

# THE STORYTELLERS HANDBOOK

*“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.” Eph. 4:29*

Sitting with a dear friend recently, we engaged in lively conversation as we often do. Touching upon a “topic du jour” (something in the news, personal affairs, etc.) the discourse was off and running. As is his way, at some point in our chat, he launched into a story that became so lengthy, mired in detail, rambling, flashbacks, flash-forwards, etc. that, by the time he had finished, we both had forgotten the original theme of our conversation. Without making judgements upon this style of communication, I cannot help but think that something of some substance, insight or possibility of wisdom becomes lost when this occurs.

Human history, culture and identity are saturated with rich traditions of storytelling, myths and fables; including those found in the Bible. Across the centuries, from Aesop to Will Rogers, from Jonah and the whale to the parables of Jesus Himself, storytelling has always been an avenue to teach, preach and ignite the imagination resident in human

consciousness. This is true as microcosm as well since we all have storytellers and have been storytellers in our lives, in our relationships and in our associations.

One of the greatest storytellers of all time, William Shakespeare, once quipped “Brevity is the soul of wit.” We as Initiates moving more fully into the Kingdom 3 corridor are at a place where we can choose more consciously and with greater intention what we do with our own stories. Embracing the words of Shakespeare as well as becoming more in service to the unfoldment of Christhood in the world sheds new Light on what we say in our own storytelling and why. When the transmission of Truth becomes our intention as well as our passion, the Holy Ghost is exposed and others can be lifted above the veils of the flesh by our surrendered tongues.

As with my dear friend, a torrential downpour of facts, details, asides, etc. can bewilder an otherwise attentive listener, obscuring Truth and Wisdom that might be clearly revealed in a story otherwise. Storytelling simply for the sake of storytelling, without higher purpose or intention is something that we, anchored in Christ, should consider being very mindful of. Esoterically, the experiences we gather through many lifetimes have a single, exalted purpose and that is to individualize Wisdom in us, showing us the way Home by Christ. What we are given by Grace is meant to be passed on to others and, by extension, to all mankind just as Jesus Christ did

through the conscious and effective transmission that we might call “exalted storytelling.” In Luke 12:48 Jesus announces “To whom much is given, much will be required” and that can be the mission and the ministry inherent in every story we tell.

Yet another aspect of our storytelling we Initiates should be mindful of is the effect that the story can have upon the person who tells it. When our stories remain “earthbound” our human egos can fill them with emotions, past judgements, the specter of duality, etc. Stories told in this way may trap the teller as well as those who are hearing it in conditions, circumstances and situations that roil the waters where Truth might be found. When this occurs, the story can seem real to us while the substance contained therein becomes wrapped around by the “matters” that created them. I recently spoke with a friend who related a tale of unfairness and guile in her own life. As she told the story, I could hear the timber in her voice change, a certain anger and resentment welling up in her belying the emotions and judgements that she was experiencing. When the stories we tell are bound to the earth by details, conditions, identifications, locations and the like, we, as storytellers are bound to the earth with them and, once again, something of great value can be lost or concealed. The Apostle Paul tells us in Phil. 4:8 “ Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are

lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue and if there be any praise, speak on these things.”

For the Initiates, we can choose to become servants in our storytelling, our “me-ness” set aside so that our “I-ness” can be revealed by our words. It is here that our stories and the telling of them can announce what IS and not simply “what happened.” One could say that unless THE Word is brought forth by our words, a story may be unfit to tell.

When told in an exalted manor, filled with exposed Wisdom and Truth, we as well as our listeners will be filled with passion. Passion should not be confused with base emotion and cannot be when the Holy Ghost is active in our storytelling. When this passion washes through a story told, it becomes Truth realized by the hearer and Truth revealed by the teller. The memory of Origin, the remembrance of First Cause brought forth in this way is always passionate, always exhilarating, always life-changing. This is the miracle of true testimony.

In Psalms 66:16 we hear the words to be embraced by those who tell stories as testimony, the ministry of the “servant storyteller”: “Come and hear, all ye that love God, and I will declare what He hath done for my soul.” Testimony is the Truth remembered, the “Word made flesh” in our lives that we pass on to others in the form of conscious, exalted storytelling. Christ Jesus did this most notably in the parables, as did the

disciples as they took up their own individual ministries. Testimony spreads Wisdom, announces Immortal Mind Presence and reminds those in our company of who and whose they really are by evoking the timeless memory of Being resident in every human soul. As mere storytelling becomes true testimony through us, we as Initiates find that we are about our Fathers business in a new way. We see through the veils when it comes to our stories and find that the devil really is in the details.

*Dave Luce 9/21*