

sister who's perspective

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Overview

The point of noticing what has previously been overlooked, is recognizing that many similar resources and opportunities may still currently be available. In learning how to truly see all that there is to see, it is possible that humanity--individually and collectively--can move through its present and future in a more empowered, productive, and creative manner. This is my hope, as I share this month's essays with each reader.

Rejected Miracles

Considering the vast number of variables essential to the formation and maintenance of each and every human being--the unique combination of personality, perspective, consciousness, and appearance that each individual has--it is no stretch to insist that one's mere existence at all is absolutely a miracle. If any of those variables were not exactly as it is, one would be someone else and the person whom, in fact, one is, would not exist. The implications of this can literally change the course of history--but only if the surrounding community allows it.

Imagine for just a moment the effect of Einstein having never surpassed being a janitor or of Leonardo da Vinci having been denied all of the resources and opportunities essential to creating all that he did. There is little room for doubt that we would be living within a very different world. Innumerable shifts in conceptions of what is possible and thus also what would be even attempted, would create a world that is very different from the one with which most are familiar.

On one hand, when I look into a mirror, I do not see myself as being special or all that extraordinary. I simply show up and do what I can to make the world a better place. Yet many have responded that I have somehow

made a profound difference within their lives.

Granting for a moment the possibilities of which they speak, I have to wonder what societal recovery might have occurred within two different small towns in New England, in which I purchased more or less abandoned "fixer-upper" homes approximately four years ago. There is no question that I would have spent the entirety of every day within those places, improving my home and everything around it--specifically in ways that would also benefit and be an available resource to the surrounding community. Yet none of that happened, because they could not tolerate an anomalous but extremely creative and self-motivated individual within their midst.

They wanted to control what they did not understand and when they could not, they wanted me gone. Well, as is often said, "Be careful what you wish for, because you just might get it." All of the good I could have done within those places, didn't happen.

Now, please consider that unique and creative individuals are scattered everywhere throughout the human race--offering miracles of personal growth and communal recovery, but only to those who will welcome them. At the heart of this is the basic dynamic of inclusive love. In loving every individual, no matter how unique, unconventional, or even downright challenging that person may be, humanity is offered possibilities of renewal with unimaginable effects and implications.

These are the miracles of societal healing which are absolutely within reach. If they are not loved and nurtured, however, lingering woundedness will be all that humanity ever knows. In the words of Albert Einstein, "Great spirits have always encountered violent opposition from mediocre minds."

What must be remembered about such minds, however, is that they are thus only by choice and can thus also choose differently.

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

Missed Opportunities

I find it most frustrating that throughout my life has been a conspicuous absence of mentors, patrons, and dedicated teachers. I have been asked from time to time who my favorite teacher was, during the formal experiences of education of my youth, but while I can remember many of their names and all of their faces, it seemed that none of them had anything more than a rare interest in who I was or of what I was capable. Again and again, I was left to figure out life all by myself, with insufficient information or understanding of the challenges I faced.

As common as the saying is of "If I'd known then what I know now," what is often quite overlooked is that within each such time and place, someone did know--but said nothing. Within a few blessed examples, are moments when someone did say something, but only as a passing comment and not with the ongoing support and dedication of any sort of mentor, tutor, or sense of being what one might call "extended family." An older friend once commented that she had known I was gay a long time before I figured it out for myself, but didn't realize that even affirming the existence of "normal, healthy gay people" could have launched a process of discovery.

Suffice to say, my life would have turned out a bit differently, but this is not an essay about wallowing in regret. My point is rather that opportunities that have not yet been missed, occur with astonishing frequency. In many cases, the reason they remain unseen is because of how unexpected they are.

To the extent that humanity leans toward preoccupation with "being normal" and even enables all such inclination, unexpected growth remains unaccomplished growth. In conversely embracing growth, humanity becomes large enough--mentally, socially, emotionally, and spiritually--to meet future challenges effectively. In adding more and more moments to humanity's history, the story of all that has been grows ever-larger and so it is imperative that humanity grow as well--individually and communally--to keep pace with the dimensions of its collective life within this universe.

Failing to do so might be analogous to the comedic depictions of children pretending to be their parents--wearing shoes and coats that are too large, ill-fitting, and perhaps even dragging on the floor; causing stumbling this way and that, as they awkwardly imitate what they have observed. What is important to remember, is that--in most cases--they do not fully understand what they have observed and thus cannot fully serve the purpose for which the particular clothes were intended.

Embracing growth is among the ways of developing the skills, discipline, and abilities necessary for every resource to be utilized fully and completely. It is easy to become preoccupied with limitations--I should know; I do it almost every day. Moments of more recommendable strength can nonetheless be found within extracting greater empowerment from imperfect resources and circumstances than anyone would believe were possible.

In all honesty, I often curse having to create within the most unsuitable spaces, but must nonetheless in retrospect acknowledge that remarkable works were done there. The true importance of those works, however, is not *where* they were done, but rather *that* they were done and that they are now blessing the lives of others. Ultimately, once the positive effects begin to unfold, the fact that the creative environment was unsuitable and adversarial, does not even matter.

What matters are the positive effects. It matters not whether anyone pays attention to me personally or whether this unconventional ministry ever reaches the point of being financially self-supporting. What matters is the growth and empowerment that are accomplished within the lives of others--that is the only legitimate measure of my work.

I often argue with Godde that being sent into ministerial moments with inadequate information makes the activity unnecessarily frustrating as well as self-sabotaging, but such foolishness seems to nonetheless remain the demonstrated preference--which prompts me to ponder the reason a Godde who genuinely loves me would allow it.

Whatever it is, it must be very important.

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

Unchosen Paths

I often try to encourage people with the words, "We live within a universe of infinite possibility," but of course the edges of this truism can cut both ways. The reason this statement can nonetheless be encouraging is that most people seem preoccupied with only the negative possibilities and completely forget the positive ones. The additional point to remember for those willing to engage the statement more deeply, however, is that for every gain or constructive movement, there are an unknown number of positive effects that didn't happen, specifically because the path of life or chain of events didn't go there.

The challenge inherent within spiritual maturity is to embrace and maintain such broad awareness and still be able to make choices, do as much good as one can, and in all ways to be part of the solution rather than being part of the problem. I'm reminded of the scene within the trenches of the first world war, within the 2017 cinematic version of "WonderWoman," in which Steve informs her "We can't save everyone." Both Diana and Steve must choose within that moment, which of the various possibilities they will do, accepting that others will remain undone.

From one perspective, it is yet one more example of how everything within any life experience is a mixed quantity of good and bad, of pros and cons, of pleasure and pain, of gain and loss. If one does not charge ahead with conviction, trouble and pain will be the only reasonable expectations. By focusing upon what is more important than any current struggle, inconvenience, or act of self-sacrifice, the world and perhaps even the universe becomes a better place for everything that lives within it.

Yet such accomplishments are always at the cost of what the unchosen paths would

have encompassed. I do not say this out of cynicism, pessimism, or skepticism, but with an intention to encourage humility, respect, and sensitivity to any and all who may not be able to share in the blessings which follow. I cannot be a truly respectable person, if their lives and life experiences do not matter every bit as much as my own.

A primary problem with the power of choice, however, is that it creates the phenomenon of competition. Is one outcome truly better than another? If so, according to which criteria or on what basis?

A more appropriate question might be, "Which outcome is more desirable," but this again begs the questions related to criteria and basis--essentially, *why* is one outcome better than another? Even a minimum of self-awareness would also notice that one's reasons and values change over the course of one's life--in virtually every case. This is usually what inspires feelings of regret and a more or less endless succession of "if only..." laments, specifically because of what one learns along the way, which might have lead to a very different choice than the one made.

Constructively, this impresses upon me that I am a far more multi-dimensional being than I previously imagined myself to be--which would presumably be true of others as well. If everyone viewed those around them as multi-dimensional beings instead of as no more than the embodiment of one specific action or opinion, it seems obvious that we'd all be living within a very different world. In embracing that alternative way of perceiving, thinking, and interacting, humanity might finally get beyond "king of the hill," "winner take all," and other narcissistic approaches.

The most important yet often unchosen path is ultimately the path characterized by unconditional love; the one which recognizes how interconnected and interdependent each moment of life is. As a constellation of relationships stretching across time and space, humanity has the potential to be the most awe-inspiring and dynamically empowering of all configurations--but only if we all work together to make it so.

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

*"The fact that I'm here
means there is
something important
for me to do."*

-- Sister Who

Alternative Realities

It seems there actually people who believe that if something is not true on one's own individual level, it is not true at all. The reality of anomalous experiences--and consequently of anomalous people--is thereby denied. As much as choices must still be made in relation to the best use of one's time and energy, what is accomplished by attempting nothing beyond "one's comfort zone" is maintaining the smallness of one's mind and spirit--more concisely, avoiding any and all personal and spiritual growth. At the heart of truly living, however, is truly growing.

It is specifically by engaging alternative realities that one's environment is changed and new and greater possibilities are brought within reach. If this can additionally be done in ways that are infused with wisdom and love, the end results might even be regarded as miraculously healing. By its very nature, life includes a myriad of instances within which various kinds of wounding occurs. In contemplating the variety of ways and the speed at which the human body is able to heal itself--with or without professional medical assistance--I long ago came to the conclusion that healing from injuries is something it is generally designed and equipped to do--as long as other factors are supportive rather than adversarial.

Learning about those other factors is a literally life-long activity that is fueled by the maintenance of constructive relationships with all that is different from one's self. Such learning is basically synonymous with mental growth. Spiritual growth is the continuous engagement of one's spirit with that which is tentatively indescribable, unknowable, and mysterious, specifically because it is beyond the reach of current human comprehension.

Like the roots of a plant reaching out through the earth to find water, the human spirit responds to the unknown with efforts to compensate by increasing knowledge and wisdom. Included within that, is going where one has never been and pondering what one has never previously thought.

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

On a Personal Note

The disparities within my own experience of life are sometimes overwhelming to me, but I persevere specifically because of the responses I have received throughout the past twenty-eight years of this ministry, that insist my efforts have had positive effects within the lives of others. It is possible that the current environmental context of my life is about to dramatically shift again, as it did nearly five years ago when I lost my home in the northwestern part of the Denver-metro area. I am nonetheless often perplexed by the challenges that have lately been (one might say) dumped on me.

The last few weeks have included extensive preparations for the Sunday, August 18, appearance of the portable chapel in Mineral Palace Park in Pueblo, Colorado. After that, since *The Tarot of Sister Who* is now available, I am sincerely hoping to finally make some instructional videos between then and the end of August, regarding use of this resource. As much as I hoped to hike to two more mountain summits this summer, Mother Nature seems to have declared this a non-hiking summer, by the continuous inclusion of rain within weather forecasts--making hiking above tree-line significantly dangerous and ill-advised.

Additionally--wow--I am engaging in a rather amazing opportunity to pursue completion of an academic doctoral degree.

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