

A Simple Truth

As he walked alone through a tangled maze of grey skyscrapers
He felt lost, misunderstood, and confused.
Distracted by the chaos, confusion and uncertainty that seemed to reign all around him,
He searched for the truth as he tried to find his way back to a path that once seemed so clear.
He pulled up his grey overcoat to shield him from the elements of a world
Seemingly driven by greed, jealousy and self-fulfillment.
As the bitter cold quickly overcame the warmth of his coat, he wandered aimlessly,
Trying to regain his strength, trying to regain his direction, losing himself in his thoughts...

Over fifty years ago, a beautiful stage actress in Vienna
Welcomed a convicted Jewish soul into her lavish home to
Shelter her from a certain death in the chaos and despair of Auschwitz.
She quietly hid her condemned friend in the cramped attic of her home and endured
Four painful years, as the hysteria of world war screamed all around them.
The actress, one of the most renowned of her time, regularly entertained the
Nazi government officials in her home, risking prosecution and a certain death
If her simple act of kindness were ever discovered.
Eventually, as this period of chaos came to a conclusion
She was asked why one would risk everything,
Her fame, her fortune, and even her life, to protect one Jewish woman.
She replied simply and directly; "I believed that in helping one, I helped them all."

Confusion reigned supreme thirty years ago
As a divided country struggled with its identity.
Hundreds of thousands of her children crouched in an isolated foreign jungle
Risking their lives in a war unsupported on their shores.
On a hot, humid afternoon, a battered platoon, bound for eternity by this horrendous experience,
Was totally devastated by the ambush of intense sniper fire.
Dying soldiers screamed in pain as a frantic medic hastily called for an emergency airlift.
Hours later, as the few unscathed men loaded their dying friends into a rescue helicopter,
The horror of an additional attack once again ripped through the misty air.
With death imminent, a single unwounded soldier grabbed his machine gun and sprinted through the open field
Attracting the gunfire, allowing the helicopter to lift his wounded friends to safety.
A time of confusion, but never a doubt, as a hero sacrifices his life and dies for his friends.

Today, in a hospital bed in a suburb of San Francisco, a young giant of a man
Waits with his anxious family to hear the news of his unsuspected illness.
Just one week ago, every muscle in his body, trained to perfection over the years,
Responded to every command as he performed with his teammates
In their mutual pursuit of glory on the gridiron..
No longer able to rise to that physical challenge, he refuses to give in
And summons every word of every lesson he has ever learned.
The discomfort of the uncertainty temporarily overwhelms the assembled, but then
The battle begins, as this courageous young man
Joins forces with his devoted family and friends to overcome.
Student becomes teacher as he uses his personal adversity to teach and touch
In a moving display of love, grace and courage.....

This lonesome evening in search of the truth ended abruptly
As a gust of wind awakened him from his hypnotic journey.
The bitter cold of the overpowering night dissipated slowly
As the fire of a renewed faith and strength grew swiftly in his soul.
The distractions of chaos, confusion, and uncertainty disappeared
Before his tearing eyes as the truth unfolded so clearly before him.
"There is a destiny that makes us brothers, no one walks their path alone,
All that we put into the lives of others, comes back into our own."

May this Christmas season provide us with the strength to overcome
The obstacles that distract us on our journey.
May the spirit of the holidays live in all of us each day
As we accept the simple truth of living what is right
In an everlasting spirit of love, sacrifice, and kindness to all.