

Spiritual Snippets of One Seeking Clarity...

THANKS for sharing with me
this brief moment in time
opening the door
to your beautiful mind
to share a few thoughts
and maybe swap wares,
helping each other
as much as we dare.

We seekers of truth,
travelers in time,
the journey itself
can be so sublime!
Thanks for sharing with me
this brief moment in time. -jb

FAV. MOVIE OF THE MONTH
was *Temple Grandin*, starring Clare
Danes, has all the earmarks of a
great movie: a powerful and true
story with new insights, artistically
presented, by a great actor--all of
which brings insight, understanding,
and clarity (that word again) to the
human condition.

Having interacted with several
mildly autistic children in my career,
and tutored one privately, I thought I
knew enough and didn't want to
revisit another painful story. Patricia
and I (she more open and with a
greater capacity for the pain of
empathy) largely saw this on the
recommendation of neighbors who
have an autistic grandchild, and
whose taste in movies over the years
has been excellent.

What I found was very insightful
and uplifting. Temple Grandin, with
the determined support of a loving
mother, teacher, and various other
people along the way transcended
her disabilities and societal
prejudices to see and imagine things
other could not. She used her unique
abilities to come up with several
significant inventions in the cattle
industry with her own insights into
the nature of autism, attaining a Phd
in the process.

“Good, better, best,
never let it rest,
til your good is better,
and your better, best.”

- a poem Patricia learned from her
fifth grade teacher which is
attributed to whom?

THE MOST POWERFUL FACT I came across
this month was reported in *Time* magazine:
“43% of Americans reported that if they
had to come up with \$2,000 cash, they would
have to sell something.”

This really gave me a shocking perspective of
where so many people are, and how we really
have lost so much of our middle class.

I am still SEEKING CLARITY of what to entitle this little newsletter, or
whether to change it at each writing. More importantly, what is it that I feel
is worthy of your interest, your intellect, and your own spiritual seeking.
Knowing you and having walked miles together on our spiritual journey
over the years and hearing from you definitely helps.

What is it then that you seek from me, and what is that I have to offer
worthy of your seeking? Several of you have responded favorably on my
brief thoughts on Eucharist in the last writing. Others of you have indicated
that you would (at this time) rather receive than offer personal insights and/
or recommendations, etc. One person expressed her desire and need to have
clear thinking, clarity, in her life right now in the midst of so much personal
and universal turmoil. (Thanks, PW, you are such an inspiration in so many
ways! (A little sleuthing may be in order here. :)))

From our conversations over the years and your recent input I know you
are interested in the spiritual, the inspirational, the insightful, which honors
keen intellects and discerning hearts.

If I'm over sharing in the process, it is only because I feel you are an
integral part of the process. What do you need, what do you seek, and what
interests you, motivates and directs me to gaze in that direction?

Thank you for you responses, your encouragement, and your guidance.
Clarity to my purpose here is taking shape, even as I type. I shall continue
to share the thoughts and feelings which I think will intrigue, interest and
inspire the all of us on our separate but similar journeys. -JB 7/13/2011

SO I ASK MYSELF: “WHAT DO I MEAN BY “SPIRITUALITY”?”
Is that what I'm looking for? Or is it philosophical understanding,
scientific knowledge, personal understanding, insight, community,
inspiration, etc. Off the top of my head, without googling the subject
(which I will do), I would say spirituality has something to do with the
transcendent spirit in and around us, dealing with transcendent truths and
beliefs which help us to engage and transcend our workaday lives. So, let
me see what Google comes up with. Any comments?

MINI CHECK-IN: Patricia, Aimée, Lois and I celebrated my mom's 95th
birthday July 3 with three out of my my four siblings and their families. We
are now finishing a week with our family in the Sierra foothills. Upon our
return I will finish my last week of tutoring. On another note, I was happy to
turn down an expensive golf trip because I could not justify it in the light of
such global poverty, and the fact that the money could be better spent.

*Feel free to forward this on to family and friends you think may be interested,
and/or recommend others to join this little spiritual newsletter.*