

By the Taste of Clear Water

Thomas Merton Brightman

As a child, I was fascinated by brooks near my homes. I often walked streams seeking their source and the treasured trout and pebbles therein. Little did I know that seeking the source would be a life metaphor. The intensity still grows. I was to brook life and emerge better for the tests. I am becoming more fully what I hold the potential to be. Nearly fifty years later, I understand Thomas Merton when he writes: “May those who enjoy such apothegms **be encouraged, by the taste of clear water, to follow the brook to its source.**”

Seeking is not a choice. Consciously or unconsciously, submitting and surrendering, I am a seeker as is osmosis to the membrane of a living cell. I am absorbing life and its mysteries. I walk many brooks that descend underground. In the depths, purpose seems forgotten, even abandoned. I am stripped of denial by greeting my shadow self and then beckoned again by spirit to ascend better grounded for the next lesson.

Truly, the more I appear to know, the more I know I do not know. There is a saying that God always gives enough to seek, yet never enough to find. However, if God resides inside, then I am already home and I am simply seeking Grace in the many rooms. The search is not so much finding as it is in just being what I am already.

Thomas Merton also wrote: **“What can we gain by sailing to the moon if we are not able to cross the abyss that separates us from ourselves?”** My journey to self and infinite awareness is more consequential than standing on the moon. Yet, an image of earth from moon is empowering for me as a symbol of interdependence and humility. Seeing how finite my external world is motivates me to search the infinite world within for identify, harmony and unity.

I will always be a student. What I believe today will be richer tomorrow. More is always being revealed. As a learner, I am one of my own teachers. As a teacher I am most certainly a learner. Today, my learning uses me to mentor others. As teachers know, staying just beyond the full grasp of students allows them to find themselves. In turn, they will teach others rather than use



life to master that which someone else has asked or stated. A spiritually focused teacher will stay out of the student's way.



Though I cannot represent any absolute knowledge, I will share my practical and spiritual evolution to assist those who are ready to begin or accelerate journeys. I am open to receive willing students in search of self and God. I am willing to facilitate those who are seeking **compassion for self, harmony with others, unity in worldview and joy in the mysteries.** I do not offer answers. I do offer loving support to assist in finding your own questions and answers. You may call me for a mentoring agreement at 410-666-0238. **I will share 'my taste of clear water' and affirm you 'in following the brook to its source.'**