

Story #4b

The Test of Awakening

4. Look at something you have seen before. Note whether it looks better, the same, or worse than before. Then look to yourself ... you have just tested your awakened state.

(The Teacher's Bill of Rights)

Good morning. We already did *The Test of Awakening* on Wake Up Call #4 and it is summarized in the reference above to #4 from The Teacher's Bill of Rights. So, we start from the idea that if you look at something you know and it looks better to you, then you are waking up - you're awake! It's a test! If it doesn't look better, it means that you are not bringing your presence to the situation. That was the test. So, let's play with that for a minute.

Think about it. One way to do this test, is to look at something and compare your response to what it would have been in your childhood. Or another way to do this test is to compare your response to what you have read in good literature about the ancients. Listen to the way ancients speak about the trees and the sunset and the water and the sky. When they watch a fire, it is as if they see way more than we see. It's the same for the children. And you can access your childhood.

So, remember something you experienced as a child. Was it something you tasted, felt, looked at? Did you see more beauty or experience more pleasure from the use of your senses when you were very young? You can use this comparison as a motivation to get back to what you could do when you were at the top of your game as regards wakefulness. You can use this test to ask yourself if you are awake or just kind of here, but

falling asleep. There is no middle ground. You are either going forward or backward. You can ask yourself, "Am I waking more (you can always wake more and more) or am I going backwards for a minute (at which time I have the opportunity to turn around and come back).

So, a little story. It's about my father when I was little. I had a brother, two sisters and my mom. We would all be sitting together around the table at breakfast and at dinner as we did back in the day. My father would say this joke, constantly, throughout my childhood. He would wait for the right moment, then say, "Oh. Kids. I can't wait for tomorrow!" Now, when he would say this, we would get very excited. We lived near the beach, so we would say, "Oh, are we going to the beach?" Or we would say, "Are we going to the drive-in movies?" We would sometimes go to the drive-in movies. It was one of our favorite outings - you play on the playground, then you watch the movie. Then my dad would say, "Oh, no, no, no kids. It's just that I get better looking every day."

So, this joke worked for many years, though it may be hard to believe. Finally, we caught on and he couldn't fool us anymore. But then, we started fooling our cousins, and then we started fooling our children. And now the family has lots of grandchildren. I have nine grandchildren, and we fool them. It's a family joke.

But you know... he would say it very often - more often than not - in the morning. And I got to thinking about that as I got older. Why would someone say, "I can't wait for tomorrow," in the morning? And then it dawned on me, he was setting his intentions. He was saying, "I'm going to have a good day, because the whole world is going to look beautiful to me. Everything is going to taste good. Everything is going to be a good experience for today. I choose to have a good day. It's up to me. I'm the master of my destiny."

Every one of these wake up calls and all of these stories about transformation intersect, because in reality, they are all connected. They are all one thing. If you choose to have a good day, you are waking up. You are choosing wakefulness - to see things in your environment that are wonderful - that are there for you - to see that your existence has rich possibilities today. Existential questions meet you every day. It's up to you to decide that you want to hear them. You can hear more and more and use it in your existence. Or maybe you just want to have a worse day - it's up to you! You have a choice.

That's the message for today. Thank you very much. I'll see you in one of those tomorrows.

