

EXCERPT - FOR ENJOYMENT ONLY

Letters *to a* Young Seeker

Departing Thoughts from an Elder



Neale Donald Walsch
with poetry by Em Claire

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My Heart is with You

It's not easy, this trip that each of us are on.
And my heart is with you, as you encounter this
age-old journey--yet one that will be individual to
you...

I've been on the journey for 82 years, and I will
offer here my humble sharing of what someone who's
been around that long has encountered and concluded.
I hope that this can be of some value to you, and I can
tell you that I sure wish someone had said to me, when
I was in my 20s, even a little of what I'm going to share
with you here.

Or, gosh, even when I was in my 30's.

The truth is, I would have been happy to have had
these ideas to consider even in my 40's.

So now, my dear soul friend, I will share what these
letters to you will look like.

I'm going to make 21 statements, each one of which will be the focal point of a separate short letter I've written to you. Every letter will then be followed by a gentle reflection from the published works of the American poet Em Claire, my beloved wife and life partner, who has shown me that poetry can often open the heart in a way which allows the mind to embrace the more mystical side of life, rather than filtering life through an always logical lens. This, of course, is what the Arts have always done for humanity.

Having said this, I wish to now take note of the German poet Rainer Maria Rilke, who produced a series of messages from 1903 to 1908 to a young, would-be poet on how to survive as a sensitive observer in a harsh world. After Rilke's passing, the recipient of his messages published them as a short volume, entitled *Letters to a Young Poet*. The idea for this book, and its title, are clearly an homage, and although nothing of Rilke's letters are referenced or re-produced here, we hope that what we have offered on these pages will also be a handhold, a bread crumb on the trail, a stone on the path as you walk into your own sacred remembering.

I have chosen to refer to each of the 21 statements highlighting my letters as an Inner Awareness,

because it is my understanding that Earth is not a school in which we are invited to learn what there is to know about life. While some people have said that this is precisely what our time on Earth is about, I am proposing here that it is about bringing *forward* the wisdom that *already exists* within each of us.

I know that you are now choosing to do precisely that, or you would never have begun reading a book such as this...

For the First Time

Dear Young Seeker...

Hello, my friend. I don't know how old you are, but I assume you're many decades younger than me. I'm clear that what the world needs in this moment are more human beings such as you, with your kind of willingness to be not only open-minded, but open-hearted—and, if I could coin a phrase, open-souled.

(By that I mean, open to the wisdom within.)

Now please don't let what I've just said stop you short. My use of the word "soul" does not mean that what I'm going to offer you in these letters is an ongoing religious tract, or a spiritual discourse. It's not even necessary to believe that a being such as "God" exists for you to reap benefit from the comments about how life works that I'll be sending you here.

You may wish to read these letters one per day, one per week, one per month, or all at once. Pick the pace that works for you and feels natural in your flow.

To get you started, let me summarize in nine words the overall message that I've come here to share with you after my eight decades on life's journey. This may just be life's biggest secret.

Here is...

Inner Awareness #1

There's more going on here than meets the eye.



Sincerely,

Neale

You never really know
when it will come.

Rising, laying foot
into the same imprint
you've made
yesterday
and the day before
and yes,
eternally before.

But some time
that superbly hairline crack
in your well-preserved casing
will suffer *a Grace*.

You can call it crisis, or crumble,
or, you can see it
as the first time your Truth
has succeeded in escaping,

like the soft and persistent
pressings of a chick

ready to leave the egg,

ready to *know* Life

for the first time.

Beautiful Dreamer

Dear Young Seeker...

*H*ave you ever had a dream which seemed to reveal something to you that was very important, yet you didn't fully understand it?

I had such a dream when I was very young. I want to say I was about 9 or 10.

In the dream, I was moving through what felt like home movies of my just-getting-started life. You know, scrambling out of bed and going to school, fumbling with my physical ineptness at every outdoor game until the kids on the playground never wanted me on their team anymore, eating dinner with my family and watching my brother being praised up and down for whatever he said or did...that sort of thing.

My dream suddenly switched to images of my parents as I saw each of *them* moving through *their* life. My dad getting up and going to work every morning, my mom cleaning the house, occupying us with her attentions, preparing the dinner we were all going to eat that evening...and, distressingly, both of them arguing with each other a lot, with raised voices, pounded tables, slammed doors, and then The Cold Treatment. (Refusing to talk to each other for the rest of the day—and sometimes, for much of a weekend).

The emotional upheaval of the remembered arguments woke me out of my dream, and I remember feeling something very strange. That feeling was reduced in my mind to two words.

Nothing Matters.

This thought pulled me out of my sleep. *Nothing matters???*, I asked myself. How can that be? Surely it matters that Mom and Dad argue so much. Surely it matters that nobody at the playground wants me on their team anymore. Surely it matters that my brother gets all the praise, and that all it felt I was receiving was correction and criticism.

Sadly, it wasn't until I was much, much older that I came to...

Inner Awareness #2
Nothing has any meaning,
save the meaning you give it.

When I said “much, much older,” I wasn’t exaggerating. I was entering my 50th year on this planet before I reached this realization. Before then, I thought that if I lost my job, it meant something. I also thought that if my boss praised my work, it meant something. I thought that if I lost an argument, it meant something. I also thought that if I won an argument, it meant something. I thought that if I disobeyed one or more of God’s commands (I was told about those when I was 9), it meant something. I also thought that if I obeyed God’s commands, it meant something.

Then—all at once, very much as in my childhood dream—Inner Awareness #2 arrived in my consciousness. I saw that nothing mattered intrinsically, or inherently. That is, in and of itself. We *give* every event in life *the meaning* that it has for us.

I’d like to tell you how and why this became apparent to me, because it could change your own life for the better, much earlier than your late 40s or your 50s.

So, if you feel that it might serve you, move on to my next letter.



Sincerely,

Neale

Beautiful Dreamer
Who Are You,
sitting in the seat of this soul?
Bless your innocent eyes,
half closed.
Bless your tender jaw,
still set in confusion.
Bless your full, beating heart,
so kissed with Light.

Bless the hand that writes,
and the breath that hesitates,
and the World that waits

for You.

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