



Of Seeds and Flowers



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ON BECOMING WHO YOU ARE

Once upon a time, more than seventeen hundred years ago, a young man decided to become a saint. He left his home, family and possessions. He said goodbye to relatives and friends, sold all he owned, gave the money to the poor, and walked off into the desert to find God.

He walked through the desert sands until he found a dark cave. "Here," he thought, "I will be alone with God. Here nothing can distract me from God." He prayed day and night in the dark cave and had many great temptations. He imagined all the good things of life and wanted them desperately. However, he was determined to give up everything in order to have God alone. After many months the temptations stopped. St. Anthony of Egypt was at peace, having nothing but God.

But then, according to legend, God said, "Leave your cave for a few days and go off to a distant town. Look for the town shoemaker. Knock on his door and stay with him for a while." The holy hermit was puzzled by God's command, but left the next morning. He walked all day across the desert sands. By nightfall he came to the village, found the home of the shoemaker and knocked on the door. A smiling man opened it.

"Are you the town shoemaker?" the hermit asked. "Yes, I am," the shoemaker answered. He noticed how tired and hungry the hermit looked. "Come in," he said. "You need something to eat and a place to rest." The shoemaker called his wife. They prepared a fine meal for the hermit and gave him a good bed to sleep on.

The hermit stayed with the shoemaker and his family for three days. The hermit asked many questions about their lives. But he didn't tell them much about himself even though the couple were very curious about his life in the desert. They talked a lot and became good friends. Then the hermit said goodbye to the shoemaker and his wife.

He walked back to his cave wondering why God had sent him to visit the shoemaker. "What was the shoemaker like?" God asked the hermit when he settled down again in his dark cave. "He is a simple man," the hermit began. "He has a wife who is going to have a baby. They seem to love each other very much. He has a small shop where he makes shoes. He works hard. They have a simple house. They give money and food to those who have less than they have. He and his wife believe very strongly in you and pray at least once a day. They have many friends. And the shoemaker enjoys telling jokes."

God listened carefully. "You are a great saint, Anthony," God said, "And the shoemaker and his wife are great saints too." So, it is a matter of "**becoming**, in fact, **who we are**."

'WE CANNOT ATTAIN THE PRESENCE OF GOD BECAUSE WE'RE ALREADY IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD. WHAT IS NEEDED IS AWARENESS.' Rohr

HAPPY EASTER!! May the risen Savior rise up in your beautiful heart and flow in abundance on all that you touch!! "The resurrection of Christ was God's supreme and wholly marvelous work." St. Augustine

A DROP OF RAIN

A young man comes to the home of his beloved and he knocks on the door. A voice from within asks, "Who is it?" He replies, "**It is I.**" And she says, "**Go away.**"

Sad and dejected the young man goes away. In three weeks or so he strengthens his courage to go back to his loved one and knocks on the door. Again a voice from within asks, "Who is it?" And again he replies, "**It is I.**" A second time she says, "**Go away.**"

Now he is really upset. So upset that he goes into the desert and he spends long hours in silence, thinking, praying, questioning, talking with wise people. After a year of retreat he comes back and for the third time knocks on the door of his beloved. She again asks, "Who is it?" And he responds, "It is **THYSELF.**" And she opens the door and welcomes him into her heart.

What took place in that desert? The young man gave up his self-absorption, his self-centeredness, his ego, his pride. Now he is ready to love and be loved. **LOVE IS A VERB!** Love is the choice-**not a feeling**- to think, say and do what is good for the beloved. Remember, the shortest word in the English language is "I".



"LOVE AND DO WHAT YOU WILL"- St. Augustine

A HAPPY SEVENTIETH OR SIXTIETH OR THIRTIETH OR TWENTIETH OR... Imagine this scenario: You wake up one morning, look at your calendar, and come to the unwelcome realization that it is your seventieth birthday. You are 70 years old! At seventy, in terms of this life, you are no longer a young person- and all the cosmetics, exercise, plastic surgery, tummy tucks, and positive attitude in the world cannot change that. **Your youth is dead.**

But you are not dead. You look at yourself in the mirror and see there a very vibrant person, despite the limitations of age. In fact, you are richer now, full of a deeper life, than when you were twenty or forty or sixty. *But you are alive as a seventy-year-old.*

Let your youth ascend! Let it go! You should be able to say: *"It was good to be 20, good to be 30, good to be 40, and 50, and 60: but it is even better to be seventy!* Then, you will receive the spirit for the life you are **already in fact living**, the life of a seventy year old, which is a different spirit than for somebody who is twenty.

Some of the happiest people in the whole world are seventy years old and some of the unhappiest people in the world are that age. The difference is not in who has kept himself or herself the slimmest and most youthful-looking, but **who has received God's spirit for the age they are actually living.** The happy 70 year old is a man or woman who has received the spirit for someone that age - the spirit that scripture says is given to each of us in a most particular way for each particular circumstance in life. "The Holy Longing" - *a magnificent book by Ronald Rolheiser*, Pg.149. - **a magnificent chapter on the Spirituality of the Paschal Mystery.**

Growing older is mandatory; growing up is optional.

Devil's Clearance Sale : There is a legend that tells about the time the devil decided to close up shop in one part of the world and open up in another. A "going out of business" sale was announced. One of the first customers, being quite fascinated with the various evil instruments on display, noticed that of all the devil's tools, the highest priced one was called "discouragement." "Why is this one so expensive?" he inquired. "Quite simple," replied the devil. *"It is my favorite.*

EVEN THOSE WHO LIMP GO NOT BACKWARDS

If you feel far from God, guess who moved?

VISION AND REALITY

On March 17th, Mary's Field will be 36 years old. Your love, prayers and generous gifts have sustained us and served thousands of people. Thank You!!! It has been a wonderful and blessed journey!

Richard Rohr relates the following story: Once after a spirituality conference in California, a rather assertive listener came up to me and said, "Richard. you appear to be an intelligent man. You don't really believe all that stuff, do you? All those doctrines and dogmas of the church? Most Christians look like Walt Disney in Fantasyland, and on LSD at that!" I am sure the man was being sincere and trying to help me or free me from what he thought was imprisonment.

I told him that I indeed did believe the major doctrines of the tradition, and that I bet he would, too, if he just had the right pair of glasses and enough inner experience. I told him that I was not there to change anyone's dogmas, but only the eyes with which they understand those dogmas - which, in the eyes of people who have no inner experience, means to radically change the dogmas. I suspect that is why many transformed people are killed by someone from their own group. They think you have been disloyal to the group, when very often you are exhibiting profound loyalty to it.

"God doesn't play dice." Albert Einstein -which means, YOU aren't an ACCIDENT.

The reality we name as God, mightier and more vast than 400 billion galaxies, permeates my existence as a human being. Certainly God is infinite and unknowable; but we look into our own hearts and lives, and there is this same God bursting to life in us. RESURRECTION Why do we keep looking elsewhere to find God? Why do we stay locked into a spirituality that looks for God in the heavens in preference to a spirituality that focuses on the God within and among us, urging us to claim our sacred identity.

"I look at God; I look at you, and I continue to look at God." Julian of Norwich

PRAYER, ONE MINUTE, EACH NIGHT: TRANSFORM OUR NATION: BE A TRANSFORMER, A REVOLUTIONARY: To pray is to change things with power!! Our country was founded on God and He still wants us for His own.

Each night, join with millions of your fellow Americans, at 9 PM EST for one minute and pray that God will come back into our country's life IN ALL WAYS. IT IS WORKING! DAILY things done in darkness are being revealed. Cindy and I have our Echo Dot ring each night at 9 O'clock. - and for one minute we pray. Spread the word!

If, as a Christian, you don't teach your children to follow Jesus, the world will teach your children NOT TO FOLLOW HIM. Not to teach is to teach!! "But I prefer to let him/her to decide for himself/herself." -like the measles, mumps, rubella inoculation, right? NOTHING IS MORE PRACTICAL THAN FINDING GOD.



JESUS WAS AN UNPLANNED PREGNANCY!



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SPEAKING SOFTLY

ELEVEN WAYS TO PRACTICE RESURRECTION

1. Refuse to identify with negative, blaming, antagonistic, or fearful thoughts (you cannot stop "having" them).
2. Apologize when you hurt another person or situation.
3. Undo your mistakes by some *positive action toward the offended person or situation*.
4. *Do not indulge or believe your False Self*-that which is concocted by your mind and society's expectations.
5. Choose your True Self-your radical union with God -as often as possible throughout the day.
6. Always seek to change yourself before trying to change others.
7. Choose as much as possible to serve rather than be served.
8. Whenever possible, seek the common good over your mere private good.
9. Give *preference* to those in pain, excluded, or disabled in any way.
10. *Seek just systems and policies* over mere charity. The TRUTH, the TRUTH, the TRUTH!!
11. Never doubt that it is all about LOVE in the end. "BE OF LOVE A LITTLE MORE CAREFUL THAN OF EVERYTHING."

" BECOME A BENEVOLENT GLANCER" Each of us should try to develop the habit of "benevolent glancing", like Jesus did towards those who came to Him. That means looking at other with eyes that *SEARCH FOR THAT SPECIAL GIFT IN OTHERS WHICH REVEALS AN ASPECT OF GOD THAT I DON'T HAVE*. This practice will develop in us a greater gentleness, lasting patience and a deep respect towards ALL who come to us.

"THUS AM I, a feather on the breath of God." Hildegard of Bingen

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