

**July 31, 2005**

**Question:** *A Course in Miracles* says, “The leader and the follower emerge as separate roles, each seeming to possess advantages you would not want to lose.” What would you share about this?

**Answer:** Roles seem important to you in your world, whether it be the role of mother, child, single, married, husband, wife, boss, employee or leader, follower. There are many roles that you have assigned and taken on, and you move from one role to another, changing roles with your age, life situation or the seeming circumstance in the moment. But all of the roles that you hold or that your brother seems to hold have one thing in common. With the roles comes shifting expectations that cannot be consistently met and so the role is guaranteed to show that you and your brother are separate and guilty.

**Question:** Ok. This is a good topic to discuss. Of course I seem to have roles. I am a single mother and Jasmine is a child. I see that as my primary and most important role in the world. What would you share with me about this concept?

**Answer:** Degrees of roles are but illusion. At another time, another role may seem to be your most important role in the world. Since roles shift and change, they cannot truly identify you because your identity must be stable.

**Question:** Ok. So, it’s not that I am a single mom. That is not my identity. That is a temporary situation that I am in. That does seem to open the way to ask, “Who am I?”

**Answer:** Yes. Letting go of identity with roles frees you to discover Self. You may still perform the actions of raising a child and caring for Jasmine, but it is not your role to the point of identity. So, not only is the question of your identity opened up, but also the purpose of the actions within raising Jasmine. What is the *purpose* of this circumstance in form? And as one who has committed to the purpose of awakening, this is the only purpose that can be given to anything now.

**Question:** I see. So whether it is raising a child or working a job or doing nothing at all, it is all the same based on the purpose I give it. So, does it matter at all that I left my good job for what right now seems to be a time of volunteerism? And would it matter if I decided to take another job?

**Answer:** It matters because of the purpose you give it. You had a desire to trust Me more, and you felt within your heart that you needed to be more vulnerable in order to learn the complete trust that you seek. Your purpose is a purpose of awakening and so the change in form is useful.

If you were to take another job now, what would be the purpose of that? Would it be awakening and trust in Me or would it be self-protection because your identity is that of single mom, which is a role with certain expectations? See what I mean? It is not the action that is important. It is the purpose.

If a specific job should seem to be a path for lessons you need to learn, you shall be guided to take that job. The situation of moving from volunteerism to a paid job would not be important, although in form it may seem to be a situation that changed. If the purpose remains the same, it is the same since nothing matters beyond the purpose.

**August 1, 2005**

**Questioner:** Holy Spirit, *A Course in Miracles* says, “The voice you hear in [your brother] is but your own.” What would you like to share regarding this thought?

**Answer:** All of form is the same. I have told you this before, and yet within your mind you are wondering how much you should believe form. “To what degree,” you ask, “is form real?”

I tell you that it is not real to any degree. The fear you hear in your brother’s voice is but your own. If you choose to believe his fear, you are choosing to hold onto your own. Is this the choice you would make? Is fear the lesson you would learn?

**Questioner:** Ok. I know exactly what you are talking about. I think I see my brother talking about a world of risk and lack, and I wonder how much I should believe in risk and lack. I am concerned about my safety and Jasmine’s safety, and I don’t want to be completely stupid by trusting where trust isn’t warranted. This is what you want to talk about today, isn’t it?

As we approach this conversation, I feel the fear within me. What if you tell me to let down all of my “sensible” guards? What if I trust you, and then I get hurt?

What would you like to share with me, Teacher?

**Answer:** Your faith is strong, and your fear seems natural in a world of fear. But as long as you believe that your fear protects you from destruction, you allow your fear to keep you from knowing Love. This is why it is called a leap of faith. Only by jumping will you learn there is no danger and only Love is real. . . only by taking your leap of faith.

**Questioner:** So, I seem to have made some big changes lately, but I am still questioning whether I should hold onto my fear as a means of protection, and you are telling me to let the fear go. Just how far shall I go *now* in letting the fear go? Is awakening like a gentle walk in the woods on a sweet summer day or do I have to walk straight through the dark, looking goblins in the eyes, in order to awaken?

**Answer:** There are no goblins and that is *why* awakening is a gentle walk in the woods on a sweet summer day, but you won’t know that unless you choose to go on the hike.

**Questioner:** I guess this is where the rubber meets the road, isn't it? I'm even afraid to ask this next question, but I will. I will put my faith in this voice I have learned to love and trust as an all-knowing and loving guide.

What would you have me do now?

**Answer:** Put your fear aside and begin the hike in the woods. Every hike is a step at a time, but if you want to reach the top of the mountain, you cannot pause between steps. And if you pause in fear, you will prevent yourself from moving forward with the hike.

Take My Hand, continue to trust in Me and consult with Me in everything. Do not think for yourself. It is Me that will get you up the mountain. It is on My Power that you will complete the hike. And as we hike, a merging will occur. You will lose sight of any difference between what seems to be your power and what seems to be Mine, so the struggle to choose will fade away. And when we reach the top, we will be one. Any seeming alien power will seem to have dropped away during the hike. And then, as Me, *you shall see*. And this will be the time of usefulness that you seek. For having experienced the hike, you can be used as a guide, and you can point the way to the mountaintop for others, and they will follow [the path].

**Questioner:** I see what you are saying. There is no question in my mind now, but there is still fear. I am willing to take this hike with you and consult with you every step along the way. I see how you must be the one who takes each step with me.

Since I hear best when writing, it looks like I'm going to be doing a whole lot more writing. (ha ha)

Are there any last words that you want to share with me this morning?

**Answer:** Thank you for inviting Me in. Thank you for trusting Me. Thank you for choosing to walk with Me.

**Questioner:** You're welcome. And I realize that in saying this, I am welcoming my Self.

**August 2, 2005**

**Questioner:** Good morning, Holy Spirit. I love you so!!!

*A Course in Miracles* says, "You never hate your brother for his sins, but only for your own. Whatever form his sins appear to take, it but obscures the fact that you believe them to be yours, and therefore meriting a 'just' attack."

What would you share regarding this thought?

**Answer:** Jesus did not hate the world. He loved it, and so he did not see sin and he did not attack.

The world is but a reflection of the mind. You will perceive the world based on the thoughts in your heart. If your heart is a heart of fear, the world you see must be fearful, and you will hate it and condemn it because you hate yourself for being afraid.

**Questioner:** Why hate ourselves for our fear? Why aren't we merciful with ourselves?

**Answer:** Because you believe the fear is justified and so the hate is also justified.

**Questioner:** Why do we believe the fear is justified?

**Answer:** Because in your heart you believe you have abandoned God, . . . that you have separated from His Will and created your own will, and you see this as the original sin on which all other sins are based. And so you fear punishment, and you hate yourself for creating this fear from which you cannot hide.

**Questioner:** And so, when we see sin in our brothers? Please continue.

**Answer:** It is but a reflection of your own sin. It is proof that there can be a will apart from God's, and so your sin and fear and guilt are justified and your death is certain.

**Questioner:** Yes. "The wages of sin are death." I remember this line from the Bible.

So, let's talk about Jesus again. You say he loved the world. How was his heart different?

**Answer:** Jesus knew his will was not separate from his Father's, and so he felt no fear. So, there was no hate. There was only the Love and surety of oneness, and it was this oneness he saw reflected in the world he saw. You remember his commandments. *Love the Lord your God above all else, and the second commandment is the same. Love your neighbor as yourself, for it is all one.*

**Questioner:** I need to point out that these words are slightly different than the words that I remember from the scripture in Matthew.

**Answer:** Yes, but look again now and see if you do not see these words within the scripture.

**Questioner:** Ok. So, let's take this to a level of practicality. What would you have me do now? And, what would you have me do if I see my brother's sin?

**Answer:** Now you must be willing to relinquish your own will. It is the thinking that you do that you believe is a sin, and it is from your separate thoughts that your guilt is born. And from that comes fear. And from that comes hate. And from that comes the world you see.

**Questioner:** And I take it you are not only referring to the thoughts in my mind that the world would call guilty thoughts, like thoughts of dishonesty or revenge. Is that right?

**Answer:** Those thoughts are but sub-thoughts of the original thought, and it is the original thought that must be healed . . . the thought that you can have thoughts apart from God's. This is the basis of all belief in sin.

**Questioner:** An interesting thing just happened. Jasmine came in while I am sitting here with you and said the two girls who are spending the night with her are getting on her nerves because they are fighting. I only wanted to finish my conversation with you. I told her there was nothing I could do and asked her to leave the room so I could continue my work. She left angry, and now I hear her in her room crying. I feel guilty, and yet I feel that above all else, I want to continue my conversation with you. I do not want this time with you taken away from me. What would you share regarding this situation and our discussion today?

**Answer:** Again, the form is meaningless. The words said are nothing. The guilt you feel is from the resistance that was in your heart during this conversation [with Jasmine]. You came face-to-face with what seemed to be a separate will, and you hated it. It is a perfect illustration of our discussion.

**Questioner:** Yes, I see. And, she is playing and laughing with her friends again already.

So the original sin is a thought or a will that is separate from God's. And all guilt, fear and hate is based on that original sin. It makes sense that there could be no sin if there was only God's Will. I get that.

So, how is the original thought healed?

**Answer:** This gets to the second question that you asked earlier. What do you do when you see your brother's sin? You must look beyond the form and see what you are feeling within yourself. Learn to discern that you are but reacting to hate, fear and guilt based on a belief in separate wills. And then be willing to let that belief go. Tell God that you accept there is no will but His and [that] all else is the illusion of separateness, the seeming effects of what could never be. And be willing to let this false will of yours go so you can be returned to your True Will, which is the Will of God.

**Questioner:** So, as the course says, "You never hate your brother for his sins, but only for your own. Whatever form his sins appear to take, it but obscures the fact that you believe them to be yours, and therefore meriting a 'just' attack."

Yes, I see. Thank you. And I guess I should thank Jasmine too for illustrating this point so well. (ha ha) ☺

And now, it is my birthday and Jasmine wants to serve me breakfast, so I think I will go.