

The Artist's Way

A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity

Talking this morning about the creative urge within each of us and how it finds its expression.

Art isn't just paint on a canvas or in the music of the composer. Your artistry is your life's expression. It is your inventiveness, your workmanship, your own sense of elegance. Perhaps it is in the written word, or in some medium that could be proudly displayed for all the world to see. Or maybe it's your wonderful way of being a true friend, or lending healing hands to another. Perhaps your creative juices flow in the area of music, technology, nature, or animals. Whatever the setting is, you are the instrument of God's portrayal here on the planet.

THINGS I CANNOT AFFORD

by Bill Gates

MY WILD YEARS

by Al Gore

AMELIA EARHART'S GUIDE TO THE PACIFIC

A COLLECTION of MOTIVATIONAL SPEECHES

by Dr. J. Kevorkian

SPOTTED OWL RECIPES

by the EPA

THE AMISH PHONE DIRECTORY

When I began to realize that God – the divine stuff of the Universe – was not a distant, old-man-like figure in the sky, but rather, that Spirit is the very essence of life, and of you and me...I began to see not only Life differently, but I began to see myself and others in a new way. That we are not only the creation, we are One with the Creator.

Three principles

1. Life is pure energy, pure creative energy.
2. When we open to our creativity, we open ourselves to God's creativity within us.
3. Our dreams and yearnings come from a divine source. As we move toward our dreams, we move toward our divinity.

1. Life is pure energy, pure creative energy.

When the prophet said that we are made in the image and likeness of the Divine, he wasn't referring to physical attributes. He was talking about our nature...our essence. We are made out of and charged with the substance of the Creative Power of the Universe.

That statement of truth is a grand affirmation. *This* is that I want to know for myself and for you: We are made out of and charged with the substance of the Creative Power of the Universe.

Because we are one with the Creator, it is our nature, our instinct to create. And it is in this spirit that we behold the artist in you.

I invite you this morning – if you're not feeling too creative, or that you haven't had the chance to see your creativity – your art – be expressed, to give yourself a slight opening. Just allow for yourself the slightest possibility that there is something within you that is yearning to be made manifest in your own unique, glorious way.

The Talmud, which is considered by some to be Judaism's holiest book: "Every blade of grass has its angel that bends over it and whispers, "Grow, grow." Everyone has a voice. Everyone has divine expression.

2. When we open to our creativity, we open ourselves to God's creativity within us.

Ernest Holmes: "We are artists in living. To live by inspiration means to sense the divine touch in everything; to enter into the spirit of things; to enter into the joy of living."

I want to share some thoughts with you that come from a book by Julia Cameron, *The Artist's Way*. She says that art – all art forms – are simply the end result, the product of a creativity that is within us all.

She writes that creativity is an experience...a spiritual experience. One that not only are all of capable of, but it is the expressive dimension of us to which we are drawn. We create because we must.

Alain Arias-Misson: "The purpose of art is not a rarified intellectual activity...it is life, intensified, brilliant life."

Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, wrote, “Awake thou that sleepest, and let the glory of God be revealed as you.”

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Let’s begin to excavate our dreams. Let’s know, with Emerson: “What lies behind us and what lies before us are very tiny matters compared to what lies within us.”

Bookkeeper of a small firm, 35 years, would unlock his desk and look in upper left-hand desk drawer, then stare out the window for a few minutes. After the bookkeeper died, they unlocked his desk and found a single piece of paper in the drawer that said: debit on the left; credit on the right.

Giacomo Puccini: “The music of *Madame Butterfly* was directed to me by God; I was merely instrumental in putting it on paper and communicating it to the public.”

It is within you, within all of us -- a divine impulse to express, to create. Let’s awaken to that part of us and let pure Spirit have full sway in our life. And we do this not only for ourselves, but for each other. When we move into creation, the universe is advancing. It’s like opening the gates at the top of a field irrigation system. Once we remove the blocks, the flow moves in.

Joseph Chilton Pearce: “The creative pulse within us is God’s creative pulse itself.”

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