

# DETROIT NATIVE SUN

## Passing Through

### I am Zoe

By Evelyn M. Bingham  
SUN COLUMNIST



Passing through, by definition means (1) going by, beyond, past, over or through (2) lasting only a short time, short lived, fleeting, momentary. Passing through, whatever the circumstance or reference, signifies a short trip out of necessity which cannot be avoided, with better results on the other side, hopefully!

Have you ever had to pass through something that you were afraid or unsure of? I have, and I am sure everyone *has* or *will* encounter along your life's journey, situations which challenged your resolve, and forced you to step away from the familiar and the comfortable *and* out of the box. This brave move allows one, to pass through the mundane, and into the miraculous possibilities of courageous actions.

Passing through brings to mind the passing through of an old covered bridge or through a long scary tunnel during one of your travels, or some equally unsettling event, all due to fear of the unknown and what *would* or *might* await you there. There will be *many* instances and occurrences which will beckon you to move forward, to progress and to not become stagnant or stationary due to your fear.

Think about the many things you have or will pass through, ----- without kinder-

## Embracing the Goddess Within: How deep is your love?

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Love is an energy that radiates from the heart and permeates the auric field around you. It can be felt by others. When love is in its purest and highest vibration, you glow.

Your presence is expressed by others as warm, comforting, loving, nurturing, and transforming.

What you will often times hear people say is they feel unconditionally loved in your presence or they feel the spirit of God when they are around you. There is something very different or special about you. You must have a personal relationship with God. The power or frequency of the love that emanates from you is based on the degree in which your heart is open to giving and receiving love to the degree that you intimately know, love, trust, and embody the spirit of God.

There are many facets, levels, and degrees of love. The most powerful is pure love. It is the highest form of love known as Agape love.

I love you because you are. It is love without reason. It is love with the heart, mind, and spirit of God. Words cannot explain it, and the mind cannot comprehend it. It is a love that supersedes time and space, situations, and circumstances. It is a love that is beyond measure and knows no bounds. It is without end. It is the highest and most enlighten state of being. It is the ultimate human experience.

It is the awakening of Christ within. The nature of this type of love expands and evolves you. It commands and inspires you to give more and to become more.

It is a love that takes you to a higher and more elevated place

garten, there would not have been a grade school, or middle school, no high school no college matriculation etc. Had we not had tests, exams, initiations, attunements and other rights of passage, we would not have experienced what our hard work and personal self determination could create or attain.

We could also equate passing through, to our own growth and maturation from one stage to another, and from infancy through old age and beyond. Passing through life, training for any sports, attaining an education or other accomplishment or occupation, finding a life mate, military or public service etc., each of these are daunting at first until they are tackled with a ferocity which says that *I will win, I will accomplish, and I will achieve!* I suppose that the old saying, *no guts, no glory*, definitely applies here!

Passing through, means that you have bravely faced whatever obstacles which were placed in your way, faced the fear which kept you from trying, and with perseverance, determination, clarification of thought and direction, have forged ahead to cross the goal line! Passing through the *I can't* to the *I can* and finally, to the *I did!*

So, if we really think about it, we as a people are designed for movement, to constantly be moving forward and passing through one situation or experience after another, for we are programmed for curiosity, for learning and seeking.

Later in life we realize the obstacles in life we were most afraid of, were conjured up in our mind and were never as gigantic as we imagined them to be.

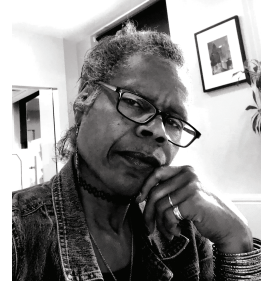
in your mind and spirit. You are able to see life through a spiritual eye.

It brings with it clarity of purpose. It fills you with passion and desire. It is love without conditions and restraint. This type of love is what your soul is yearning for. It is what you need to become whole. As you pray, meditate, and have intimate talks with God, He will transform your mind and cleanse your heart and your spirit of hurt, fear, anger, guilt and shame, and the judgments that you have made against yourself and others. Ultimately what you will find is what really matters, how deep you can love?

*Goddess GODIS is a Detroit Spiritual Artist who is dedicated to using her gifts as a photographer, garment designer, writer and speaker to document, celebrate and inspire the emergence of the Goddess within women of great spiritual beauty and wisdom who knows that she is a daughter of God. She is in touch with her creative spirit. To contact GODIS email GODDESSGODIS@yahoo.com.*



By Evangelist B. Colbert Brooks  
SUN COLUMNIST



At the tender age of 11, my daughter Zoe, wrote a surprisingly insightful poem expressing who she was and what she was. Up close and personal, she wrote:

*"I am from candles and glass figures from bath wash and Ajax;  
I am from the pots and pans on the stove and the fragrance of baby lotion;  
I am from the ferns and the cherry tree whose long limbs  
I remember as if they were my own;  
I'm from sickle cell anemia from Barbara & Craig;  
I'm from smarty pants and spelling champs and from successful human beings;  
I'm from eat all your veggies and love your neighbors  
and if a task once begun never leave it 'til it's done;  
I'm from the Christmas carols and the red and green lights;  
I'm from Royal Oak and the Indian people;  
From the Martin Luther King March and grandma's past times;  
And wedding photos on the red night stand;  
I am from the grass, wind, and sea.  
I am from the heavens above."*

We often say that this generation is self-involved and really don't know "the struggle". That they lack the knowledge of what it was like "back in the day" and have none of the stamina and drive that we possessed when we were their age.

As a product of the Baby Boomer generation, we lived what we saw. Our thoughts, our goals, our dreams and aspirations were formed by the temperament of society. Milestone events such as Vietnam, the Hippie generation, and the civil rights movement, propelled us into militancy, moral abandonment, rebellion, and a deep rooted sense of self-awareness. We had a cause and trailblazers setting the pace, inspiring us along whatever paths we chose to travel. The world dictated change and we had the privilege of living it out in our own personal lives.

The stories are told in books, on film, and even at the foot of the family patriarch. But it's not the same as living

through it. Reading my daughter's poem, I realized that even at the age of 11, she was desperately searching to put together the pieces of life as she knew it, to make some rhyme or reason that she could grab a hold of and some day be somebody.

We ought to put aside the cliches criticizing our youth and instead give them a salute for survival. They've had to make sanity out of insanity. After the riots, the marches, the sit-ins and the protests, life settling down to a new norm in most everything, they entered into a world of bro-

ken pieces, with the charge to carry on the causes, whatever they were. They had to deal with the aftermath without really having experienced the before math.

Many of our youth have indeed found a way to put together the pieces and make a way in this world for themselves. But many have not and are facing their own personal struggle just to survive. We can take a superior position, make a judgment call on the matter, and surmise that they just don't have what it takes. Or we can think of a young girl who saw the world through fragments that she could embrace and establish a personalized perspective to keep her hope alive.

Therefore, we must always remember that although their struggle may not be the same as ours, it's a struggle nevertheless. Keep the faith for our youth as they all have an "I Am Zoe" poem of their own, and it just may be what keeps them truly young, gifted, and black.

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