

# SISTER WHO'S PERSPECTIVE

Sister Who's Perspective, copyright, Issue 267, September 2021

## Overview

I often find that it is only the persistent and enduring existence of better possibilities that makes all of the pain, struggle, and suffering that I am unable to prevent but must nonetheless witness, even minimally tolerable.

Within this month's essays, I seek to impart to others this empowering sense of faith.

## Embracing Possibility Within

Seeking answers to challenges exclusively from others, neglects internal resources that may even be yet undiscovered. Regardless of belief system, the beginning of genuine and authentic spirituality, is setting aside time to truly listen to one's own heart and mind. The current hyperactivity of most human societies, clearly does not encourage this.

This is very much at the heart of the activity I expect to be common within God Space Sanctuary, once it is materially reestablished. I suppose it may seem paradoxical and perhaps it is, that the fundamental purpose of this genuinely interfaith spiritual center, is to provide space and tools within which this solitary deep inner dialogue can occur. It is nonetheless not within the tools or the space, but rather within that inner dialogue that the miracle of true spiritual growth unfolds.

It is essential that the tools and space effectively serve the inner dialogue that accompanies listening to heart, mind, and--if it chooses to speak--Godde, one's higher self, the universe, or any conception of the Beyond one may hold. Additionally, no matter how wonderful an epiphany may be, it is one's own exclusive experience. Concisely stated, one can never have someone else's experience; one can only have one's own.

It is nonetheless possible that hearing of others' experiences, may suggest new places and ways of seeking one's own experience. I might not have known that a particular method was even possible, for example, until I heard of

how it was employed within another's life--contemplating thereafter what adaptations would be needed if any variation of it were to be attempted within my own experience.

Hearing of the particular method would serve no purpose, however, if, in fact, I made no such attempt. In words with which I tested my teachers within theological school, "Any idea without an application is worthless." The biblical New Testament corollary would be the insistence that "faith without works is dead."

All of these speak of how essential is the process of first hearing the internal voice and then responding wisely. The more common tendency is to judge a message, before adequately contemplating its content. It may be that a great many insights and possibilities have thereby been negated.

All that being said, if the possibilities and perspectives one discovers within are quite unique, the struggles to coexist with the surrounding world's expectation of being as normal as possible, are unlikely to ever end. It is essential for every relevant future rainbow, joy, and blessing, however, that the particular uniqueness be sustained. If the world was already capable of producing such things, the unique individuality would never have been divinely created and given a chance to live.

Each blessing of individuality, therefore, is a chance for the world to transcend everything it has thus far been. In multiple ways, the current time is dark, toxic, and cold. A picture I saw years ago, however, defiantly declared, "There is not enough darkness in the entire universe to extinguish the light of a single candle."

I earnestly hope that is true and even more that I can find a way to be that candle. It is not a matter of fitting into current societal contexts, but rather of making the world big enough for the all of the light one can discover and create within one's soul. I aspire to persist in disappointing the world's expectation that a person such as I, cannot possibly exist.

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

## Embracing Possibility Around

Seeking answers to challenges exclusively from within one's self, neglects resources that may be undiscovered but available within the members of one's community. The Divine seems to demonstrate a mischievous fondness for hiding the most wonderful gifts within the most unlikely packaging--suggesting that only those who will invest the time and effort needed to truly see, will ever find them.

Conversely, what can be seen, is often not where true possibility resides. For example, the phrase has often been repeated that "power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely" (love being the only exception), but what is often overlooked are the ways that power also enslaves--unless, of course, it is similarly tempered by love. Judging by how narcissistic and greedy the majority of wealth people are and how enslaved they become to maintaining that narcissism and greed, like a pet gerbil running endlessly within its exercise wheel, I sometimes wonder whether money is the compensation for sacrificing true freedom and every shred of personal integrity.

The wisest choice, it seems, is for power and wealth to be decentralized and shared, in order to avoid the toxic effects that accompany either of these being concentrated within one or a limited number of individuals. I recall the character of Molari within the television series *Babylon 5*, noting toward the end of his political career that in past times, he had freedom of choice but little power, but when he achieved greater power, he had little freedom. In a similar way, in addressing Saint Francis within the movie, *Brother Sun, Sister Moon*, the pope observes (in reference to the hierarchical administration of the Roman Catholic Church of the time), "We are encrusted with riches and power; you, in your poverty, put us to shame."

All things considered, possibility is never an exclusively individual endeavor, but rather--with amazing consistency--requires community. As much as an individual with courage and dedication may be required to initiate wondrous changes, that individual is unlikely to even be remembered if no community is willing to follow. Once again, I am reminded of the African word *Ubuntu*: "I am because we are and we are because I am."

To the extent that one's contribution is rejected, the community will (sometimes unknowingly) suffer, experiencing loss that the Divine sought to prevent by providing unique or unlikely individuals able to help. To the extent that an individual is besieged by the mental illness of narcissism, attempts to contribute are rendered less likely. Either way, the fact remains that good effects will not be realized and that problems will be ongoing.

There is a wondrous sense in which--individually and collectively--humanity finds its answers by more truthfully finding itself. My opinion (humble or not), is that we've hardly even scratched the surface of the possibilities that are already within reach. I often feel exasperated that what is often so obvious, is still so stubbornly overlooked.

Turning to considerations of allegedly higher education and remembering that our world is ultimately a closed system within which, as phrased by a basic law of physics, "energy is neither created nor destroyed but simply changes form and place," my interpretation is that academic degrees in the field of economics are ideally not concerned with concentrating greed and creating economic disparity, but rather with having a deeper understanding of how monetary energy can circulate endlessly like blood within a human body, promoting health within every part.

Beyond consciousness, the human body knows constructive ways to respond to blood clots, impaired circulation, and egalitarian distribution. The collective health of the human species requires very much the same dynamic, in order to avoid any opportunity for the social equivalent of gangrene to take hold and begin to poison the rest of the body. The individual cells most directly impacted may not have the ability to combat the threat, no matter how fiercely committed to being independent they would otherwise be, thus making a communal response absolutely essential.

The communal response, however, must be one that does not overlook the individual cell and, as an old witticism expresses, "throw the baby out with the bath water." The potential within each cell, is ultimately what allows the body to live and extend creation.

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

## Embracing Possibility Beyond

So many seem obsessed with certainty, but this must be relinquished in order to engage in any relationship whatsoever with all that is mysterious, unknown, or in some way beyond human comprehension. Indeed, one might even say that true spirituality is impossible without some degree of mystery. Without conceding that there is something unknown, learning is preemptively rendered impossible.

The conceptions which humanity has created for The Beyond are virtually infinite in number. I choose to use the word Godde and envision The Beyond as having consciousness, some form of personhood, and even emotions--which are by no means limited to the human species. In terms of the names and various conceptions, I'm not convinced that Godde is particularly concerned what conception one uses to facilitate relationship--as much as that a constructive relationship is embraced.

Even those who imagine a conception without personality or anthropomorphic qualities can feel awe when contemplating the balance and extensive interrelatedness of the surrounding universe--in ways that take them beyond their limited notions of life, meaning, and love. Those who never engage in such contemplation, likewise remain small and limited in their true dimensions. Considering the finite span of every physical life, why would one ever want to waste time in this way--especially when so much more is possible?

All that being said, the most any can offer after relating to the Divine, are perceptions that are usually individually unique. I maintain that for all the commonalities there may be between one experience and another, what is most vital to note is what each experience conveyed, that were communicated by no other. Those points of uniqueness may be the essential pieces that allow life's jigsaw puzzle to be assembled and display a larger and more inclusive picture capable of instructing and inspiring generations yet to be born.

*"Relationships rooted in fear  
will never know love."*

*– Sister Who*

If growth truly is the only evidence of life, it only makes sense that life itself is forever expanding in new directions, forms, and capabilities as well. Certainty regarding those future possibilities is not essential; a willingness to engage and learn from absolutely everything is. This might even be understood as the basic and essential courage required to truly live.

Spirituality (that is, relating to the invisible dimensions of life) is thus not for the weak or faint-hearted, nor is it any sort of crutch for individuals considered weak-minded. It is also rarely found within the presence of dogmatism, which restricts the spirit's ability to breathe, expand, and grow. In practice, my contention is that spirituality thrives on questions and withers in the presence of too many answers--specifically because of how small and limited current human understanding is.

In a similar way, I remain dismayed at the obsession many seem to have with fear and violence, as if these are a sort of childish tantrum protesting and negatively interpreting whatever remains stubbornly uncertain. A wise response oriented to intelligent discovery within such a context, needs to be free of negative and unverified assumptions that hinder any sort of constructive communication. It is possible to proceed cautiously and circumspectly without casting negative judgment on other elements.

What is nearly always present within hurtful encounters, is an absence of dialogue and an abundance of misunderstanding. That being said, I don't have any particularly good answer to how the presence of predators and forms which feed on other forms can be maintained, but I emphatically object to those who treat such interactions as entertainment. I take no pleasure in observing one creature die in order for another to live or experience enjoyment.

My perspective is rather that all good relationships begin with love and empathy and that any who are incapable of such, are the ones who are most truly broken and in need of healing. A primary difficulty of the world is that so very many are, that even those committed to healing are often attacked and wounded. The basic reality of all things equivalent to Godde, is the assertion that better possibilities really are nonetheless available to all who seek them.

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

## Embracing Complex Possibility

Humanity is a species that is inescapably multi-dimensional, but in many instances has lost self-awareness of its own complex nature and reality. As much as one needs to persist in striving to expand within one's self, one's community, and one's relationship with invisible and frequently mysterious realities, events also occasionally occur that require collaboration between all three. Openness and dialogue are as essential to such times as blood flowing throughout a human body.

A healthy community cannot be formed by individuals dedicated to hiding themselves from one another. Likewise, healthy communities cannot be formed by groups committed to any form of stagnation. I have attempted to create a sense of home numerous times and only too late discovered that the particular municipality should have been labeled with the warning, "Unique and creative individuals wandering within reach will be victimized, punished, and raped in every way possible, for any inability or refusal to conform to our expectations."

What is especially disappointing is how often the larger family of humanity is willing to tolerate rather than curtail such reprehensible behavior. It has been too often repeated that "all that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good to do nothing." Innumerable blessings and ingenuity have thus been sacrificed for the status quo and innumerable people of faith have made themselves hypocrites by choosing to avoid conflict rather than stand against evil.

Embracing complex possibility is a matter of actively opposing evil and supporting good--neither of which will happen without personal investment. Anyone who claims to truly be a Christian is thereby obligated to oppose every form of hypocrisy, which is the sin hated more than any other by the biblical Jesus. The need for integrity, truth, and love, however, is by no means limited to Christianity, but extends to all.

Any choice or behavior of a contrary nature, is adversarial to wisdom, truth, and love and will therefore have only negative effects upon life--which unfortunately often go unnoticed until significant damage has been done.

Better possibilities really are available.

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

## On a Personal Note

It is a perplexing place for me to live, being within an increasingly small window between objectionable, depressing, and adversarial experiences of daily life while simultaneously knowing wondrous spiritual expansion within this ongoing ministerial activity. Metaphorically, it may be likened to having shoes that are a size too small, such that every step is painful, while continuing to move in the direction of amazing empowerment.

From one perspective, after eleven years of hard work and patience, the completion of my doctoral degree appears to be less than six weeks away and I have high hopes for dramatic empowerment of life circumstances to follow. A contrasting perspective concedes that I persist unavoidably in being one who is ahead of his time and therefore frequently unwanted and marginalized by existing perspectives and systems. Lying about this does no good.

By principle, I assert that truth is good, but I must sometimes struggle to understand how it is good or how it is made good by constructive response. Often there are dimensions of what is good that must be discovered, before I can understand what a constructive response would be and why that response is recommendable. I must remember ever and always that I--much like everyone else--am still in the process of becoming better than I have ever been.

Growth remains ever and always the only proof of life and I choose to persist in being as truly and completely alive as possible.

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

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Sister Who a/k/a Rev. Denver NeVaar, MTS  
POB 16074, Golden, CO 80402

Email: [dn@SisterWho.com](mailto:dn@SisterWho.com)

Internet website: [www.SisterWho.com](http://www.SisterWho.com)

Additional Informational Websites:

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