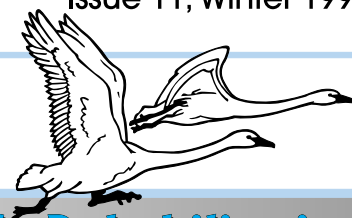


Fellow Mortals™



“What we experience for ourselves is all that we can really testify to as truth.”

—Yvonne

Wildlife Rehabilitation

A SINGULAR BRILLIANCE

I believe with all I am that there is no stronger power than a heartfelt prayer — remembering to be thankful, to be grateful, to be joyful, remembering to *ask* in a time of need. With prayer, honest and naked of posturing, comes a state of heart that cannot be cruel or petty or anything but open to the mind of God. From our conversations, our communion with what is infinite, comes the desire and a need to help, to be kind, to create beauty, and a resultant belief in our ability to be not just adequate, but brilliant — capable of achieving positive change in a darkening world. When within ourselves we find that belief, we are endowed with a great power, and possess the ability to give a very individual and lasting gift to those with whom we share this world.

I am aware that I give voice to dangerously ‘soft’ and ambiguous deas in an age where science and ts keepers are sovereign. Science and fact are fine — are in fact necessary to the mechanics of our ives, but they must never become our gods, for it is when they do that the mind, cold and alone, processes life like so much data — absent of emotion, making decisions without regard for feelings — sorting individual lives first by species, and then by race, the better to apply prejudices deeply ingrained from our unenlightened past.

If I had only one message left to write this Christmas, I would try to give you the wonder that I feel in my own heart, my desire that each one of

you feel, know, and use your own passion to discover the unique gift you possess to make a difference for your fellow mortals. What are you at your core? What are you doing with your intellect, your stored-up treasure?

Each one of us wants our life to matter, to know that the world would be a poorer place if we had never been born. I believe in the truth of that desire. I believe that each of you reading this has been challenged to use your unique gift in the best way you can.

Perhaps you are the one who makes people feel loved, who causes the stern face to smile, bringing joy to every one you meet. You might be the one to challenge and, through your challenge, bring out another’s gift. You might be the one who reveals secrets through paint, stone, string, word or counsel. You might have the strong back and quiet mind, the gentle hand and stoic heart, the patience to wait. I cannot chronicle all of your gifts, for I would have to know every heart, every soul of all who live, have lived or have yet to be born. And the heart is not easily known to earthly beings. The one still place we will always inhabit alone — vulnerable, penetrable, fallible — will always be the strongest and most beautiful place in creation.

But just thinking about you, and your gifts, I am amazed. I am thankful for you and for what you have to give, and I promise you that I will also give my best and, with your help, make our shared world a better place for all living things.

—Yvonne Wallace Blane

