

DETROIT NATIVE SUN

Enlightening the Community

A Nobody

By Evelyn M. Bingham
SUN COLUMNIST & POET



An old homeless man was sitting on the corner watching all the people walk by him, most of them ignoring him.

He would sing out the same little song constantly and repeatedly. He sang "I'm just a *nobody*, trying to tell *everybody*, about a

somebody, who can save *anybody*. This little tale brought to mind a poem I once did, regarding the respect or lack thereof, of other people, who to some on the surface, might appear to be less than respectable.

I think the moral of this little story is to not judge people by their outward appearances. We should also keep in mind that

while we're judging others, someone may likewise be passing judgment on us! Let us remember that each person has value, even if temporarily they have forgotten or have never known their own self worth.

It may just take something as simple as someone else, maybe even a stranger, validating that person even if it is by something seemingly as simple as a smile and a kind greeting or a sincere inquiry as to their well being. Wouldn't it be wonderful, if there was something you could do or say each day that would uplift or encourage someone to hold their head a little higher, high enough to look over the horizon of despair, stand a little stronger, and walk straighter towards their dreams and goals.

Let's all try it, it probably wouldn't cost us a dime!

A Simple Man

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I may not have a large vocabulary
Compared to yours, my intellect may not be up to par
But when I praise my God and give Him thanks
I do it with all my heart

I may not partake of some of life's finer things
Some opportunities are not available to me,
But still I possess riches more valuable than gold,
I have peace of mind and a Spirit that is free!

My finances may be less than modest
But my hearts generosity is overflowing,
I am a man of great personal riches,
For my wealth comes from the love seeds I've been sowing

Never snub your nose at a poor and simple man
He may have been making "bank deposits" which really Count,
So take care of your own personal account
And watch your deposits mount!!!

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Reading (part 1)

By Minister Gloria G. Lee
SPECIAL TO THE SUN



Discussing reading is not easy because feelings get hurt people are embarrassed and not being able to read is viewed as a short coming. Please do not take what I say tonight as a criticism but take it as food for the soul: for if we do not change we will never grow. We can

only become stronger if we grow through change. The purpose of church is not for anyone to come to have a good time but it is a place for you to gain knowledge so your lives will be better. Church is a place for you to gain hope. Tonight I want you to have courage and believe God's word is important in your life. Humble yourself set your pride aside so you can save yourself and save your children.

My job is not to make you feel bad nor is it my job to make you feel good. My job is to make you stronger so you can win at life. My job is to tell you, you can win at life if you change. You have a choice to make tonight. You will either be ruled by your emotions or you will be ruled by you intellect. If you are sick and tired of being sick and tired of standing in an unemployment line, standing in the welfare line, eating government cheese, then you will listen to me with your brain and not your emotions. Christians are being defeated because of their emotions. We are losing our children to drugs, sex alcohol and prison because of our emotions. The battle can be won but we must have courage and we must change to win and follow the Lord. Christians are not winning because they have not developed self control. But you can defeat your emotions by reading and learning self control.

Reading is defined as the accumulation of knowledge. Reading is one of the pro-

cesses by which human beings gather information for conducting their lives which includes working, and recreating. When this process is inhibited for whatever reason the person cannot conduct his or her life successfully. The person meets with bad results. When a person cannot read or does not read well he or she will live the life of a beggar, a cheat, a liar, or will end up in prison or the grave. They will never receive what God had in store for them. Reading is the most important human activity any man can participate in. When you ignore reading you will have essentially cut yourself off from other people around you.

Our prisons are filled with people who do not know how to read. Our grave yards are filled with people who did not know how to read. You are not successful today because you cannot read or refuse to read. You continue to think you can conduct your life on the information you learned in high school. Your life is in ruin because you cannot read or do not read. Many of your children are in prison today because you did not read to them or teach them the importance of reading. Many of your children are dead because you did not read to them or teach them the importance of reading.

Reading teaches you discipline. Reading will tell you about another man's courage. Reading will tell you how to correct some of the mistakes in your life. Reading will help you solve life's problems. Reading will teach you how to find a job. Reading can help you learn a new profession or trade. Reading will help you improve your health. When you do not read you depend on hitting the number to get you ahead of the game. When you do not read you go to the casino and wager your life's savings trying to win big at the casino. When you do not read you depend on prostituting yourself to get money. You try to attract men to your breast or buttock trying to get money to live. When you do not read you go around the community looking for free food, free clothes, anything free that will help you.

So great a cloud of witnesses...

By Evangelist Barbara Colbert
SUN COLUMNIST



"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us." Hebrews

12:1

Translation: We have seen that there are many witnesses that have gone before us, and by the testimony of their faith, have paved the way for all who believe to receive the promises of God. Knowing this, we can lay down every burden, turn away from the things that tempt us from the Lord, and proceed diligently on the journey of this life, as God would have us to do.

It is now the evening of Good Friday. Earlier today, I recall how nearly every year, on Good Friday, there's always some challenging event pending in my life. As I ponder on the thing, I am graciously reminded of the finished work that Jesus accomplished by way of the Cross. Clearly, there is no test or trial that I can go through, that has not already been overcome.

Reflecting on the words, "... we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses." So it is that centuries ago, great patriarchs and matriarchs of the bible, walked the walk of faith, holding fast to their belief in God, and His unfailing protection and provision. Although they did not live to see the full manifestation of God's promises in their lifetimes, they held on to the covenant made between them and God, reassuring them that this was not their true and

final home. That on the contrary, once they'd completed their journey here on earth, there was a life in eternity, a reward for their faithfulness, free from all pain and sorrow. They believed because they trusted God, and because they trusted God, they had a relationship reciprocal and entire, wanting and needing nothing. It was an essential ingredient of their faith, that they lay aside their burdens, turn away from sin, and follow Him. Even more importantly, they knew that their testimonies would be their legacies, to pass from generation to generation, right down to us today ... "so great a cloud of witnesses" Though they knew nothing of the Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ, they believed in a God, who was Creator of all things. Their times were in His hands. Therefore, they trusted in Him. Where He led, they followed, in spirit and in truth.

I concluded this Good Friday with a firm commitment to indeed "... lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset" me, and zealously proceed to "run with patience the race that is set before" me. After all, my God provided a multitude of witnesses to secure the covenant for me, who believeth. He sent His only son to bear the Cross, magnifying agape love and supreme sacrifice to me, His child. Then, through the process of it all, He rescued and redeemed the captives, and paved the way for direct access to the Father through the Son, strictly for the business of reconciliation for the lost, to now be found.

May the *cloud of witnesses* forever surround us, keeping us well encompassed and fervently fueled to diligently run the race that He has set before us. May we never forget the Son who hung, died, and rose again, forever declaring that day at Calvary, an everlasting and eternally "Good Friday".

Embracing the Goddess Within: We are one

By Aldonna Smith AKA Goddess Godis
SUN COLUMNIST



We are one. We are mirror reflections of one another. What we see and judge in others is a reflection of what is or what is possible in us given the right circumstances or experiences.

As you judge others, so have you judged yourself. As you extend love to others, you in reality are loving yourself for all the ways that you are and for all the ways that you are not. Because what you understand is that in your imperfection you are perfection, and that as you acknowledge the shadows within you, the places where you need to grow, the places where you hold onto the hurt, anger and judgments against yourself and others, you choose to see things through your spiritual eye.

You are able to receive the spiritual gifts, the knowledge, wisdom and power that your human experiences were created to give you. You increase the power and radiance of the spiritual light within you. Your soul, your mind, your body and your spirit are set

free and, you become a beacon of light in the world and a powerful vessel and tool for the spirit of God to work through.

Rise goddess rise. Your light, your love and your wisdom is needed. Rise!

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, the spiritual essence of women. GODIS is the Author of *THE BOOK OF WISDOM* a Book of Empowering Affirmations and *WE ARE ENERGY*, which talks about the Power of your Spiritual Energy and how it effects you and the world around you. Contact her at Goddessgodis@gmail.com for purchase of her books or speaking engagements.

