

The Gift

Stanley Peele

Years ago, "Tom" Brown was very good at investing money. His prowess at this became well known, and soon others sent him money to invest. For awhile, everyone was happy, for both Tom and his investors were making money. Tom guaranteed them a 10% profit. Tom was very good about paying his investors on time and in full. Then the market slumped, and Tom made a few bad investments. Tom should have been forthright, and informed his investors about the bad news. He did not. Instead, he kept paying the investors the full 10%. His business imploded, and the investors became angry. Tom was charged with fraud. In 1998, when Tom was 66, he was convicted and sentenced to 17 years in prison.

To him, this was a life sentence. Today Tom is still in prison.

The human spirit accepts no limitations. As the result of being imprisoned, Tom has grown in spirit. He writes articles that brim with deep and abiding wisdom. His articles are inspiring; they speak of patience, forgiveness and love.

Stanley Peele is an emergency judge. He has been on the bench for 40 years. He and Tom have been writing each other for years. Through these letters, they have shared their aspirations and their deepest feelings. Although they have never met, have never heard each other's voice, they have become close friends.

Christmas is a time of joy. It also brings feelings of sadness and gloom. On Dec. 14, '05, Stanley was sitting at the kitchen table. His heart was heavy, for he had just heard of the death of a friend. He looked at his mail which was stacked on the table.

"Oh!" He said to his wife, "Here is a letter from Tom!"

He opened the envelope; here is the letter:

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{ Stanley –

*As you can imagine, I'm really limited with what I can send  
you for Christmas.*

*Ah, but what I can send you is in this box –*

*[Here he carefully drew a box wrapped in green paper with a red ribbon  
around it, crowned by a red ribbon.]*

*Now this is not an ordinary box. It's a magical box. When you untie the  
ribbon and open it, hearts and smiles ( :) :) :) ) . . . will pop out. They  
represent the love and blessings I'm sending you.*

*Merry Christmas to you, Stanley!}*

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A tear formed in Stanley's eye. He thought: "Wouldn't it be nice if others followed Tom's lead, and sent this type of gift – rather than presents.?" For here in this simple card, Tom had expressed the true essence of Christmas!

By sending this simple gift, Tom had lifted Stanley's spirits.

Christmas is a time of letting go of the desire for wealth, power and fame; a time of turning toward the real world that lies under the patina of drama and ego. And that is the world of love.

The earth was created out of love. It was the Garden of Eden. It is our desire for goods, money and influence that has changed the Garden of Eden into a world of turmoil.

Today Tom Brown is in prison. All his property has been taken. He has no money, no stocks, no car, no bank account, no house, no furniture, nothing. Yes, he is in prison, but his spirit is free. His mind is free. And with his mind and his spirit, he can travel to the far corners of the universe!

Fly away, Tom! Fly upward and away!

Tom Brown and Stanley Peele
December, 2005

The Nun

Stanley Peele

Once upon a time, in 1969, the soul of Hitler's 2d in power hovered in a dark quiet place, wrapped in several shrouds; for years and years he had rested in these shrouds. Every so often, he would stir, wake up, and lift his head; and start to come forth from his shroud.

The enormity of harm he had caused others would hit him when he roused; for in the next realm, we will be able to feel the thoughts of others who have crossed our paths. He would shiver. There was no one to pray for him; and so he would sink, once again into his slumber.

Then, it came to pass that a nun died. The nun died with an open mind; and when she saw the Summer Land, she observed, felt, allowed wisdom to be taught to her. Christ was waiting for on that level, and his arms around her taught her the true meaning of love.

She looked out upon the face of Summer Land, and saw that it was good. She saw many mansions. She saw Hitler's 2d in command.

"May I go to him?" she asked. Her guardian smiled and said, "Of course; here, also, there is free will."

And so the nun went to him, and sat quietly by his side. She prayed for him and sent love to him, for she knew the meaning of love. He stirred, aware of the presence of another soul. Again, he lifted his head. Again, he felt the pain of those he had tortured and killed. Again, he sank down into his shroud.

The nun waited patiently. In time, he roused again, and again retreated. But now he knew there was someone there who was praying for him.

In due time, he roused and stayed to face the onslaught of pain; and having faced it, finally was able to say with complete sincerity, "I am so sorry; I was wrong." Then he went through a process of cleansing, and an ancient ceremony undergone by those who have spread horror upon the earth. The nun was with him all the way, never leaving him, never judging him. And by doing that she taught him the meaning of love.

And so he was able to progress through some of the many mansions of Heaven.

There is no Hell save that which we bring upon ourselves by our system of belief. Hell is not imposed upon us. We take it with us. We create it. Neither God no Satan creates it. And we can free ourselves from it by our belief in love, and by our intention to live in harmlessness, and to remember who we are.

God does not judge. We judge ourselves. Look at the picture of Christ that has been given to you (I will send you one, if you have not been given one already). Do you see judgment there?

When I die, Christ will be waiting for me. His arms will be open. He will say, "Well, Stanley?"

And my direction and location will be up to me, it will be my choice.