



#104 *The Waiter*



An old waiter was training a new waiter. “This is how you serve the water,” he explained, “and this is how you serve the food.”

The new waiter was not eager to learn how to do this work because he thought it was boring. “How do you do the same thing every day;” he asked the old veteran, “do you not wish to leave this place and do something more interesting?” The seasoned waiter paused, then answered, “My young friend, I have done this same work for thirty years, and the truth is ... I still find it stimulating. I know that may sound hard to believe, but it’s true.” The young man took a step back, surprised and enthralled. “Since I am training you in the skills of being a waiter, would you like me to show my secret of being interested in doing the same job every day?” asked the expert waiter gently. The young one anxiously approved of learning this secret, so the older gentleman began, “Watch and see what I was doing this very morning before you came - it was fascinating! Do you

see that building to the right? It has a pale red color does it not?" The young waiter nodded. "Well, lift its color in your mind and mix it with the yellow of the building to the left. Voila! You get the color of the building between - an orange-yellow! Now mix a little more red into the yellow and you get the golden-yellow umbrellas to the left. Mix more red and you get the red-orange umbrella. Then, I kept watching as I waited the tables all morning, and I noticed that you can lift the light blue of the sky and behold, you get the color of the umbrella to the right. So, you see, while I am waiting tables, I am playing a game of finding connections in my surroundings." "That is brilliant!" exclaimed the youth, "please, sir, can you tell me another?" "Well of course," continued the waiter, quite pleased with himself, "the best part actually came later this same morning. I took that game to the next level. After I was mixing colors in my mind, I decided to think of other connections in the world that are produced by mixing. Instead of mixing red and yellow colors, I mixed earth, water, air and fire. When I mixed mostly earth, I got the wood of trees. When I mixed in more water, the wood became green stems of plants. More air turned the stems into delicate leaves. Then, finally, I added fire and got flowers, bursting with color! You see, while I am waiting tables, I am watching all of life pass before me. If I did not look for associations and meaning, I think I would get bored, so I purposely seek stories for the way everything is connected." With all of that the young novice took up a water pitcher and headed to a table with a gleam in his eye and a spring in his step.

*WATCH AND WAIT
TO SEE THE CONNECTION OF ALL THINGS*