



Of Seeds and Flowers



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A HEAVENLY VALENTINES DAY

Ancient philosophers and Mystics used to say that, before being born, each soul was kissed and caressed by God and then goes through life always remembering that beautiful kiss and measuring everything that happens in life in relation to its original sweetness.

Inside each of us, there is a wonderful but distant memory of having once been touched and caressed by hands far gentler than our own. That caress has left a permanent imprint inside of us; one so tender and good that it's memory becomes **a prism through which we see everything else in our life**. Our hearts have been caressed by Infinite Love.

And so we recognize Love and Truth **outside of us** precisely because they resonate with something that is already **inside us**. Things "touch our hearts" **because they awaken a memory of that original kiss**. Moreover, because we have a memory of once having been perfectly kissed, touched, and loved, every experience in life falls a little short. We have already enjoyed something much deeper. **OUR SPIRITUALITY IS ABOUT WHAT WE DO WITH THIS UNREST!!** (Ideas from Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI)

Maybe this special heavenly kiss is the reason why the human heart is not a perfectly shaped heart like the valentine's heart: -a piece is missing and is being kept in heaven to be reunited with us when we "come home".

There is a poignant story told of a three year old toddler who wanted to speak alone with his new baby brother. He kept insisting he wanted to talk with his brother and he wanted to speak alone with him in his nursery. The boy's strong insistence made the parents a bit wary of what might happen if they let the older son be alone with his newly born brother, but they finally relented. However, they stayed by the door and listened to make sure everything was safe.

They heard the older son say to his new brother, "Jimmy, can you remind me what Heaven and Jesus are like, I'm beginning to forget."

Carlo Carretto, a Little Brother of Jesus, in his marvelous book, "Letters from the Desert", shares some penetrating thoughts about love. His heart was refined and purified by the Sahara desert.

"Everything in the world is uncertain except one thing: LOVE. Live love. **Let love invade you**. It will never fail to teach you what you must do. **Love, which is God in us, will direct your way**. It will say to you "Now kneel, or "Now rise and go". It is love which gives things their value. It is love which must determine one's actions, it is love which must give unity to what is divided. Love unites contemplation and action: it is the meeting point between Heaven and Earth, between God and man.

I have known the satisfaction and joy of unrestrained action, good action, holy action, and the joy of the contemplative life in the dazzling peace of the desert, and with St. Augustine I say: "Love and do as you will." **Don't worry about what you ought to do. Worry about loving**. Don't interrogate Heaven repeatedly and uselessly saying, *what course of action should I pursue?* Concentrate on loving instead. By loving you will find out what is for you. Loving, you will listen to **The Voice**. Loving, you will find peace. Love is the fulfillment of the law and should be **everyone's rule of Life**; in the end it is the solution to every problem, the motive for all good." "Love and do as you will." **When I love I can no longer do as I will**. When I love, I am love's prisoner..." "Love has become my only activity." John of the Cross.

"We are not converted by ideas, but "by the face of the other." Emmanuel Lavinias

A DROP OF RAIN...A BIT OF SUN

"WHAT IS REAL?" asked the Rabbit one day, when they were lying side by side near the nursery bumper, before Nana came to tidy the room. "Does it mean having things that buzz inside you and a stick-out handle?"

"Real isn't how you are made," said the Skin Horse. "It's a thing that happens to you. When a child loves you for a long, long time, not just to play with, but really loves you, then you become real."

"Does it hurt?" asked the Rabbit. "Sometimes," said the Skin Horse, for he was always truthful.

"When you are Real you don't mind being hurt."

"Does it happen all at once, like being wound up," he asked, "or bit by bit?" "It doesn't happen all at once," said the Skin Horse.

"You become. It takes a long time. That's why it doesn't often happen to people who break easily, or have sharp edges, or who have to be carefully kept. Generally, by the time you are Real, most of your hair has been loved off, and your eyes drop out and you get loose in the joints and very shabby. But these things don't matter at all, because **once you are REAL you can't be ugly, except to people who don't understand.**"

- MARGERY WILLIAMS, The Velveteen Rabbit

A Trillion Galaxies: I'm still reflecting on Brian Swimme's question in his documentary, recently presented at Yale University, "Journey of the Universe". What is the creativity that brought forth a trillion, yes, A TRILLION, A TRILLION galaxies? My simple mind can't handle the vastness of it all. -a trillion galaxies!!

Yet, this same creativity is willing to place Himself/Herself **in my little heart**. -to dwell with His powerful, creative, healing, transformative, benign, loving presence in ME. **"Test yourselves: Do you acknowledge that Jesus, the Christ, is really in you? If not, you have failed the test."** 2 Corinthians 13:6.

Make this real in your life and you will never be the same. The Divine Indwelling. Spend twenty minutes united with this Reality each day and I guarantee you, **YOU WILL LIKE THE RESULTS**. Swim in His/Her love. Be cushioned by His/Her love. What a joy!! Hug that beautiful heart of yours. Sing and dance on your gorgeous insides!! **Don't complicate your life!**

"Give thanks to the Lord of lords, who alone has wrought marvelous works, for His love endures for ever; whose wisdom it was made the skies, for His love endures forever; who fixed the earth firmly on the Seas, for His love endures forever. It was He who made the great lights, for His love endures forever, the sun to rule in the day, the moon and stars in the night." Psalm 136

WISDOM: When he was a young man he prayed, *"God give me the grace to change the whole world and I will be happy."*

When he was a middle aged man he prayed, *"God give me the grace to change my wife, children and family and I will be happy."*

When he was an old man he prayed, *"God give me the grace to change myself and, if I had done this earlier, I wouldn't have wasted my life."* If you have time to worry you have time to pray.

God doesn't expect us to solve all of the world's problems but not to help create them. Don't make your life be complicated. Keep it simple. *The will of God will never take you where the GRACE OF GOD will not protect you.*

VISION AND REALITY

FUR BABIES: Definition: A new sub-group of women and men who deliberately choose to have a dog/cat, instead of children, family, a husband. Have you noticed how many toy stores and so many baby supply stores (Babies 'R US etc.) are closing and so many pet stores are opening and thriving? - pet stores featuring lines of pet clothing, frozen foods, pet delicacies, grooming for a "queen" etc..

What might a "fur baby" mentality do, in the long range, to the basic fabric of a society, a culture? Could this possibly be another percolating example of the "Law of unintended consequences"? "If only we knew THEN what we know NOW!" What if **THEN IS NOW**? Marriage, family, children **MUST ALWAYS** BE DONE CORRECTLY OR THE RESULTS ARE **ALWAYS** DISASTEROUS. There is no right way to do the wrong thing. "Where there is no wisdom the people perish." Proverbs.



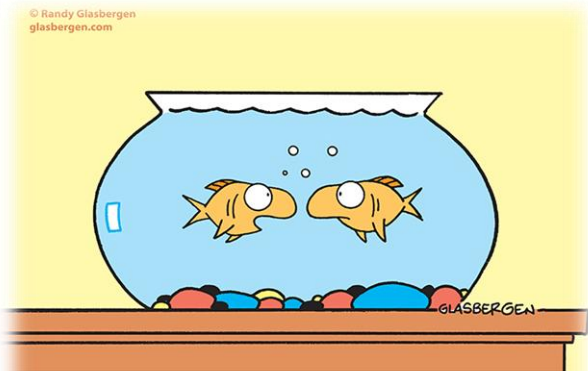
"The final battle will be for marriage and family." Sr. Lucia, -a Fatima visionary, 1917.

"WHAT SHOULD WE DO?" In Luke's Gospel, John the Baptist, after preaching to the crowd, is asked, first, by the common people, "*What should we do?*", then by some tax collectors, "*What should we do?*", and then, by some soldiers, "*What should we do?*"

Have you ever noticed how a glaze comes over the eyes of a congregation when the readings are about to be read on a Sunday morning? Tell me it isn't true.

It is so easy to blame the church, the priest, the minister, the rabbi for the lack of spiritual growth in your life. After attentively, with your head and heart, listened to the readings for the day and the words of the homily and, with full heart and faith prayed the prayers, everyone should ask themselves, "*What should I do?*" or ask of the preacher, "*Show me HOW TO DO IT in my life.*", so that each Sabbath Day some genuine transformation takes place in the lives of all worshippers because of their own serious desire to change and to grow **in their own spiritual life.** - OWNERSHIP! PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY! -YOUR spiritual life. It's not about information, explanation, exhortation, even education but TRANSFORMATION. "ALL THAT MATTERS IS THAT ONE BE BORN ANEW." St. Paul

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"You've been awfully tense lately. They say petting a cat is a great way to relieve stress!"

At **all the exits**, of all the churches in the world, there ought to be a blinking neon sign that says, "**NOW, WHAT SHOULD WE DO?**", "**NOW, WHAT SHOULD I DO?**" ...DO, DO, DO! "**Test yourselves: Do you acknowledge that Jesus, the Christ, is really in you? If not, you have failed the test.**" 2 Corinthians 13:6.

If you always do what you've always done, you will always get what you've always got.

"College campus culture often encourages students to a *false sense of victimhood* and to **see bias where none exists.**" "The **Diversity Delusion**" Heather Macdende Time Magazine December 2018

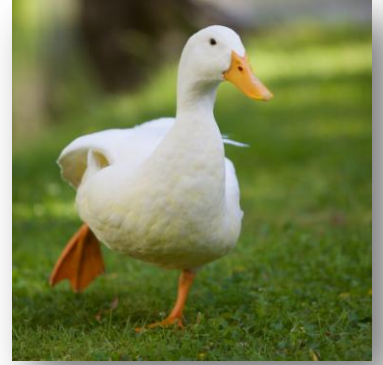
In 2019 more people will die of stress than from cancer - stress from the job, stress the job creates on their spouse, family, children. What they say is true: "The job won't love you back." How many marital arguments start because of career, job stress??? The next time you go by a cemetery ask the people there, "What mattered most in life"? -listen as the wisdom flows!!

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. You have our "VALENTINES HEARTS" and prayers. HAPPY NEW YEAR! May this time next year find you deeper in love with all that is good and beautiful! May you be carried along on the flowing current of God's grace! (His life in you!)

SPEAKING SOFTLY

2018 WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR: On March 17th, Mary's Field was 36 years old; (we have served over 30,000 people, one way or another); on May 11th, I celebrated the 55th anniversary of my priestly ordination; on May 22nd, Cindy celebrated birthday 66; on August 10th, I celebrated my 81st birthday; on September 7th, Cindy and I celebrated our 42nd wedding anniversary. Christmas was marvelous. Our 6 children and their spouses and our 3 grandchildren are doing wonderfully. Grand parenting is a gift!

Each morning, after the dogs (Daisy is 17, blind/deaf) and 17 ducks have been cared for and after breakfast, Cindy and I pray a rosary that is dedicated to one of our 13 immediate family members; every 14th rosary is said for the Blessed Mother, and finally on day 15 a rosary is said for the poor souls in Purgatory before the cycle is repeated. We've been doing this for about 7 years. -so nice, so fruitful! -a good way to start the day!



After dishes, Cindy prays for an hour and I enjoy an hour with the Lord in Centering Prayer. Everyone who has touched or who will touch Mary's Field **in any way** is in our prayer intention. -Some spiritual direction, some personal or family counseling work on "Of Seeds and Flowers", a fresh Mary's Field Face book entry, (some great stories, inspiration, spiritual wisdom, Facebook.com/MarysField. You do not need a face book page to view our face book page), spiritual reading, administrative detail and more..... We have found that the things you do DAILY are what changes your life.

We pick up and care for our 2 granddaughters 3 days a week. Vespers and Night Prayer from the Divine Office in the evening round out the day. After supper Cindy and I relax and at 9PM. pray for one minute for the country. LIFE IS GOOD. GOD IS GOOD! 2018 WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR!! He made over **a trillion galaxies** and YOU AND ME and lives in us! It doesn't get any better than this!! ***"There but for the grace of God and the love of a good woman go I"***.

"We are in awe at all you have done for us, our Lord and mighty God." Rev. 15:3.

God does not love you because you are good but you are good *because God loves you* - or better, **because GOD IS GOOD.** *"Lord, help me to believe the truth about myself, no matter how beautiful it IS."*

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