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Daily Thoughts *Words of Wisdom and Inspiration*

by Ariel B. Tzadok

September 2016

The Setting Sun

Youngest sister wanted to rise. She wanted to be at the top of the garden, not at its bottom. Being the feet was meaningless to her, if she could also not be the head. The Old Man knew all this, and still watched her from a distance.

Approaching her warrior brother, the victorious purple clad night, she saw standing behind him, his mighty brother who shone with the light of the sun. Two brothers standing together, only with guile could she defeat them both.

Closing her eyes she gazed within, and saw her path to victory. Defeat the stronger, and weaker will topple along with him. If she could topple the sun, the purple clad warrior would surely be eclipsed in his downfall.

Youngest sister remembered, that Central Brother, her third brother was indeed like the shining Sun. It was his light that shines throughout the whole garden. Indeed Central Brother was the center pillar about whom all others were arranged. Central Brother stood in direct line to the Old Man. Although she could not see him anymore, younger sister knew where to find him. Just look beyond the blinding light of Central Brother. and the Old Man is there. far away, and beyond, hidden in the darkness that is beyond the light.

Suddenly it came her. Darkness and light, light and darkness. One always reflects the other. One is never complete without the other. Darkness and light are day and night. Her Central Brother has always been the light, and sun of day, but she, youngest sister, has always been the darkness, and the moon of night. The moon does not fight the sun, nor does night fight the day. But it is the natural order of things for one to give way to the other.

She would not topple Central Brother, and with him, his purple clad night, rather she would allow her ascent into his domain to be what it truly was, the setting of the sun, naturally, and the equally natural rising of the moon. Even Central Brother could gaze within

and know the truth of this pattern. When show this by youngest sister, Central Brother would have to consent, and simply move aside. No fight would be necessary. No conflict is called for. Let nature take its course, youngest sister thought, and let my Central Brother see it for what it is!

Life flows in accordance to its ever moving, natural cycles. Night becomes day, and day becomes night. Youngest sister knew that to set the shining sun of her third brother, the mighty central one, she would have to transform her night into day, and thus trick him into turning his day into night. In such a state, youngest sister could absorb both Central Brother and his mighty right hand the purple warrior, who by right, was a night of his own.

The darkness of youngest sister stood directly in the face of Central Brother and captured the light of his sun upon her gloss black face. The light of Central Brother shined directly back upon himself, making him see not his youngest sister, but the reflection of himself. Seeing this, and knowing that he too had to follow the course of nature set for him from within allowed his sunlight to set, thus allowing the moonshine of youngest sister to rise.

And this it did indeed.

Her guile had worked. But rather than trick through deception, youngest sister simply used the forces that be, and manipulated them in her favor. She had learned that some fights are won with wisdom, rather than with force. Youngest sister also saw how the purple warrior dimmed into the moonlight, and posed no threat to her now natural ascent. Nothing so far has stood in her way, but her ascent was far from over. Greater challenges still waited ahead.

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Oldest Sister, the Lady of Darkness

The moon has risen, the sun has set. Youngest daughter now stands in the coveted place of Central Brother, the Sun of the first Son, the small face of the Old Man himself.

As she gazed above, the path before her was certain, but before she could proceed, her next step along the path would have her claim the domain of her oldest sister. Oldest sister was the epitome of the dark, and the sinister. Her domain was a domain of darkness. All her siblings feared oldest sister, for her domain was the Dark Side of the Garden.

No one of her peers ever dared to enter the domain of the Dark oldest sister. Her power was awful, her strength unmeasurable, her wrath without bounds. her severity unsurpassed. Oldest sister had nothing to fear from her youngest sister, for she knew all too well, that any attempt to enter her domain would be met with unsurpassed wrath. Youngest sister thus feared her oldest sister, and paused to contemplate how to even enter her domain, how to confront her. and all the more so how to defeat her and dominate her place.

But the place of oldest sister was dark and sinister. None of her siblings have ever penetrated its darkness. It was the only place in the garden where nothing grew! The domain of oldest sister was as much the domain of death, as oldest brother's was the domain of life.

Tried as she did, youngest sister could not think of any way to even approach her sister without being viciously attacked. Slowly she began her path ascending cautiously into the dark domain of the farthest corner of the garden.

Suddenly, without warning, and totally by surprise

a terrible darkness befell youngest sister, and within the darkness brewed a terrible storm, a mighty wind, strong enough to split the boulders of stability that sustain the garden. Oldest sister began her assault. She had brought the fight to youngest sister.

Darkness, thunder, and earthquakes shook the entire garden. Within the darkness, youngest sister could feel, even though she could not see, that lighting was striking her, tearing away from her all her facades, her thoughts, her feelings, and her fears. Youngest sister did not even know how to fight back against such a formidable foe.

More and more the darkness of oldest sister grew around her. Youngest sister could see no way out. Was this the end of her road? Was this the end of her ascent, to be defeated by her dark sister? Was not youngest sister darker than this? Could she not muster up her own darkness to fight?

In a fit of desperation youngest sister cried out in the voice of pure passion, and unleashed all her pent up rage, releasing all her own darkness to combat the darkness of her oldest sister.

Yet, younger sister

came to realize all too late. One cannot battle darkness with darkness. This only makes the pit deeper, and matters worse. Deeper and deeper youngest sister fell into a pit of darkness, severity, and her own despair.

As she fell deeper and deeper into a darkness of her own making, younger sister began to contemplate the unthinkable. Has she lost? Has all her work been in vain? Has she lost all that she had gained, and even lost all she had before? In the darkness she contemplated all these things. And yet, as we know, there is much more to our story. It certainly does not end here, as youngest sister is soon to discover.

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Brother of Light

Once upon a time, youngest sister thought to ascend, and take control over the entire garden. One by one she approached her siblings, and one by one, they fell before her, and became absorbed into her now changing essence. Yes, this all happened once upon a time.

But at this time, youngest sister had fallen into the darkest darkness. Unleashing her anger against her oldest sister who herself was darker than dark only ended up compiling darkness upon darkness leaving youngest sister buried in a pit of the deepest dark, lost. In this pit she could feel herself falling, and falling deeper without any seeming end in sight.

Her anger, and her rage distanced itself as she fell further and further away, from her sister. from her dreams, and from her goal. She felt herself alone, in the dark. and detached. even from herself. She felt herself alone, in the dark, without passion, without feeling, and without care for whatever future there was to be.

Yet, to all things that have a beginning, there is also an end. The darkness into which she fell was still part of the garden. And the garden encompassed all.

Suddenly, again, without warning, there was light! She was surrounded by the light of day, the beautiful garden all around her. All was quiet, sweet and beautiful. This was the other side, the side she knew existed, but had never before seen. Approaching her, was a very handsome man, young, vibrant, full of life, and light.

"Greetings, youngest sister," the man said. "You know me, although we have never before met. I am your oldest brother. Welcome to my domain."

Stunned, but not angry. Curious, but surprisingly without passion, youngest sister turned to her oldest brother, and said, "I am in your side of the garden. But, how did I get here? I was falling in the darkness, vanquished by oldest sister. How did I escape the darkness? Did you save me?"

Smiling oldest brother said, "save you, me? No, nature just took its course. For all things in the garden have their beginnings and their ends. Indeed, the end of one is the beginning of the other. When you fell to the depths of darkness, and could fall no further, you immediately fell out of the darkness, and into my light. All things flow in the great cycle, one side rolls into the other. One side contains the seed of its opposite, and as you plummet to the depths of the one. you will eventually reach the other. And this you have! Welcome!"

Enlightened, youngest sister revived. The beauty in this part of the garden was profound. Indeed, it was the exact opposite of the darkness which embodied oldest sister. Oldest brother was a magnificent man.

It would be a shame to remove him, for youngest sister to take his place. Yet, as she revived, so too did her sense of purpose, her mission, and her passion to ascend.

Yet, oldest brother showed no sign of concern or resistance, how so different from oldest sister. How was youngest sister to take oldest brother, and submit him to her, he was so magnificent, that it seemed a shame to oppose him, but oppose him she must. But how can one oppose that which so deserves not to be opposed. For the first time in her ascent, youngest sister began to feel remorse, and to again question her path, and her destiny. And the Old Man kept watch from a distance.

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The Secret of Oldest Brother

Once upon a time...

After such a terrible ordeal with oldest sister, and a seemingly opposite experience with older brother, youngest sister was quite perplexed. Her emotions stirred within her like a stormy sea under cloudy, windy skies.

Confused, and frustrated youngest sister turned to her oldest brother, and spoke her heart. "You know why I have come. I have come to claim your place, to absorb you into me, and to take over your portion of the garden in my ascent to the Old Man. I am destined to be the Only One, and I cannot allow even your graciousness, and kindness to deter me in the path of my destiny."

Older brother smiled warmly, seemingly totally unconcerned about youngest sister's boastful plans. His calm demeanor made youngest sister feel even more confused, and mildly alarmed. Why did he show no concern? Did he have a way to prevent her ascent? Did he have a power concealed from her, one which, like oldest sister, she could not defeat?

Sensing her feelings, oldest brother spoke first, "My dear youngest sister, how beloved you are to me, and yet, how much there is that you do not yet understand."

"Tell me my dear, how did you defeat your oldest sister? Oh, that's right! You didn't defeat her. Essentially she defeated you! But here you are, safe from her, and far from her dark domain."

"True, she is in you, and you are in her, but you do not, and cannot control her. No one person can ever control

the entire domain of darkness. While she will allow you to embrace her domain in your ascent, she does this willingly, for her own personal reasons. But even so, she maintains her identity, and maintains her control over her dark lands."

"My dear, know this, oldest sister, and I are twin. We are two sides of the same whole. I am in her, and she is within me. My realm is within her, and her realm is within me. One flows naturally into the other. It has always been this way. That is why when you fell in her domain, you ended up in mine!"

"Just as you cannot defeat oldest sister, so too can you not defeat me, your oldest brother. For unlike your oldest sister, I will not fight you, instead when you begin to attack me, I will withdraw, and withdraw again. You will never be able to gather the whole of my light, to embrace it all."

As your elder siblings, we have powers that you cannot understand. Our parameters are not measurable by your standards. Light and dark exist in the garden, but we are not limited to it, thus while you may embrace our realms within, you can never embrace the whole of our essence. And even so, like with your oldest sister, I too will give you passage to continue your ascent. But just know this, oldest sister and I

have allowed you passage. You did not take it, rather it is freely given.

Youngest sister was enraged by oldest brother's words. Yet, deep down within a pattern inside herself, she was growing in awareness of just how true his words were. After her recent ordeal with oldest sister, youngest sister thought, "Is it so bad to ascend by receiving, instead of by taking? I see the wisdom in oldest brother's light. Maybe I should count myself lucky that I do not have to fight him." And oldest brother knew her mind, and nodded in agreement.

And far away, hidden in the clouds above, Old Man watched and also silently nodded his head in consent. "She is learning well," he thought. "Everything is going according to plan!"

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Walking Together in the Garden

Once upon a time, long ago in the garden...

Youngest sister walked hand in hand with oldest brother. He showed her his domain from one end to another. Yet, as they approached the site from which they could go no further, oldest brother turned to youngest sister, and revealed to her a secret about the light.

"My dearest sister, know, there is no limit to my domain. From here the light of the garden goes on and on into realms and places not yet discovered. You may take control over my realm in order to fulfill your destiny. I give this to you freely, but know for sure. that there is far more here than you can know, be it now, or even in the future. For the great secret is that to both, light, and darkness, there is no boundary, and no limit. Both will extend to the boundaries of mind, and thought, to the boundaries of love, and imagination. I will submit to you, and allow you to absorb of me what you are able. I will transform, to serve you as a voice of conscience within you. I will be with you, and inside you, always." And with this, what seemed to be a ghostly image emanated out of oldest brother's body, and hovered above them for just a moment and then settled into the mind, heart and body of youngest sister. She could feel the presence of her oldest brother within her, and could feel his consciousness speaking within her mind. This was so different than how it was with her other siblings.

than how it was with her other Youngest sister knew that they too were within her, but their voices

- had fallen deep inside her.
- She was aware that they were there,

but she would have to search for them inside herself in order to hear them. The voice of oldest brother was different. His voice was on the surface of her mind. She could sense his presence with deep intensity.

Oldest brother then spoke within youngest sister's mind. "My sister it is time for you/us to continue the journey. Our next stop with be at the feet of the Mother of us all. She is the Mother of all understanding. She will welcome you, and enlighten you, but the path to her domain takes us perilously close to the dark domain of oldest sister. Last you faced her, she showed you the depths of the darkness that she controls. You must now face her again before you ascend, and finish that which you began. For just as there is no end to light, so too there is no end to darkness. You must approach her, and take her into yourself, just like you took me."

The thought of this terrified youngest sister, but she would not allow her fear to show. But being inside her mind oldest brother said, "I know you fear, youngest one. And indeed, there is much to fear, but I will be here inside you, I will always serve to balance out the darkness. As the depths of her darkness enters you, it will be met by the depths of my light. Together, the two of us working in harmony will guide you. Just remember to walk the center path between us. Stay focused, and your passage will be in peace."

Youngest sister knew the wisdom and correctness in the words of oldest brother. So off she set along the path that would take her to her own All-Understanding Mother. As she walked towards that side of the garden, she could see the looming darkness of the domain of her oldest sister. The closer she came to the path to her Mother, the more she could see over her left shoulder the domain of her dark oldest sister. As she came to the cross-road, she could feel the presence of her oldest sister as if she was directly behind her. Taking courage from all her brothers inside her, she turned to face her oldest sister for what she hoped would be the last time.

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Revelations of Oldest Sister

Once upon a time, long ago in the garden...

As youngest sister approached her, the presence of oldest sister dominated her consciousness, and spoke within her mind. "I am still here, youngest sister, you will never be free of me. Forever will my darkness penetrate your soul, every time that you allow me access."

Gathering her courage she turned to face oldest sister, not to fight her, but to face her fears straight in the face, and declare her boldness. "I will not fear you, nor will I fight you, I embrace you, and I learn from you what depths darkness has. I will remember to keep darkness in check. Like with oldest brother, the farthest reaches of your domain are for you alone. I want them not, for they do not belong to our Garden. They are outside! I have no need for, nor interest in outside things. Keep your outside domains for yourself, I will remember your darkness and fear it not. I will use it as my own for my own needs, in my time, in my place, according to my will."

Oldest sister just stood there emotionless. She did not answer, she did not flinch. She just watched with her deep penetrating eyes.

Younger sister knew that it was time to face her Mother. But Mother's domain was still far away, completely on the other side of the garden from where younger sister originally resided. Younger sister had never visited her Mother's domain. All communication she ever had with her Mother was through the old pattern within her mind, and heart.

Approaching her Mother's domain was not like anything she had previous done, or similar to any place she had previously been. And her oldest sister, the dark lady of the night was always so dangerously close.

Leaving the light of her oldest brother youngest sister set out on the path that would take her to the domain of her Mother.

Oldest sister stood by. Her dark eyes gleaming, watching youngest sister as she approached the path that would take her from the boundary of the dark realm, and into the shrouded domain of her Mother, a domain forever covered by clouds, and unseeable from outside.

Then suddenly, youngest sister gazed a terrible sight. She was not sure of it at first, but as her eyes grew accustomed to the dark, she saw for sure what she saw.

The secret of oldest sister's power was revealed before her. Youngest sister saw two hands, upon the shoulders of oldest sister. They were woman's hands, soft but hard, small but big, dark, but light. The hands stretched out from oldest daughter's shoulder's and into the mist which covered the path towards their Mother.

Gasping in surprise youngest daughter said,

"those are Mother's hands upon vour shoulders." Oldest sister responded, "but of course, I am after all, her oldest, and closest daughter. I am the closest to her along her path, and together we hold a special, and sacred relationship. When Mother thinks, it is I who acts. For this reason am I here, and for this reason I guard access to Mother with darkness, clouds and mist. Only by passing through the domain of my twin, your oldest brother can you gain enough light to guide you along your way from hereon."

"This then is the path to Mother. Now go! Do not turn back to gaze further upon me, for if you turn your face away from Mother, and back upon me, my darkness will capture you, and take you into the depths that are outside the garden. Mind your path carefully, from here on only the power of your mind will grant you passage. The domain of heart has passed, enter now Knowledge and from the power of thought, begin to understand, and approach the lower throne that belongs to your Mother.

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Approaching Mother

Once upon a time, long ago in the garden...

Into the shrouded mist

walked youngest daughter. Her tongue was silenced by the awe of it, yet, her heart raced, and her mind ran ahead of her with questions. Yet, through all the mental noise, she could her one voice speaking inside her mind louder than all the rest. Youngest sister heard the collective voice of all her siblings saying to her, as one, "still your heart, calm your mind."

Yes, she knew their words were true. "Still your heart, calm your mind," repeated over, and over again. It dawned on her that the words of her siblings inside her mind, was not just good advice, the words themselves by being repeated over and over again were actually creating the reality of which they spoke.

The unified voice of her siblings within her giving her wise council, calmed both her heart, and mind, and gave youngest sister such clear and lucid thinking that she thought that this was the first time that she ever thought with complete clarity.

As she approached her All-Understanding Mother, youngest daughter could sense her own understandings growing inside her with dawning clarity. "Is this enlightenment?" youngest sister asked herself. As the mist, and the clouds around her began to part, she could gaze into a wondrous land of brilliant light that lay ahead of her. She could see no source for the light, it seemed to come from everywhere. As she walked closer into the light all her past, all her struggles all her desires, and all her passions seemed to fade away into the mist and clouds from which she now emerged.

Youngest sister paused, stunned by the clarity of mind that struck her like a bolt of lighting. It was, as if, at that very moment she was born, for the first time.

Everything now was becoming so clear, and so obvious. Everything now made sense. Youngest sister understood, maybe for the first time, who she really was, and why she was really there. "Welcome to my domain," her All-Understanding Mother called out. "Continue forward, come to my side."

Youngest sister could see in the brilliant light what looked like a road paved with silver, leading over a wondrous land of the most pristine beauty. Looking ahead youngest sister saw what looked like a throne sitting majestically on top of a hill, surrounded by brilliant light. "Come to my side, my beloved child, welcome," called All Understanding Mother in a loving, yet firm voice.

In what seemed like an instant

youngest daughter had traversed what she thought was a long, and winding road. How did she do that? She thought to herself.

Then the answer dawned in her mind. For the confused, understanding is indeed a long and winding road, but for the calm of heart, and clear of mind, the road is clear, straight, and short.

The road reflects the mind of the beholder. What is inside one's mind is that which is revealed in the outside world as real. All outer reality is thus nothing more than a manifestation of one's inner most-embraced feelings and thoughts.

As youngest sister approached the throne of her All-Understanding Mother, she could gaze at her face, and what she saw stunned her to her very core. And she understood.

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Facing Mother

Once upon a time, long ago in the garden...

A little girl dreamed of growing up. The little girl, youngest sister of seven siblings dreamed of what it would be like to have all the things that her older siblings had. She so desired to even known the secrets of her Mother and Father, and most of all to know, and to understand where she came from, and why she came to be.

The little girl, youngest sister was no longer little. And even though she was the youngest of seven siblings, she now stood ahead of them all. Unlike any of them, youngest sister now stood, and gazed upon the face of her Mother, the all-understanding Mother of the entire garden.

The face of her Mother was radiant, and shined brighter than the sun, This was the image that she saw in her brothers. Now she knew from where they had received their light. In the face of her Mother, she could also see the light of the Moon, and realized that it was from here that her two sisters had received their light.

Mother, it seems was the source of all. But staring into her face, youngest sister, now stood there as youngest daughter. She could swear that within the face of her Mother, there was yet another, and within it, yet another still. While this distracted her only for the moment, she paused to see Mother's entire face.

What she saw was a woman, wise, and understanding,

mature, and full of years. But her face! Her face youngest daughter/sister had seen before. "That is my face," she proclaimed! Youngest daughter gazed upon a woman who was youngest sister's older twin.

"Does my face surprise you," Mother asked her daughter. "You are my youngest child, the receiver of all my gifts. Why would you have any face other than my own?"

Youngest sister/daughter began to understand. From where this understanding came, she did not know. It arose from within her, like the lost pattern of old, the one she had long ago cast off. But deep inside her, the face of Mother awakened within youngest daughter/sister an awareness, and a knowledge that she had always known.

"See now with the vision of clarity. Understand now with the mind of comprehension." What youngest sister/daughter now understood poured into her mind, and her consciousness. The entire path, the way, the journey through the garden all became clear to her now. She knew why she was there, and what she was to do next.

"Mother," youngest daughter/sister said, "I have come to claim my place, and yours! At first, I thought that it was my will to fight, struggle and overcome all my siblings and even you, but now, my heart is calm,

my passions have cooled. All that I have left is the clarity, and understanding of the clear, and lucid mind. I know that I am meant for this. I know that your throne is my throne, and that this is as much your will, as it is mine. I know this is true! Its truth rings within me like the loudest of bells."

All-understanding Mother smiled at her youngest daughter, and said, "there is no hiding the truth from you, my dear. Indeed, you will inherit my throne, but my throne cannot be given to you, until you, at the same time, approach and embrace the throne of your father, for he and I are one."

"You must understand with wisdom, and be wise with understanding. Your father's realm is also one of mind. but as my realm is the domain of the rational, which you have so successfully embraced, his realm is the domain of the imagination. I can show you the truth of things. He must show you why the truth is what the truth is. And without this, there is no true knowledge, and thus no true lordship over the garden."

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On The Way To Father's

Once upon a time, long ago in the garden...

A Mother held the hand of her youngest daughter, and opened her mind to the truths hidden therein.

The truths themselves shone like the brightest sun, and cleared away any doubt, and any confusion. Youngest daughter knew who she was, and so she proclaimed, "I am who I am, I am me!" And she thought this to be a profound revelation.

And at this moment of insight, revelation, and of personal victory, Mother, the all-understanding whispered into her youngest daughter's ear, "My child, you know now who you are, but you do not yet know why you are who you are. This, even I cannot show you. Insights of this nature can come only from your All-wise Father. He has been watching your ascent, and he is waiting for you in his domain."

"His domain is right next to mine, but do not think that the journey from my domain to his is short, or easy. For as my domain shines the light of day, your Father's domain shines the light of night."

"Penetrating the night, is not hard, but it is also not easy. You must be cautious that when you enter your Father's domain that you leave my understand here in its place. For all my understanding cannot help you in his place."

"For there a different language is spoken. There, in his domain, things are very real, and very unreal, both at the same time. Be cautious to understand with wisdom, and be wise with understanding the language of your Father. Confuse his tongue, and you may very well forfeit everything that you have gained up until this point."

Youngest daughter listened carefully to every word her All-understanding Mother had told her. And she set out to enter the domain of her wise Father. And as she approached the border of her father's domain, she began to feel rather drowsy, and sleepy. Not being able to help herself, she lied down to take a nap. And as she slept she passed into the domain of her wise Father.

In dreams many things are revealed

that cannot be understood while awake. In dreams one can connect to truths and realities that the all-understanding awakened mind cannot understand. In dreams one can go places which are not accessible in any other way.

Youngest daughter entered her father's domain, and it was the domain of dreams. Youngest daughter was now in a place where knowledge comes not from understanding, but rather from revelation. Youngest daughter stood on unfamiliar ground. She did not know where she was, she did not understand what was, what is, and what is yet to be.

In her dream, she could see him, her wise Father, the first-born Son of the Old Man. Yet, what she saw, she knew, but not with knowledge in her mind. What she saw was something that can only be described in the language of dreams. And how does one describe the language of dream? How can one conquer, absorb, and control the dream world? Youngest daughter could hear the voice of her Mother within her, repeating, "understand with wisdom,

be wise with understanding." And youngest daughter began to receive the wisdom of her Father.

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Dreams Upon Father's Heart

Once upon a time, long ago in the garden...

A young girl, the youngest of sisters set out on a journey, on a quest, to discover a destiny, and unravel a personal internal mystery. Along the path she walked, learning every lesson, overcoming every obstacle, transforming along the way, only to discover that what she had become she always was, deep inside herself, but yet, never knew it.

Life is a long road. Destiny takes one to many different stops along the road. What we often discover out there, we, at the same time, discover inside ourselves. Funny, how the world outside serves as a mirror to the world inside, but only to the one open to see, what there is to see.

Youngest daughter slept in the bosom of her All-wise Father.

And as she slept, she dreamed, and as she dreamed, she learned, and she saw, and she began to understand with wisdom.

All-wise Father did not speak to his youngest daughter, the apple of his eye. He just let her sleep, with her head resting upon his chest. And as she slept, her Father's breath rocked her head like a baby in a crib. Deeper and deeper youngest daughter fell under her All-wise Father's spell.

And as she slept All-wise Father's breath penetrated youngest daughter's mind and heart, and communicated to her, without words, without sounds, and in the language of pictures.

All-wise Father communicated his heart into the mind of his youngest daughter and she saw what there was to see. Yet, what she saw amazed her, frightened her, gladdened her, and saddened her, all at the same time.

"My dear youngest daughter you are here because I willed you here. You set out on your path because your Mother and I gave birth to you

just for this reason."

"You and your siblings knew this not. But when you confronted them and they gazed into the pattern, although they could not see this far, this clearly, nevertheless, each one understood with wisdom that it was your destiny to ascend, and to pass."

"All their efforts against you were only for the purpose of making your strong. For without this strength you would never have succeeded in reaching your Mother and me, for we are one."

"Together, your Mother and me are inside you, inside your mind, always! We know your every thought, every desire, and the depth of your will. Even though you were the last of our children, your were the first one of whom we thought. You were the reason why we populated the garden in the first place."

"There is so much more for you to learn, so much more for you to know. Sleep now, and rest, dream now, and see. For when you awaken, I will be here, with you, but all that you dreamed, you will not remember. All that you learned will remain inside you, and will come out

when the time is right."

"You crave and desire to climb the heights, without the help, or assistance of your siblings or parents. And so your walked your walk, little realizing that we were helping you along the way, always. So now, you must awaken and strive to claim for yourself that which we have given you freely."

"You will awaken, knowing only a dream. But your dream has taught you, guided you, and prepared you for that which must always come next. Awaken now, my beloved daughter, the time to ascend has arrived."

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The Awakening

Once upon a time, long ago in the garden...

A young woman awoke, and she stood before a strange, yet familiar man. She both knew him, and did not know him. She could not focus her mind. Struggle as she did to focus, and to bring clarity to her thoughts, she found her thoughts to be moving, flowing, and in a state of flux, ever-changing.

Yet, at the same time, her heart was calm, and clear.

The fact that her mind could not focus bothered her. but then, as she contemplated her state, she could hear the voice of her Mother saying inside her mind. "Remember, my dear daughter, understand with wisdom, be wise with understanding. Do not apply my forms to this place. Let go, and allow the forms of this place to speak to you, each in their own way. I am with you, and whatever forms your Father embraces, they will find their way into me, and from me, into you. Allow nature, and the pattern to take their course."

Hearing her Mother's voice of All-understand reason, youngest daughter surrendered to the moment. She calmed her mind. and opened her heart. In this strangest of places, thoughts were things. and if she were to understand the true nature of this place, youngest daughter would have to receive. instead of take. So, she sat back, opened up, and asked the questions for which she needed answers.

"I know you!" youngest daughter said her Father. "You are my Father, the source of All-wisdom. I can see Mother in you, and strangely I can also see in you myself.

Yet, what is this strange place? I am supposed to be in the Garden in your domain. But this place is not like any garden that I have ever seen."

Presenting an ancient face, full of ancient wisdom, knowledge and understanding, All-wise Father, answered his beloved daughter saying: "Yes, my dear child, vou are in my domain. and you are, in a way, still in the Garden. But there is far more to the Garden, and to me. that you have ever known before. There are places which one inside a body cannot go. These are places that have no rigidity, and no set form. This place is always fluid and subject to the ever-moving thoughts of the One, the Old Man, your "grandfather," who dwells even beyond my domain in a far-away place that you will inevitably encounter."

"These are the true parameters of my domain. My portion of the Garden is great, even greater than that of my son, your oldest brother. As his domain stretches out beyond the reach of the Garden, so too does mine. He is only following my example."

Rather than try to understand this strangest of places, youngest daughter instead chose to sit back, open up, and allow herself to absorb, and to receive all that which was ready to come into her. She took in all that she had learned. It was like drinking a rich hot soup, this reality had to be taken in sip by sip, until she could digest the whole.

Little did she realize what she had done. All of a sudden a burst of energy penetrated her to her very being. Flashing colors, bright lights, images, one more intense than the next. And in all this she could see, and understand. This is what Mother taught me, to be wise with understanding. I take that which my Father gives me, and absorb it. Only once it is inside me, do I let it grow in the womb of my conscious mind. And like a child preparing for birth, the revelations of my Father will be born into a world of full understanding, and complete knowledge. Thus I will also understand with wisdom. Mother and Father are indeed one, and they are both inside my mind.

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Gazing Out

Once upon a time, long ago in the garden...

Knowledge, pure unadulterated knowing, this is a level of mind few will ever experience.

Youngest daughter the passionate one, she who ascended, to inherit all, now stood in a place of mind where few have ever stood before.

All-understanding Mother, and All-wise Father coupled, bonded, and merged together. The byproduct of this fascinating union was the knowledge, pure.

Youngest daughter stood in a place, a new, and strange place, yet one so very familiar, a place about which she could say that she had never been before, but at the same time, had always been.

This place of knowledge placed her in between her parents, with All-understanding Mother to her left, and All-wise Father to her right. Together, they were in her. Together, they formed the mind of their youngest daughter.

In this place, she could see. In this place she knew, knowledge, knowing, and the known all merged as one, in an awareness that lit up in her mind the entire Garden.

As she turned to her right there were the many images that came into her mind from her All-wise Father. As she turned to her left, there was the insight that came into her mind

from her All-understanding Mother. Here, youngest daughter stood in the place of knowledge, and knowing.

Unlike her siblings, youngest daughter did not have to close her eyes and gaze inside to see the pattern of the Garden. No! She could see the entire pattern with her eyes wide open!

Not only did she know the pattern inside her, she saw the pattern with the eyes of understanding, wisdom, and knowledge. No more would she need to close her eyes to gaze within. From this place, what she saw inside, and what she saw outside were One! Finally she stood at the head of the Garden, or so she thought!

She could gaze out over the domains of her siblings, and each was in their place, doing what each one did, as if she was never there in each of their domains.

She gazed upon each of her siblings each performing their chores in the Garden, unfazed by all that had happened. And then she noticed. As she gazed upon each of her siblings, each one at a time, she noticed, that while each one was uniquely different, each one bore the face of youngest daughter.

While each one went about independently and separate, she, youngest daughter, could, as if, know each one's thoughts. She could read each one's mind. Although they appeared to be separate and apart, youngest daughter saw, and knew that within her, they were all one.

As she gazed out from her perch high above the rest, she could see her parents each in their place, and her siblings, each in their place, and she knew them all.

Then, as she gazed to the farthest extent of the garden, she saw a young beautiful girl, the youngest of siblings standing in her domain in the garden attending to her chores.

"That's me!" Youngest daughter proclaimed! "I see myself!" Yes, this is true, isn't it, and how can this be?" a voice asked her from behind. It was the voice of the Old Man, her "grandfather." The time of revelation had finally arrived.

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All the World for the Queen

Once upon a time,

long ago in the garden...

A young woman started out on a long journey. She boldly confronted every issue, and every obstacle that she perceived. She moved forward with stubborn determination.

She felt passionately that her path was her destiny, and all obstacles in her way were meant to fall before her. As she proceeded along her path all that she thought turned out to be true.

She conquered her unrealized fears. She overcame all her internal emotional turmoil. She gained understanding about herself, and acquired wisdom through which to see the world. Yes, this young woman triumphed!

But, in the end triumph is revealed to be a victory not expected, and an accomplishment not foreseen. This young woman, youngest of siblings, youngest daughter of her parents, accomplished a sense of awareness, and fulfillment. Yet, to her surprise, she discovered that her fulfillment was not what she thought it would be. She thought that her trip would lead her to conquer the entire Garden, and that she would have to rule it by force of arms. Little did she know at the time, that her trip only elevated her to become the matron of the Garden, and that the entire Garden was indeed created in her image.

Youngest daughter, youngest sister now stood between her All-understanding Mother, and her All-wise Father, She surveyed her Garden, and liked what she saw. For somehow she knew however strange it may be, that the Garden, her Garden is in her image. She knew this, and then it dawned on her that she had always known this, and contemplated why she did not realize this before.

How could she have known something but at the same time not know that she knew. Youngest daughter/sister mused on the irony of this mystery. Such a contradiction would have bothered her at some previous point, but now, even the contradiction, while still an unsolvable mystery, did not seem to her to be all that mysterious.

In her present state, she saw what there was to see, and understood what there was to understand. With her parents supporting her, youngest daughter/sister had been transformed. The Princess had become the Queen. And yet, although at peace internally, youngest daughter/sister, the Queen of the Garden had one more journey to make along her long road.

Somehow she knew, although she did not know how she knew that being Queen was not enough. She was destined to become Empress, and to rule over many domains.

So, the Queen, the youngest who transformed into the oldest, now began the first step toward her final destination. She turned away from the Garden, and looked up. Before her was the straight and narrow road leading to her "grandfather," the Old Man of the Garden, from whom came forth all things.

To stand before him was her final stop. To gaze into his face, and to receive from there all that can be received was her destination, and destiny. And so, she turned around, and gazed into the darkness that is light, and the light that is darkness. Mother and Father escorted their Queen daughter for as far as they could, until she entered the cloud that cut off vision of her from all who remained in the Garden.

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Into the Unknowable

Once upon a time, long ago in the garden...

What can one say about approaching a Nothing that is Something, or is it a Something, that is Nothing?

What can one say about that which no words can define, no image can describe, and no mind fully comprehend?

How does one embrace a beginning that exists before the one, a beginning in which one does not even yet exist as a separate unit?

How can one be one with The One, and still maintain an identity of self, independent of the One? No one before has ever asked these questions, simply because in the place where one becomes one with The One, there is no one left, to ask questions, all the more so to receive any answer.

What is it to stand

before the Old Man? What mind can perceive it? What mind can conceive it? What mind can receive it?

A glorious Queen set forth along the road that was no road, along a path that was no path, and towards a place that is no place.

The closer she drew to her destination. the more she became aware that she was becoming less and less a separate unit. The Queen, her path, her destination, her past, her present, and her future, all began to blend together into a whole which included so much more. The Queen could only surrender, to that which "was" and "was not." The closer she drew. the more she realized there was no place to go, no path to walk, and no one on the path in the first place.

The Queen's final struggle were expressed in her last words. First, she merely said, "I am," and faded off into silence. Then she ever so softly uttered, "I" and then, silence.

For in this place that is no place, even "I" was transformed into the not - "I" and the not - "I" indeed was, but "what" was it?

The "I" and the not - "I" merged and blurred, and the Something that is Nothing, or is it the Nothing that is Something revealed itself.

But being that Nothing, is in the end Nothing, what was there to be revealed? To whom was, what was to be revealed, to be revealed, in that place where there is no "I" and no "not - I"?

In a place that is no place, the Queen who was in the past a youngest daughter to her parents, and a youngest sister to her siblings ceased to be.

And only in this cessation did she transform to become all that she ever was, and all that she ever would be. Even though she "was not" she still "was." But "what" was she was not a question. It was a statement. A statement which cannot be expressed in words, or conceived of in thought. It was a "what" of preexistence. But it was, "what" it was. And what was once "she" knew all this,

although there was no one there to know anything, nor anything there to be known.

In the place where existence meets non-existence, being exists, but perception does not. This is the state of the egg before it is formed.

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Descent

Once upon a time, long ago in the garden...

In a dream that is not a dream, in a reality that is both real and unreal, what once was a Queen, a daughter, and a sister, existed, and did not exist.

In this state, she thought, but did not think. She thought, but not with a knowledge external to herself, for she and the knowledge were one. She understood, and did not understand both at the same time.

The entire universe, the Garden, her parents, and her siblings were all inside her, and a part of her, as they always were,

and always will be.

She could see it now. Her ascent to this place was no ascent, her struggles were no struggles. Her accomplishments, were no accomplishments. For everywhere that she was, she was always there. Everything that she needed to know, she had always known. The part of her that was still her could not separate itself from everything that is, and forever was, and forever will be. This is the face of eternity This is the domain of infinity. This is the place that none of her siblings, or even her parents could look at. And here she was, and was not, both at the same time.

And she knew, what now must be.

As if taking a breath, what was once a Queen, a daughter, and a sister took a step backward, back into the world of illusions, where separations dominate, and unity goes unseen.

Another breath, another step, and more of her old awareness began to stir.

Another breath, and another step, and she could again see the first of illusions, that there was a "she" in the first place, and that it was separate from "It," whatever "It" was, is, and forever more will be.

Another breath, another step, and the second illusion came to be. "I" said a soft, still voice, still not audible, but resonating within the recesses of a growing conscious mind.

Another breath, another step, and then the "I" within heard it. The sound of wondrous beautiful music.

It was the music of the universe. It was the loveliest melody of life. It was the song of the Old Man, he who played, and from whose melody came forth all that is, was, and forever more will be.

Another breath, another step, the melody was so intoxicating. She could hear the melody insider her, and equally hear it all around her. All that was, was the melody. All that was, was "I."

Another breath,

another step, and she who was the Queen, the daughter, and the sister, again came into awareness of herself. She had become the melody, and by doing so, she had become an Empress.

Another breath, another step, and the melody, which was her song, her tune, and her soul filled her ears as the lullaby of life. And as she grew, she could be before her coming into vision, the image of a man, an Old Man, playing the melody of life.

She had arrived. The Empress now stood before the Old Man, the one, true Emperor.

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<u>Arrival</u>

Once upon a time, long ago in the garden...

A new Empress stood before a man playing wonderful music.

In this place, she could see both darkness, and light. In this place, she could gaze out, and see both near, and far.

In this place Nothing had become a specific Something, a specific Something that once long ago was so desperately desired by a sister, who was also a daughter, and also a Queen, What she once wanted. Now, she had!

As beautiful music played all around her, the Empress approached the Old Man who was playing what sounded like the most beautiful music ever made, and ever heard.

"Welcome my dear" said the Old Man with a voice expressing both warmth, and love. "Welcome to our home."

"Our home, did he say," asked the Empress to herself. "Our home?"

Knowing her thoughts, the Old Man, with his head still facing down to play his music, spoke, and said, "Yes, but of course! Our home, for this place begins with me, and ends with you. Do you not yet know who, in truth, I really am? Deep inside herself the Empress knew the truth of all that the Old Man was saying. Indeed, although she heard his voice, she heard his voice within her own voice, within her own mind. The Old Man was in front of her, and inside her, both at the same time. And aside from him, there were many others.

Composed, silent, and at peace, the Empress could look off to her right, be it inside herself, or outside, and see her All-wise Father standing there at her right hand for support. She could look off to her left, be it inside herself, or outside, and see her All-understanding Mother standing there at her left hand also offering support.

But now Mother and Father were to the Empress like attendants, no longer above her as parents, but now at her side, inside her, and outside her, but at her beckon call.

Looking down, she could also see what once was her elder siblings also standing there as attendants, each ready to offer each one's unique services, and each one's unique talents.

Her whole family stood around her,

inside her, and outside her, awaiting her movement, awaiting her every command. And there before her, inside her, and outside her, sat the Old Man playing his melody from which comes forth all of existence.

As she gazed upon his face, both inside her, and outside her, she saw what she knew, what she had always known, yet, what she did not see below in her original domain in the Garden.

There is something in a face that reveals the soul that lay underneath it. The one who gazes upon the Face above should not be surprised to discover that the Face above is a reflection of the Face below. Or, is it the Face below that is a reflection of the Face above?

In the Face lies the greatest of all secrets.

Sept. 28, 2016 A lesson from Ariel B Tzadok. © 2016

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