

# SISTER WHO'S PERSPECTIVE

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## Overview

I continue to define myself as an eclectic mystic; integrating all religions and reaching for a more basic sense of being human than any of them is individually able to embrace.

That being said, Christianity is simply the most familiar example, from which a frequent basis for individual and communal spiritual life is stated as "faith, hope, and love."

This month's essays offer some thoughts about forms in which faith can appear.

## Believing in Individual Life

Perhaps the most difficult part of every story, whether printed, video-recorded, or filmed, is including all of the dark moments which precede the climax, resolution, and happy ending. I try to remember that there is nearly always a moment when the primary characters do not know whether or how such a conclusion is even possible. Having done that, it only makes sense that my life may unfold in a similar way--reaching a happy ending only because I refused anything less.

Prior to such refusal, however, is also the more fundamental choice of truly believing in my own life. Failing to do so, conversely, invites addictions, distractions, and utterly meaningless moments when I abdicate all creative ability and potential--neither learning nor contributing anything at all. Everything which follows, in truth, begins with sufficiently believing in my own creative potential to try.

If I were truly as worthless as some may say, my efforts would always fail--but they don't. If I were truly as physically limited as some seem to think, my accomplishments would never exceed what is widely held to be the current human average--but they do. If it were ever true that I am incapable of making a difference within the lives of others, my very existence would be optional--but it is not.

If individuality didn't matter and communal

categorization were all that defined one's potential, I would rank among the greatest failures humanity has ever produced--but I don't. For all of the areas that money is assigned absolute control, my life experience would not have included numerous physical and experiential resources--but it has. For all of the adversarial forces, marginalization, and even exclusion I have endured, no one would have any awareness of who I am--but literally all around the world, people do.

Yet I do not consider myself to be in any way exceptional. I'm simply a person who is always willing to try; to do whatever good I can in whatever unconventional way I can and trust that somehow it makes a difference --because, judging by responses received, it does. I don't have any super-human abilities, know any top-level helpful administrators, or command any incomprehensibly large bank accounts--and somehow this doesn't matter.

What matters is that I have been born into this space and time to creatively do what only I can do, so that humanity may exceed any and all previous expectations--even if no other person on this planet agrees or in any way validates even the smallest portion of my perception or experience. What matters is that I fill any moment I traverse with as much love and wisdom as I can. What matters is that I utilize every moment I'm given, to strive to awaken, inspire, and empower each and every living creature around me.

I don't wait for anyone else to do what specifically I have been given opportunity to do. As special as I may be, although I don't see or understand myself that way, I consider that others may also be feeling that way and consequently need whatever inspiration or encouragement I am able to provide. As much as they may light my way, I need to be certain that I consistently light theirs.

Within Life, we might even find each other.

May one and all and everything, blessed and loved ever be.

## Believing in Communal Life

It is no stretch of any imagination that on certain occasions, particular resolutions may require unprecedented solidarity. Current systems of business and government, of course, have different values, goals, and operating dynamics, which in many cases are adversarial to any expression of basic humanity. As much as system change is essential, pursuing genuinely human forms of collaboration is equally so.

To the extent that satisfying the needs of any individual is considered optional, a community disempowers and sabotages its own health and growth. Within Christian biblical text, this idea is advanced within the Pauline use of metaphorical references to the human body to illustrate communal interrelationship. The oft-forgotten text of 12:21 of the first letter to the Corinthian church states, "The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!"

No matter how eccentric, unusual, or conversely conventional a person may seem to be, each and every one offers the larger community ways of engaging in growth and self-reflection which can only be integrated by placing a priority upon constructive and ongoing dialogue. Silencing any voice rather than engaging in intelligent integration, is inescapably self-sabotaging. The current preoccupation with addressing symptoms rather than causes, does enormous damage.

To believe that life extends beyond one's self and permeates a surrounding community in more extensive ways than one is aware, is a foundational dynamic essential to all subsequent interaction. To likewise believe that regardless of form or expression, life is inherently essential, permeates all positive relational dynamics. This so basic, however, that it is easy to overlook.

Having such beliefs, however, in no way removes them from accountability or public dialogue--which are in fact essential to these beliefs being maintained in their best and continually growing forms. An additional current adversarial circumstance is that both individuals and communities have been

allowed to flounder in ignorance rather move toward ever-greater empowerment. Love insists that this not be allowed to happen.

It is absolutely essential that communal muscles be exercised just as much as individual ones. Without such dynamic maintenance, current and future challenges become much more difficult to manage than they would otherwise be. The one who realizes this, responds by requiring the routines which maintain the surrounding community's ability to act.

Within the worst contrasting examples I have observed, public meetings have almost no attendance by any communal members concerned that effective dynamics and wise decisions are characteristic. Initially, public media attempted to fill this gap, as excessive complications made personal presence more difficult. There seems to be no disagreement at present, however, that effective truthful reporting is no longer happening.

If we must revert to that which preceded the media's attempts to fill the gap, what is involved is remembering how to talk to each other; knowing each other well enough to have needed conversations. Instead there is an overabundance of silence, which in words of unknown origin heard many years ago that seem often but not always true, "only communicates confusion." Choosing words carefully--but nonetheless choosing words rather than silence--is and always has been essential to effective communication.

The one who does not believe in the life of any particular community, settles instead for silence. The one who does believe in such life, accepts also that extensive debate and deliberation is sometimes required. The signature quality that subtly underlies all such linguistic interaction, is genuine love.

The unfortunate reality is that within many instances, solitary voices remain exactly that and are further vilified and attacked for dissenting with popular opinion--instead of receiving a response of gratitude for bringing a unique perspective to the conversation. To see all that can be seen, requires the eyes, mind, and voice of every individual present.

May one and all and everything, blessed and loved ever be.

## Believing in National Life

An important distinction needs to be made between being nationalistic and truly believing in the life of one's nation: the first is characterized by blindness; the latter by ever-greater vision. The former avoids any form of accountability, but the latter pursues transparency and as much involvement as one is able to invest. Remaining in any way disconnected, grants opportunity to evil.

As much as I do believe this and strive to respond to opportunities whenever I am able, as an autistic, I also need to avoid any tendency to be overwhelmed. Part of my response is having friendly acquaintances who are able to fill the gap, but another part is continually requesting more effective, concise, and accurate distillations of public communication. I try not to overreact, for example, when I encounter acquaintances with radically different reports, but ponder--considering differences in values and views--how both perceptions could be true.

From one angle, I heartily agree with all who wish to avoid discussion of politics, yet from an equally important angle, strive to remember my citizenship and all that its integrity and expression require. As noted within one past conversation, if only the bad choices become candidates for any specific public office, the resulting administration will be severely problematic at best. In words attributed to a politician whom I consider just as questionable as any other, "In choosing the lesser of two evils, evil always wins."

So while I remain an outspoken citizen but not truly an activist, this is specifically because I believe in the life of the nation within which I live. While this may not mean a refusal to emigrate if opportunity ever allowed

and circumstances warranted, there is an inherent responsibility to do as much good as I can, wherever I find myself to be, at any point in time. Committing myself to genuine and unconditional love, includes investing a certain amount of attention to the larger surrounding world within which I live.

The mental illness of narcissism, on the other hand--what I sometimes describe as "a pre-Copernican mindset"--strives toward a negation of all true relationship that can only result in some form of death. No matter how creative or wonderful any individual may be, it is equally essential to have a larger context within which to live. Likewise, if a specific individual is struggling with a mental illness manifesting as narcissism, greed, or some form of addiction, recovery cannot be helped by any amount of love, until a choice to heal has been internally made.

I find myself struggling greatly of late, pondering the words of Whoopi Goldberg's character, the Grand Banshee, within "The Magical Legend of the Leprechauns," which instruct, "You can't stop people from doing what they really want to do." Yet in spite of apparently the majority of the surrounding world embracing counterproductive relational dynamics, I know that my responsibility is to persist in demonstrating what sort of person I myself am; not being merely a reflection of all that I see and feel, but carefully choosing expressions. Whether I am congruous or contrasting in comparison to everyone else is really quite irrelevant to the personal choices I need to make each day.

So ministerially I strive to encourage others to refine their personal and societal expressions. As true as the reworking of the old adage seems to be, that "You can lead a human to knowledge, but you can't make them think," I spend many days pondering what experiences, creative expressions, or words, will make wisdom more palatable. In the final analysis, what is most essential--like every other challenge--is that I persist.

As weary as I may feel, the time-worn words still echo, "The race is not to the swift, but to the one who keeps on running."

May one and all and everything, blessed and loved ever be.

***"Within living most truthfully,  
completely, and beautifully,  
symbiotic interdependence  
and unconditional love  
are equally unavoidable."***

*-- Sister Who*

## Believing in Universal Life

It is still amazing to me that the entire universe of Star Trek television shows, movies, and retail products only exist because one person (Lucille Ball) was willing to grant opportunity. A central principle of that entire realm of thought is the pursuit of new life and exploration--which are to some extent synonyms for each other, to those who understand. I must wonder to what extent each of us is likewise confronted with opportunities to create new realms of infinite possibility, which might not be apparent within the moments they cross our paths.

As much as none can know the ultimate effect of any action and especially of any kindness ever done, finding the strength to think, speak, and act in positive ways--most especially within negative circumstances--is a demonstration that one still believes in the basic element of life that permeates the vast universe within which we all live. In relating to something larger than one's self, mental illnesses of narcissism and greed are driven back. In defiance of the editorial cartoon that commented, "My desire to be informed is at odds with my desire to remain sane," the wise person sees beyond the immediate appearances and remembers that nothing is encountered which is not encompassed by a larger universe that remains mostly unseen.

I have often commented that a primary problem of my life experience is that I am standing too close to see the larger picture of what everything means. In believing in life that has a universal scale, no moment is ever as small or irrelevant as it may seem. A certain invisible strength to persevere can be found within remembering participation in an unfolding of life far beyond the present.

Specifically in remembering this larger, timeless, and expansive universal life, I must sometimes call to mind that I may not be creating merely for my own generation. A great many artists and innovators were not appreciated except posthumously. This in no way compromises how essential their work ultimately proved to be.

May one and all and everything, blessed and loved ever be.

## On a Personal Note

The good news is that the moments of neurological shut-down have radically decreased, even though no cause has yet been found. My sense of balance is still negatively impacted, however, so the search for an explanation continues--more in spite rather than because of the bureaucracy with which I must contend. As gratified as I am that over 3500 people have subscribed to my YouTube channel, if each of those persons sent only one dollar each month, my income would be five times greater and a huge volume of unmet needs would immediately disappear--but money is not why I serve.

So I persist in whatever ways I am able and I hope that what I do, somehow makes a positive difference. I am acutely aware of how essential a sense of purpose and some sort of meaning are to daily life, but I often feel as if I am speaking a foreign language when I attempt to describe to others the positive and negative steps involved. No matter how solitary my life experience may be, however, I strive to persevere in showing the world what sort of person I am and in also encouraging each and every other person to live with maximum integrity also.

No matter within how many discouraging moments I ask whether this ministerial work is done, the answer I consistently receive is to persist--so I do and so I will. I thank every one of you for the encouragement you are.

May one and all and everything, blessed and loved ever be.

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