

Acornology! by Maurice Knoll

Once upon a time, in a not-so-faraway land,  
there was a kingdom of acorns,  
nestled at the foot of a grand old oak tree.

Since the citizens of this kingdom were modern, fully Westernized acorns,  
they went about their business with purposeful energy;  
and since they were midlife, baby-boomer acorns,  
they engaged in a lot of self-help courses.

There were seminars called “Getting All You Can out of Your Shell”  
There were woundedness and recovery groups for acorns  
who had been bruised in their original fall from the tree.  
There were spas for oiling and polishing those shells and  
various acornopathic therapies to enhance longevity and well-being.

One day in the midst of this kingdom there suddenly appeared a knotty little stranger,  
apparently dropped ‘out of the blue’ by a passing bird.  
He was capless and dirty, making an immediate  
negative impression on his fellow acorns.  
And crouched beneath the oak tree, he stammered out a wild tale.  
Pointing upward at the tree, he said, “We....are....that!”

Delusional thinking, obviously, the other acorns concluded,  
but one of them continued to engage him in conversation:  
“So tell us, how would we become that tree?”  
“Well,” said he, pointing downward, “it has something to do with going  
into the ground and...and cracking open the shell”.  
“Insane, “ they responded.  
“Totally morbid!  
Why, then we wouldn’t be acorns anymore.”

## Meditation

**“The Kingdom of God is within you” Jesus of Nazareth, year 1 in the common era...**

**WE ARE THAT!**

In John’s Gospel, Jesus says:

**“Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.”**

**~The Gospel of John...**

**WE ARE THAT!**

**“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.  
Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.  
It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us.  
Your playing small does not serve the world.  
There is nothing enlightened about shrinking  
so that other people won't feel insecure around you.  
We are all meant to shine, as children do.  
We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us.  
It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone.  
And as we let our own light shine,  
we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.  
As we are liberated from our own fear,  
our presence automatically liberates other.”**

**~Marianne Williamson, 1992**

**Do we believe, really believe any of it????**

**We live in such turbulent times...**

**I really don’t need to go through the litany of what is wrong with the world these days.**

**we all know the issues only all too well...**

**So what do we do?**

**So how are we to live?**

**By what values do we base the choices of our lives?**

**What is the purpose of life?**

**Who do we choose to be?**

**Big questions, for sure...but important ones...necessary ones.**

**You know, when life is smooth we tend to float along, caught up in superficial things...**

**Kind of like the acorns in our reading...**

**we go about polishing our shells,**

**keeping them lovely and intact,**

**but never, heaven forbid! willingly let them be broken open so that**

**so that we can become the 'great oak tree' we were created to be...**

**But life isn't smooth right now.**

**Life is hard...**

**So we ought to ask ourselves:**

**are we willing to be broken open so we can become who we were created to be,**

**who we really are?**

**Are we willing to wait in the darkness until the seed of our True Nature is ready to grow,  
ready to break through the darkness and reach for the Light.**

**No one ever chooses to be broken...**

**No mentally or spiritually healthy person goes out to seek suffering for suffering sake's...**

**But, we know this to be true:**

**growth is often painful,**

**every bulb must break for the flower to bloom,  
every caterpillar must dissolve for the butterfly to be born,  
every acorn must break open for the oak tree to emerge...**

**I would suggest that if we would look at the pain of our world today as that ground out of  
which new life can be born..... it will change what we look for...**

**If we can hold the pain of what we are all experiencing as labor pains  
birthing new life, it will change how we bear the pain...**

**For each of us IS born to be a particular face of God in our world...  
None of us is God in totality but each of us is a unique expression  
of the Divine Mystery.**

**Each of us has been given certain gifts, certain talents that will add to the beauty and the  
life of the world, to ease the pain and the suffering of the world.**

**When we each do our part, the results will be beyond our imagining!  
As the scientists tell us: the whole is greater than the sum of its parts...**

**Buddhism often reminds us not to worry about the end result.**

**All action happens in the present moment.**

**To be in this present moment doing the best we can do with what we have,  
where we are and who we are...**

**that is all we can do...and that is enough.**

**What those 'greater works' that Jesus talked about might be, I do not know.**

**Too often we limit miracles happen to when a  
physical cure suddenly and unexpectedly happens.**

**So that is what we look for.**

**and sometimes, that is what we base our faith on, our lives on...**

**Yet, way too often we discount the miraculous nature of ordinary life...  
the fact that our hearts pump blood through our bodies  
most of the time without our even thinking about it.**

**That Maple leaves turn brilliant shades of gold and red each fall....  
and monarch butterflies, sand hill cranes and hummingbirds, just to name a few,  
find their way over thousands of miles each year to  
their wintering home and back again,  
without we human beings doing a single thing...**

**Many of us discount the miracle of two trillion galaxies in the universe and  
each galaxy having hundreds of billions of stars... at least as far as we know this day...  
that stars are continually being born at every nano second and dying just as rapidly...**

**Many of us forget that the very fact that to say  
“I’m sorry”, “you are forgiven” and I Love you...  
is evidence enough that miracles that happen over and over and over again.**

**Yes...times are uncertain and life is so very difficult right now for us all...  
But let us not run from what is ours to do...  
for as Alice Walker says: “We are the ones we have been waiting for”**

**Let us be willing to go through the pain of being broken open,  
of allowing that seed of Divinity to grow into its fullness in us and through us.**

**Let us be willing to let go of our expectations of what should happen  
so that we can see the miracle of Life that is happening everywhere  
in all circumstances.**

**Let us be willing to have eyes and hearts wide open  
ready to recognize the miracle of Love made real right before our very eyes...**

**in all and absolutely ever circumstance of our lives...  
and of course, let us be willing to say “thank you” amen.**