

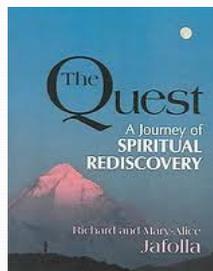
“Claiming My ‘Peace’ of Heaven in 2011”

Today’s Lesson

The Calling

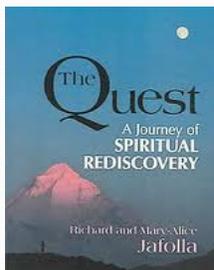
PowerPoint notes available at:
www.unityofbakersfield.org

The Calling



In every era of history and in every culture, people have created and cherished the story of a hero or heroine whose life is transformed by traveling on a special journey. So is it any wonder we are drawn to stories of the quest.

The Calling



Each of us has been called to be present, to be an individualized expression of the divine life force from which we came.

The Calling

Alan Levine of Maricopa Community Colleges writes: *The call is the point in a person's life when they are first given notice that everything is going to change, whether they know it or not. Often when the call is given, the future hero refuses to heed it. This may be from a sense of duty or obligation, fear, insecurity, a sense of inadequacy, or any of a range of reasons that work to hold the person in his or her current circumstances.*

The Calling

The call can be disguised in many different forms:

- A serious illness.
- A nagging dissatisfaction with your life.
- Suddenly finding yourself without a job.
- A relationship or marriage that suddenly ends.
- A sense of despair or feeling of being trapped.
- A dramatic experience or an inner whispering.

The Calling

Terra Incognita is what early map makers called the uncharted and unknown regions on their maps. They drew dragons and monsters with graphic expressions that told of the great dangers that awaited anyone foolish enough to venture there.

Today we no longer think in terms of dragons and demons. The threatening beasts to be conquered are in the recesses of our own minds.

The Calling

These so-called beasts show up as fears, worries, and perceived limitations. Sometimes the journey seems littered with one major set-back or calamity after another. When this happens we are tempted to revert back to the old ways of thinking, to give up our quest and refuse the calling. If life has taught us anything it is that we can overcome and prevail.

The Calling

The Jafolla's write: There is an innate knowing that one's spiritual, emotional, and even physical well-being depend upon heeding the call and making the commitment to endure whatever is necessary in order to attain the treasure and the transformation.

The Calling

One of the great challenges in heeding the call of transformation is that we must allow the old ideas, old concepts, old ways of behavior to die so that there can be a re-birth. Life is a series of "deaths" and "re-births" that we all go through from infancy to childhood, to adolescence, to adulthood.

The Calling

The ultimate rebirth is an awakening to Spirit, and that rebirth always leads to a better life. Spiritual rebirth can take a lifetime to develop, or it can explode into our lives in a split second. Sometimes our journey may also inspire others as in the case of Sara and Amy...

The Calling

At fifty-five years of age, Sara started to seriously think of going back to school to get her master's degree in education and then continuing on for her Ph.D. But she never did. Every time she started out the her dragons (It's too late to go back to school, I'm too old to start a new profession, I'm the wrong sex to make a decent salary) on her map scared her.

The Calling

Her sister, Amy, a single mom of three teenagers, was entrenched in a well-paying job which she hated. Seven years later, at age of fifty-one, Amy was awarded a Ph.D. in psychology and is now a successful child psychologist in a suburban school system. She chose to face the dragons and found them merely images on someone else's map.

The Calling

*Affirm: Dear God, I have heard Your call.
I feel You drawing me closer to the
realization of Your presence in my life. I
hunger to know You more. Thank you for
leading me higher...and for holding me
safe as I begin again.*