

Who's keeping score?

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Opening Reading: Lay Yourself Open by Neil Douglas-Klotz

When you want to lay yourself open for the divine,
like a snare that is hollowed out to its depth,
like a canopy that projects a shadow
from the divine heat and light
into your soul,
then go into your inner place physically,
or to that story or symbol that reminds you of the sacred.

Close the door of your awareness to
the public person you think yourself to be.
Pray to the parent of creation, with your inner sense,
the outer senses turned within.
Veiling yourself, the mystery may be unveiled through you.

By opening yourself to the flow of the sacred,
somewhere, resounding in some inner form,
the swell of the divine ocean can move through you.

The breathing life of all reveals itself
in the way you live your life.

Discussion Questions:

When it comes to good and bad, right and wrong, who do you think keeps score? You? God?
Other people?

Do you keep score on other people?

How does keeping score effect the way you live? Love? Forgive? Forget?

What would happen if NO ONE kept score? Chaos or bliss or something in between?

Closing Reading: Karma, Dharma, Pudding and Pie by Philip Appleman

O Karma, Dharma, pudding and pie,
gimme a break before I die:
grant me wisdom, will and wit,
purity, probity, pluck and grit.
Trustworthy, loyal, helpful, kind,
gimme great abs and a steel-trap mind,
and forgive, Ye Gods, some humble advice—
these little blessings would suffice
to beget an earthly paradise:
make the bad people good—
and the good people nice;
and before our world goes over the brink,
teach the believers how to think.

or...

Forgive us that often we forgive ourselves so easily and others so hardly;
forgive us that we expect perfection from those to whom we show none;
forgive us for repelling people by the way we set a good example;
forgive us the folly of trying to improve a friend;
forbid that we should use our little idea of goodness as a spear to wound those who are different;
forbid that we should feel superior to others when we are only more shielded;
and may we encourage the secret struggle of every person.

-Vivian Pomeroy