teacher of the way is only to serve as a guide for others on a journey and to meet others on their path, sharing their views. The supplies we carry during the journey are empathy and wisdom, which are woven together as they are shared.” The traveler then returned to his stacks of books, not saying another word.

So immersed in his studies was the traveler that he didn’t hear the footsteps behind him, and was startled by the tap on his shoulder. He turned around to see Marion. He quickly stood and they hugged as a light filled the room the student looked over and said, “Hey, none of that in here – this is a library.”

Seeking the way is a deeply personal journey
We change ourselves and then see
In seeing we become

Learning

Creative innovation can be found through failure if
We allow ourselves the wisdom to see
And the heart to be

Inside the protection of our comfortable home
We see life through the windows
This is our reality

As man never finds his end then he remains endless
Awe, wonder, and discovery shine through
The darkness of ignorance

The forest walk guided by where we have been
Being as we allow ourselves to see and
Seeing as our being allows

Our eyes see what our mind perceives is reality
Awakening happens through expansion
Of perceived reality

Seek and you will find but stop and you will see
Struggling in the quicksand we die
Float quietly home

Problems like mountains containing passes to travel
Some are well lit and some are dangerous and
Some are well hidden

We cannot force the sun to shine nor be forced to see
Sit in peace and let the warmth be felt
Shine and be known

Memory, past feelings, can cast a warped reflection
Break the mirror and see the sky
Open the door wide