

What's Your Dream

Rev. Dennis McCarty, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbus, IN, Fall 2011

OPENING WORDS/CHALICE LIGHTING:

We gather in mutual humanity, in the knowledge that there is more to any of us than others know-and that there is less to any of us than we would prefer. We all bleed sometimes. We all have dreams. We all dance with our strengths and our weaknesses, trying "to find the better parts of ourselves" and share them with the world. We come to this place of religious community, that we all might do these things better in the presence of thoughtful companions, than alone.

CHECK-IN/SHARING: What's happening in your life?

TOPIC: "What's Your Dream"

Theme Song from *Superman*

I can't stand to fly I'm not that naive I'm just out to
find The better part of me

I'm more than a bird...i'm more than a plane More than
some pretty face beside a train It's not easy to be me

Wish that I could cry Fall upon my knees Find a way
to lie About a home I'll never see

It may sound absurd...but don't be naive Even heroes
have the right to bleed I may be disturbed...but won't
you concede Even heroes have the right to dream It's
not easy to be me

Up, up and away...away from me
It's all right...you can all sleep sound tonight
I'm not crazy...or anything...

I can't stand to fly I'm not that naive
Men weren't meant to ride With clouds between their knees

I'm only a man in a silly red sheet
Digging for kryptonite on this one way street
Only a man in a funny red sheet
Looking for special things inside of me
Inside of me
Inside me
Yeah, inside me
Inside of me

I'm only a man In a funny red sheet I'm only
a man Looking for a dream

I'm only a man
In a funny red sheet
And it's not easy, hmmm, hmmm, hmmm... Its not
easy to be me

The theme song from the movie. Superman, is not just about the difficulties of being a great hero, it's about the difficulties of being human. We are not quite the same as the face we present to the public. We all have struggles. Perhaps the most poignant example of this is the fate of the movie's star, Christopher Reeve-who made a career out of portraying "The Man of Steel." After being injured in a riding accident he spent his final years as a quadriplegic, unable to move his hands or feet at all. Yet even in his incapacity, working for the rights and dreams of other handicapped people, he displayed a strength, heroism, and lasting impact that he never approached in his years of health. Life does not turn out the way we expect it to. We all have a right to dream, to aspire. Yet sometimes the realities that are thrust upon us, are more meaningful than the dreams we started out with.

QUESTIONS:

1. What did you dream of accomplishing when you were a child? Did your parents know about your dream? What did they think about it?

2. Did you pursue a dream when you were a young adult? Are you pursuing one now? Are they the same dream?
3. When the actor, Christopher Reeve, suffered a life-changing accident while in a horse-jumping competition, it seemed as though all his dreams had been permanently crushed. Yet his life became more meaningful and influential in the way he responded to his life-changing injury. How have unexpected events changed your life? How did you respond?
4. Did/do you have dreams and expectations for your children? Do they have dreams of their own? How has that worked out thus far.
5. What dreams or expectations do you have for the world beyond these walls? What do you plan to do to make that happen?

CHECK-OUT: A quick reflection~5 words or less-on dreams, expectations, challenges, and/or blessings.

CLOSING WORDS: Hildegard of Bingen wrote, "Like billowing clouds, the longing of the soul can never be stilled." May our longings never cease. May our hope never be allowed to grow dim. May our dreams for ourselves and others be well planted, diligently cultivated, and fruitful in the end.