

SISTER WHO'S PERSPECTIVE

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Overview

I've heard since childhood that "With Godde, all things are possible." What many seem to overlook, is how often what is labeled "impossible," is only that way because of human choices and relational constructions—which infers that humans will always have the ability to create better possibilities instead.

Physically Impossible

Since the dawn of creation, humanity has been inventing ways to circumvent what is physically impossible, continuously widening the circle of possibility and giving life to what could otherwise never be. Over and over again, it has been demonstrated that an essential human characteristic, is being a problem-solver. The further implication is that when one is not engaged in solving problems—no matter how much time and investment are required—one is neglecting expression and further development of one's basic humanity.

Even allowing one's abilities to diminish through neglect could thus be legitimately considered a sort of abandonment of what is most precious within one's self. It is not that one is simply growing older, but rather a shift toward growing less active—and, in a sense, less alive. If certain parts are going to wear out along the way, they can do so on their own, without any assistance.

The developments and abilities I would like to see (as much as possible) throughout my future, are the ones to which I should be giving time and energy now. Cultivating interactive relationships with each and every surrounding component and dynamic, creates a life of such expansive dimensions, that it could never be fully contained within the smallness of any particular moment. The primary obstacle I've repeatedly encountered along the way, is people who reject or neglect interactive relationships in a variety of ways.

It remains physically impossible to have a

collaborative relationship with a person who refuses to participate. I'm reminded of the quote, although I cannot immediately recall the source, "We have found the enemy and it is ourselves." The one good thing about such a discovery, is the ability to immediately begin making whatever changes are necessary.

A secondary obstacle I've encountered far too often, is the absence of resources essential to the completion of a particular task. In far too many instances, that which was needed was idle under someone else's control, who was unwilling to share, perhaps because of a failure to understand how very interconnected and interdependent all of life is. I value individuality very highly, but understand that there is no example of individuality able to survive without a surrounding constellation of relationships.

A challenging aspect of being human, is that a body needs an in-dwelling spirit and a spirit needs a body to inhabit. Without the inner spirit to animate, choose, and develop its capacities, the body's existence becomes meaningless. Without the body's abilities and limitations, the spirit has no anchor, but instead is distracted and tossed about by any wind.

One could say that a certain basis of life on earth is a literally life-long commitment to maintaining and possibly developing a specific form. What remains impossible, are those effects which require personal investment that is never given. Specifically because humans are creatures of time, however, there is not an infinite amount of time within which to make any personal investment one chooses.

Similarly, others do not have an infinite amount of time within which to be part of one's life. Gareth, my Old English Sheepdog, only had nine years to give. It was thus a great honor that he chose to spend them with me.

Among the most painful aspects of life, is that I am unable to physically revisit moments that he and I shared—but I would if I could.

Our mutual love made each other real.

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

Bureaucratically Impossible

I find myself muttering all too often of late, “When money becomes the measure, relationships always suffer.” This dynamic has become so prevalent, however, that I wonder whether anyone remembers societal dynamics being any other way. Within the agrarian world within which I grew up, however, were conspicuous exceptions.

It was by no means a perfect world, but I will never forget innumerable occasions when someone was in need and—without notice—countless neighbors would suddenly arrive to freely donate food, clothing, and labor until the particular need was eradicated. Within Native American cultures, a similar dynamic was demonstrated within the The Give-away. In some instances, the report was that certain tribes tried so hard to out-do each other in demonstrating generosity, that the benevolent tribe’s ability to survive was threatened.

As modern corporate attitudes took hold, however, practices, policies, and laws made expressions of generosity and love virtually illegal—and the effects of this throughout the world transformed what could have been heaven, into various kinds of hell. The hopeful possibility within that development, of course, is that if people can make something bad, they can also make it good again. Indeed, the worse circumstances become, the more inspiration is available to resist.

Among my favorite lines from the first movie entitled, “Star Wars,” produced so many years ago, is spoken by Princess Leia to Tarkin, when he claims to have created a weapon so powerful that none would oppose it. “The more you tighten your grip, the more star systems will slip through your fingers.” So it is with every evil administration.

I look forward to humanity beginning to awaken to the chains it has forged for itself; that are adversarial to its very life. From a certain perspective, bureaucratic chains are a form of societal suicide, preventing the basic needs of citizens from being met. I pray that the next human revolution will be those who have become enslaved by societal structures that were originally intended to serve people, instead of vice-versa, putting an end to that enslavement and replacing it with societal

structures that are more truly empowering, inclusive, and wise.

It has been said that “everyone matters,” but I am confident that this sentiment did not arise from within any corporate mentality, but rather from a spirit of compassion that—through love—recognized value in each unique human being, so priceless that treating any person as less should be considered criminal.

Within the founding documents of the US is the assertion that “all [people] are created equal... endowed with certain inalienable rights... life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” If this is fundamental to national identity, it seems that far too many have forgotten who they are. What has thereby been rendered bureaucratically impossible, are the values and principles described and implied within the original documents.

The inclusive spirituality of the nation is not to be found within its churches, synagogues, and temples, but rather within its commitments to love, truth, equality, and wisdom. Again and again, the strength of these also requires solidarity—people working together—in spite of anything that might drive them apart. The magical quirk of that, is that in knowing and respecting each other, one often finds greater self-respect and personal integrity as well.

The current time is one of great uncertainty and fear within which bureaucratic entities are often expected to deliver stability that they do not actually have the ability to provide. The solutions that are needed cannot be found within the limited minds of administrators, but instead requires the collective wisdom and understanding of the whole population. The hope which hides right under everyone's nose, so to speak, is in recognizing that every one really does matter.

Phrased another way, at the heart of bureaucracy is enabling the ability to avoid truly knowing each other; to remain strangers rather than cultivating familial relationships. In responding to societal health threats, a small percentage of fatalities is only acceptable as long as one's immediate family or loved ones are not included. By truly listening and asking clarifying questions first, empowering possibilities are brought within reach.

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

Legally Impossible

The definition of what is and is not legal, too often seems tied to the ability to hire effective legal representation and engage in judicial actions. Consequently, injustices happen virtually every day, simply because the victims cannot afford "their day in court." I remember the evening I asked a particular acquaintance, "If this were happening to you, you would be outraged. Why is it okay that it's happening to me?" (to which he had no response).

In words attributed to the philosopher, Plato, "the price of apathy is to be ruled by evil men." An accompanying challenge, however, is to persuade a sufficient number of people that a particular practice should be collectively opposed (since a solitary individual is unlikely to accomplish the needed change). For the sake of my own integrity, however, there have been plenty of times during which I was the only one willing to speak up.

A significant gray area, however, if what is legal depends upon someone being willing to put forth a legal challenge, is the question of how much one can do to protest without provoking such a reaction. I recall being told many years ago, that a particular large corporation would simply write a check to anyone suing them for less than \$100,000, because that was the expense of going to court to fight the lawsuit. Without going to such extremes, however, is there a public demonstration, a letter to the editor of a local paper, or some sort of media attention that could be focused upon a particular injustice, in a way that maintain principles without enriching only attorneys?

Whether Edmund Burke, Martin Luther King, or one of the hundreds of others expressing a similar sentiment, it remains true that "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil, is for good to do nothing." The same idea phrased from an alternative perspective might be, "Every example of justice is legally

impossible, if no one is willing to resolutely stand for its existence."

Another consideration yet is the way that rights and relationships are defined. Many gays and lesbians have spent years or even decades truly becoming family to one another, only to discover a profound absence of legal recognition that negatively impacted their ability to be present and supportive of each other during final moments of life. I suppose that may happen to me as well, because, in words attributed to Marilyn Monroe, "I guess I belong to the world, because I've never really belonged to anyone or anything else."

On a similar note, I remember Arthur within the movie, "Excalibur," going to visit Guinevere one last time before the battle with Mordred, lamenting something like, "Perhaps we will meet again on a distant shore when we no longer owe any debt to history." What does that have to do with legalities? Such moments of deeper meaning expose how very limited and small-minded legalities are--and thus how incapable legalities are of giving true meaning to any individual life. More directly stated, the spiritual commitments and visions which give the most powerful meaning and purpose to life, are completely beyond the reach of any legal code and consequently cannot be found there.

More concisely, life itself is not legally possible, but rather depends on something that legalities will never be able to fully describe or mandate. Love can never be legislated--one way or the other. That specific theme was shifting this way and that within the human imagination, long before Shakespeare wrote, "Romeo and Juliet."

Operating from a purely legal or financial point of reference, seems to produce only inner emptiness. The more I hear certain people insist otherwise, the more I think they are mostly trying to convince themselves. In discovering meanings and purposes which neither money nor tyrannical commands could ever secure, however, life becomes worth living in a way that wisdom and love are potentially brought within reach.

The final conclusion is therefore that what is considered possible within one's life, must be free to exceed legal (and financial) definitions.

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

*"In securing space
for every living thing,
my life may find its place too."*

– Sister Who

Holistically Impossible

From one perspective, I aspire to always be inclusive and integrate whatever diversity ever crosses my path. From a contrasting view, however, I often draw from the specific contexts I have studied and experienced, which for the first quarter century of my life was primarily defined by Christianity. Among my favorite biblical passages, therefore, drawn from the book of Psalms, was a momentary pondering of the pervasiveness of the Divine.

“Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.”

I do not imagine that the truth behind these words is confined to the humanly created religion of Christianity, but what seizes my interest at the moment is the impossibility of ever escaping the reach of divine love—but equally the difficulty of understanding what that love allows to happen. I consequently concluded some time ago that divine love may be impossible to comprehend without a divine perspective that is often beyond my reach.

Yet because of who I am—holistically—any possibility of abandoning certain relationships is truthfully impossible. I would have to stop being who I am, for such to ever happen. I try to remember that the reason some persons nonetheless request me to do so, is precisely because they do not truly know me.

Having experienced an inordinate number of closed doors, painful losses, and denied opportunities for that exact reason, I try to have patience and faith that a time of making all things right, really is coming—and I pray for sufficient strength to endure until that time arrives. That’s why I so appreciated the response of an actress within a particular television series, to the comment that when “Godde closes one door, He opens another.” Her answer was basically, “Yeah, but watch out for the hallways in between.”

That’s when our collective strength and resources can make the essential difference.

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

On a Personal Note

On April 7, 2021, Episode 500 of "Sister Who Presents..." was recorded in Idaho Springs, Colorado. Two weeks later, editing of this video with subtitles in three different languages was finished (more quickly than expected). These three copies on the Internet (www.YouTube.com/DenverNeVaar) will hopefully be accomplished by the time this newsletter is distributed.

Consideration is being given to moving future production to the studios of Denver Community Television (the current Public Access organization) in order to return to three-camera production, but related challenges are quite daunting, due to a very limited number of volunteers and a necessity of new set construction. Additionally, there will be a greater associated monetary expense as well and I am uncertain of whether available funds will be adequate. Anyone with any comments related to this deliberation is encouraged to forward them to me at their earliest convenience. If I am able to make this happen, I'm fairly certain the results will be quite wonderful indeed.

I seem to be entering the final phase of my doctoral program as well and have high hopes for professional opportunities thereafter, but of course only time will tell.

In the meantime, what remains most important is serving the personal and spiritual growth of humanity, individually and collectively, in whatever ways I can.

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

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