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A Humble Brilliance

Abstract

In this paper I present the true stories of three men I have known who were humble, who suffered and whose light of awareness and compassion burned brightly. My aim is give testimony regarding three individuals who have testified as well as to explore humility as the transmuting force of their lives. These are men whose hubris and illusions were burned away by an encounter with human evil. They were thrown to the ground by interruption of the other and they responded. From the raw truths of human vulnerability and mercilessness revealed in such encounters, from their self imposed mandate to continue to respond and from their intimate knowledge of burning, they each held up a flame. This flame can illuminate a kind of love that subsumes subjectivity, a love that is not avaricious but radiates from and is birthed by humility. Finally, deepening these themes of suffering, humility and love, I will touch on how they pertain to the therapeutic relationship, the salient affects of a Western worldview bias and the tacit presence of the feminine below and behind these stories.