

Marsha Craig

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Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2011 4:13 PM
To: marsha@bodhispiritualcenter.org
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bodhi buzz newsletter

Sunday Mornings
9:30a Meditation
10:00a Celebration Service
Apollo Theatre
2540 N. Lincoln, Chicago

reveal love honor all paths celebrate life

April 2011

Bodhi's Buzz

Affirmation

Editor's Note

Thou Shalt Not Be Poor

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Affirmation

by Michelle Terry-Horne

Moment by moment, I become more and more open to receive limitless abundance, faith, courage, love and prosperous ideas from God. The Almighty Source that is omnipresent, right now. And so it is.

New Home Updates

For more updates about the new home and to find out how you can get involved [CLICK HERE](#).

Editor's Note



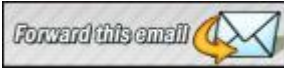
Anjie Hosley

Dear Beautiful Ones,

Happy Summer! Last month, we learned that we are meant to live more creatively and joyously. We can choose to be happy and release our suffering as we begin to live more presently and fully in the now. Our theme for this month is Thou Shall Not be POOR! And it's all about re-

discovering/discovering God as the only source of everything we could ever want, need, or desire. This idea of an all-sufficient and supportive Universe is a quantum leap in consciousness. It is requiring us to expand beyond what we know and have faith in what is real. One of the best ways I know to expand your vision and increase your concept of abundance and prosperity is to travel. For me, traveling gives you a sense of adventure, it helps you think globally, and it helps enlarge your vision of who you are and your place/legacy in this world. I would like to share one of my traveling stories with you. Enjoy!

Since 2005, I have been fascinated by the Prayer of Jabez. Found in 1 Chronicles 4:10, the prayer says, "And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou would bless me indeed and enlarge my coast and that thine hand might be with me... And God granted him that which he requested." I started God to bless me, indeed and enlarge my territory. Not really knowing what or how that would manifest or play out in my experience. I really just wanted to discover more of God's Grace and Promises, allowing myself to stretch beyond my comfort zone and begin to think bigger. In 2009, I had the privilege of traveling to Dubai, United Arab Emirates and



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this is what Dubai helped me learn/discover/re-discover about what I know for sure.

· Dubai aided me in remembering that wealth, prosperity, and abundance is plentiful despite the economic reports. Along with God's Promises, Dubai clearly illustrated that abundance is a natural part of life and is an obtainable way of existing and being in the world. The bible says, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." John 10:10

· Dubai reminded me to be dedicated to my spiritual practices of prayer and meditation. I am unapologetic in recognizing God as the source of my life. I seek to be consumed by my faith so that it will be engraved in everything that I do.

· The bible says, "Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely...think on these things." Philippians 4:8 Bottom line: what comes from the heart touches the heart. We are all one. I met some of the most beautiful, welcoming, and engaging people because I was open, beautiful, and I invited them to share my experience, grounding me in a lesson of Oneness that I will never forget.

This experience unlocked my heart and welcomed the warmth of the Dubai sun to create sunshine that continues to bless me to this day. I encourage you to define your own idea of what abundance means to you and after you define it, allow more and more of God to be reveal. Let your definition abide within you and expand you into a greater appreciation of the abundance that is your life. Abundance is you.

XOXO,

Anjie

Thou Shalt Not Be Poor



One of my favorite prosperity quotes by Charles Fillmore is, "It is a sin to be poor." Wow, huh? It's bold, clear and concise. The word sin metaphysically means to make a mistake. It's actually an archery term meaning to miss the mark. So, very simply, *it is a mistake to be poor*. I would add that it is a big, unnecessary, painful and pointless mistake to be poor.

Mark Anthony Lord I imagine this statement can make people feel confused, angry and possibly really bad about themselves. That's an ego move, for sure, so if you landed there do not stay there long. What if instead of getting pissed off, we decide to stop, breathe and choose to agree with it. And then allow that choice to awaken within us the Truth of Abundance, Unlimited

Resource and Infinite Good.

When Charles Fillmore instructs us that being poor is a sin, to me he is talking about poverty consciousness. I believe a man cannot have one dollar in his pocket and be absolutely rich in faith: certain that God is his source. When he needs that dollar he will have that dollar, and he knows it. Because he is so positively convicted he can and will have an amazing, rich, abundant day free of fear or worry. His pockets may be empty but his heart and mind are filled full with what is good and true about life.

This is the richness I am interested in for myself and for each of us. I see and speak to so many people who are in deep pain, suffering because they have no money and cannot pay their bills. They are certain that if those darn bills would be paid then they would be happy and rich, but until then ... pain, sorrow, fear, pain, sorrow and fear.

It's time for that mindset, a mind set on "poor me" to be changed. It's time to stop looking to the world for our riches and our security because we will never find it. Let me be very clear ... you will never, never, never, never, never ever find your riches or your security in this world. It is established within, and believe me, *within you* are riches, overflowing goodness and joys beyond imagination. Right now!

Say to yourself, "It is a sin to be poor and I am not a sinner, therefore I am not poor!" Have fun with it. Say it anyway you want, but say it to mean it and mean it to change your mind once and for all. You are rich. You are prosperous and free now and always ... you really are.

Love,

Mark Anthony Lord

The Art of Creativity



Carol J Godart

Creativity is our inherent spiritual birthright. However, we often say phrases such as, "But I'm not creative" or "I don't have a creative bone in my body" or "I can't do what you do."

That's because people often confuse art with creativity. Art is only *one* manifestation of creativity, sometimes resulting in a fine-arts classification, fame, or fortune, obvious with such works by Walt Whitman, Warhol, or Weird Al Yankovic. But creativity of itself is a true art form: The Art of Creativity. In other words, God's art, results in an infinite

array of manifestations, as unique as each person's imagination, such as:

- The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- Sand Castles
- Long Division

- Space Travel
- A New Way Home
- The Pet Rock
- Justin Bieber's Haircut
- A Backyard Garden
- A Sunday Dinner
- "I Can't Believe It's Not Butter"
- Chicago City Stickers
- A Journal Entry
- A Text
- A Children's Story, as evidenced by my co-columnist Blake Levinson's submission this month
- And MORE...

Art requires creativity. But creativity *only* requires imaginative expression. Self-expression! So don't try to create like Shakespeare. Only Shakespeare could be Shakespeare. But imagine, for a moment, if he claimed he wasn't creative. The world would be a lot less remarkable.

So here is your moment to share your remarkableness, to express the art of *your* creativity, by submitting to "aMuse Within."

Send your remarkable submissions to cigodart@gmail.com

How the Ostrich Learned to Fly



Blake Levinson

[With her permission, the following words have been lifted from the personal diary of Amelia the Ostrich.]

I hatch. I stretch. I stand. But I don't fly.
I walk. I run. I jump. But I never touch the sky.

Other birds fly without batting an eye.
But when I ask my dad why I'm stuck on the

land,

He just tells me to stick my head back in the sand.

I shake. I wiggle. I wag. But I don't leave the ground.
I flap. I flutter. I flop. For I never lift higher than down.

Other birds soar from mountain to shore.
But when I ask my dad why I'm stuck on the land,
He just tells me to stick my head back in the sand.

I sleep. I snore. I dream. I fly through the air with the greatest of geese.

I land. I wake. I cry. For I know my dream of flying was just a big tease.

Other birds glide with their big wings spread wide.

But when I ask my dad why I'm stuck on the land,
He just tells me to stick my head back in the sand.

I draw. I saw. I nail. I build new wings that reach from here to there.

I pray. I leap. I fall. For my new wings fail to hold me up on the air.

Other birds sail from hill to dale.

But when I ask my dad why I'm stuck on the land,
He just tells me to stick my head back in the sand.

I peep. I cheep. I chirp. I tell my dad I've kissed my dream goodbye.

He clucks. He squawks. He crows. He tells me he's found a way I can learn how to fly.

I study. I practice. I pass. I earn my license to board a plane and really fly it.

I taxi. I lift. I FLYYYYYYYYYY!!!!!!!!! And I steer the plane because I am the pilot.

Other birds wave hi as we all touch the sky.

And when I ask my dad how he likes flying with me above the land,
He just tells me that reaching for your dreams sure beats sticking your head in the sand.

[Note from Blake: The above muse-within inspired children's story came to me during a sunrise meditation at the lake with my Bodhi family.]

Self Included



MAUREEN MULDOON

I missed a meeting at work the other day and felt so foolish. Missing the meeting was not something I had chosen, and yet it was also not something that just "happened to me." As a practitioner, I gave up victimhood a long ago, or at least tried to. But still I want to blame someone! But as I look around I have only myself to blame and blame I do. When I can't beat up the next guy, I take it out on myself. Hum, how is that working for me? But blame is not helpful no matter who the finger is pointed at, self included.

If I was with my clients, I would choose my words very carefully. I would say something like "there are no mistakes, and this is a perfect class room for you." But with myself I am much less gentle and loving. Instead I hear myself say, "How could you be so stupid?" I am not proud of it, but these are actually the words that popped into my head. I'll have you know that the "S" word is not one I allow in my house so it can really ruffle me when it shows up in my head.

So when we know better than to blame others and it does no good to blame ourselves, what do we do? One cure all that seems to help is to "be still and know God." How is this done? Well, literally be still; go to a place where there is quiet and sit in contemplation. This does not have to be a church or library, it could very well be a car or a bathroom. Next, just connect with your breath and let it be. Allow yourself to contemplate without judgment going over the facts, just the facts. Sitting still before the perfect teacher of Cause and Effect and taking a moment to pause and evaluate how this experience unfolded can bring priceless insight. Next ask yourself, "Is this a pattern?" Again valuable information. Then, and here is where things can be oh so simple if we let them... choose again. Yep, that's it. Just choose again. We cannot erase the past or turn back the clock, we cannot control the future, but in this moment we can choose peace, love and forgiveness. When we choose this, we are actively choosing a power greater than ourselves. This Power who knows all solution. This Power that takes an active interest in our highest good.

A Course In Miracles says "Trials are but lessons which you failed to learn presented once again, so where you made a faulty choice before you now can make a better one, and thus escape all pain which what you chose before has brought to you. In every difficulty, all distress, and each perplexity you face, Christ calls to you, and gently says, "My brother, choose again."

Many years ago my husband gave me a gift of a set of paper

cocktail napkins. On the napkins was a vintage picture of an attractive lady smiling radiantly she leaned against a tree, cigarette in hand. At the bottom of the picture the caption read, "She had not yet decided whether to use her power for good... or evil." It was such a perfect gift for me. If you know me at all, you know I like to walk the line. To this day I still have one of those napkins taped to the cover of my A Course In Miracles book. It makes me laugh, and for me laughter is pretty much prayer put to music. The other thing I love about the napkin is that it reminds me that I always have a choice. I get to decide how to use my power. Today I choose again and this time I choose peace, love and forgiveness... self included.

Choices



Billie Schaub

Every day, without thinking, we make hundreds of decisions. We decide what to wear, what to eat, whom to talk to, and everything else. Life is full of choices and we've always been told to make the right ones. Unfortunately, questions get a lot harder and the right choices aren't always very obvious. We all know that sometimes, we don't get to decide to change a situation, but we can choose a different experience for ourselves. We always have choices to make, even if we don't think so. I

believe the choices that you make, make you. These decisions establish your identity and how you feel about yourself.

Just think...no one has ever forced an emotion upon you. Emotions are something that you choose for yourself. The truth is simply, no one's life is perfect. Everyone is fighting their own battle, but even if you look around Bodhi, you don't see a bunch of depressed people. If we wanted an excuse to look that way, we could all find it. Instead, you look around and see love and light in every face you see.

Two years ago, I moved from California to Illinois and I had to leave everything that I've known since birth. It wasn't my choice, but I couldn't change the situation. It's still hard for me today, but I try my best to keep a positive attitude about it. I choose to focus on my blessings...I still have my health, my family, an education, and a new beautiful home. By focusing on my blessings, it stops me from pointing out what I no longer have or what I think I lost because this gets me absolutely nowhere. It's a waste of energy. When you focus on the areas of your life you feel are lacking, you start to lose. The fact is you not only lose the areas where you feel you are lacking but you also those are prosperous and beautiful because you only get more of what you've been focusing your attention on.

Choices are the building blocks of your life. Someone once said, "Decisions are the hinges to destiny." Although we may not always make the right ones, we certainly learn from every decision we make. I think that we embrace our power when we realize that we always have the opportunity to make a choice. Although making choices isn't always easy, making the right ones can change your life.

New Home Updates

For more updates about the new home and to find out how you can get involved [CLICK HERE](#).

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