

MM Summer Solstice Blue Sheet

I said I would send the essay that originated in the last of the occasional deep conversations about life, philosophy and sometimes, theology I had with Ken Salter while we were in Mexico. I suggested he turn his thoughts into an essay. It is included here as he wrote it, shortly after coming home. It will add it to my collection of Salter poems, essays and stories as a last word.

The Unforgivable Sin

Ken Salter

Luke 12:10, "And everyone that says a word against the Son of Man, that will be forgiven; But he that blasphemes against The Holy Spirit will not be forgiven"

I used to wonder what was the big deal about this particular blasphemy, while like blasphemy is used in ever more creative ways using the names of the other members of the Holy Trinity, God and Jesus Christ. Yet, perhaps Luke's warning may carry a heavy weight amongst the swearers throughout history since I have never heard such epithets as *Holy Ghost damn you!*, or *Holy Spirit almighty!*, or even *Holy Ghost on a crutch!*. But, there are many more examples of blaspheme than verbal abuse.

And so, my curiosity concerning *The unforgivable sin* continued until recently when I began considering, in one of those early-morning meditation times, the enormity and particularities of the idea of *The Great Spirit*. (I prefer the term *The Great Spirit* over *The Holy Spirit* as it separates itself from the idea of the Holy Trinity to something recognizable in all religions and all peoples, including, no doubt in my mind, early man).

Synonyms for the word *spirit* include *soul, life, life force, essence, inner self, and chi* (which includes all of the above). However, all of these definitions refer to the human spirit, which I sense is inborn in all humans, and our connection to *The Great Spirit, The Omnipresence, The Other*.

If this be true, let's consider what *The Great Spirit* allows we mortals the capacity to feel, to sense, to intuit, to appreciate; such realities as love, compassion, esthetics, friendship, and even perhaps curiosity or righteous anger.

If you are not with me to this point and believe that all of the above are traits created by man in order to better live together, and are learned from birth on, I would say fine, but when and from whence did these attributes spring? From an awareness stemming from trial and error? Or from an epiphany, or a series of epiphanies, those sudden, or slowly awakening intuitive perceptions of or insights into the reality or essential meaning of something. I prefer the latter.

And, finally, what has all this to do with the unforgivable sin? How does one blaspheme against *The Great Spirit*? The answer seems simplistic, but sound: by abandoning the essential principals of *The Great Spirit* (love, compassion, justice, equality, etc.) in return for power, the spoils of greed, over reigning ego, and total control. Think of it, if you wish, as another example of the Faustian legend, an arrangement in which an ambitious person surrenders moral integrity to achieve power and success: the proverbial *deal with the devil*.

When I consider the innumerable moral monsters of history from Quigula to Hitler, Stalin, Amin, Pinochet, et al, and the countless minor moral monsters, such as slave traders and corrupt politicians who have blasphemed the *Great Spirit* by their actions and selfish creed, I think unforgivable sin is the shoe that fits.

Note: To those on this list who know the Salter family:

Memorial donations may be given to

Ashland Schools Foundation

100 Walker Avenue

Ashland, OR 97520

Email Edition Moment Ministries Blue Sheet a-morgan@peak.org

Our 33rd Year