

December 2007
Special Holiday Issue

“A Touch of Grace”
*f*rom Heather O’Hara



“Love is what’s in the room with you at Christmas
if you stop opening presents and listen...”

— Seven-year-old boy, name unknown

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The Beauty of the Story...

We hear the beating of wings over Bethlehem, and a light that is not of the sun or of the stars shines in the midnight sky...

Let the beauty of the story take away all narrowness, all thought of formal creeds. Let it be remembered as a story that has happened again and again, to men of many different races, that has been expressed through many religions, that has been called by many different names... a story where time and space and language lay no limitations upon human brotherhood.

— *New York Times*, December 25, 1937

LETTER FROM HEATHER O'HARA



Dear Readers...

Oh, how I love this time of year! The snow is gently falling outside my office window... the world around me is covered in glistening white, my friends are close, my thoughts are clear, my children are safe and happy, and all is well...

We each have so much to celebrate! There is such an abundance of good in this world—there is so much love, so much beauty, so much caring, so much to be thankful for... and you, you are the authors of it all! ...

Your goodwill, your joy, your compassion and kindness are everything that a remarkable story is made of! This world could not be what it is, and what it is becoming, without you—so, whatever it is you celebrate; in whatever way, on whatever day—celebrate it with all your heart! Do the mistletoe dance with someone you love, sing from your soul, light a candle for this extraordinary world; and know that you are the reason that love and joy abound!

You *are* the beauty of The Story... the beauty of the Christmas Story, the beauty of the Hanukkah Story, the beauty of every story of celebration—and you deserve to dance! ...*You* are what make each and every story beautiful—I promise you, you are.

Warmest Holiday Wishes,

Heather K. O'Hara

 **HOLIDAY QUOTES TO PONDER**

“Instead of a gem, or even a flower, we should cast the gift of a loving thought into the heart of a friend—that would be giving as the angels give.”

— George MacDonald



“A wise lover values not so much the gift of the lover as the love of the giver.”

— Thomas á Kempis



“The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree: the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other.”

— Burton Hillis



“The message of Christmas is that the visible material world is bound to the invisible spiritual world.”

— Unknown



and my absolute favorite . . .

“Christmas is that magic blanket that wraps itself about us, that something so intangible that it is like a fragrance... It may weave a spell of nostalgia or it may be a day of feasting, or of prayer; but it will always be a day of remembrance—a day in which we think of everything we have ever loved.”

— Augusta E. Rundel

 **YES, VIRGINIA, THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS... BY FRANCIS P. CHURCH**

Most of you who live in the United States know of this famous editorial, and know it well... but for those of you in other countries that may not be familiar with it, it is considered by many to be the most metaphysical response ever printed by a newspaper.

Written more than one hundred years ago, this famous response to an eight-year-old girl's question is so much more than a mere validation of old St. Nick... it is the secret of "The Secret!"

Eight-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon wrote a letter to the editor of New York's *Sun*, and the response to her question was printed as an unsigned editorial on September 21, 1897. The work of veteran newsman Francis Pharcellus Church has since become history's most reprinted newspaper editorial—appearing time and time again—in part or in whole, in numerous languages in books, movies, Web publications, editorials; and on posters and stamps.

**From the Editorial Page of the *New York Sun*,
Written by Francis P. Church, Editor—September 21, 1897:**

We take pleasure in answering thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of *The Sun*:

"DEAR EDITOR: I am 8 years old.
"Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.
"Papa says, 'If you see it in *The Sun*, it is so!'
"Please tell me the truth. Is there a Santa Claus?"

"Virginia O'Hanlon
"115 West 95th Street
"New York, New York"

VIRGINIA, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little.

In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect—an ant, in his intellect—as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus? You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, *but* that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's not proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders that are unseen and unseeable in the world!

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernatural beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else more real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever! A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

— Francis P. Church [1839 – 1906]
Editor, *New York Sun*

 **A LITTLE MAGIC AND A TOUCH OF GRACE**

by Heather K. O'Hara

In all relationships it is not only important for us to show people that we love them and to tell people that we love them, but also to let them know *why* we love them... Not only does it bring us closer to each other, but by acknowledging someone else's finest qualities and the impact those qualities have on our lives, it helps them to feel their own true worth—and there isn't a finer gift than being reminded of our own value.

During this holiday season, and throughout the year, think about why you love your partner, why you love your children, why you love your parents, and why you love your friends... and then tell them. Tell them with a poem, tell them with a letter, tell them with a note, or tell them with a song... just be sure to tell them... even if you are far apart, it will be the closest moment that you ever spend together.

Why I Love You

I love you,
Not only for what you are,
But for what I am
When I am with you.

I love you,
Not only for what
You have made of yourself,
But for what
You are making of me.

I love you
For the part of me
That you bring out;
I love you
For putting your hand
Into my heaped-up heart
And passing over
All the foolish, weak things
That you can't help
Dimly seeing there,
And for drawing out
Into the light
All the beautiful belongings
That no one else had looked
Quite far enough to find.

I love you because you
Are helping me to make
Of the lumber of my life
Not a tavern
But a temple;
Out of the works
Of my every day
Not a reproach
But a song.

I love you
Because you have done
More than any creed
Could have done
To make me good,
And more than any fate
Could have done
To make me happy.

You have done it
Without a touch,
Without a word,
Without a sign.

You have done it
By being yourself.

Perhaps that is what
Being a friend means,
After all.

— Roy Croft (1907 – 1973)

 **ARTICLE: THE GIFT OF YOU... BY HEATHER K. O'HARA**

The Gift of You

AN ARTICLE BY HEATHER K. O'HARA

It amazes me... the amount of people walking this world with the belief that they are being "tested" every time they turn a corner! ...What would be the purpose of that? ...In a perfect universe, which it is, what would be the point of testing and retesting seven billion beings; and then, without notice, proclaiming, "Class dismissed!" ...?

Life isn't about tests... it isn't about how much we can or cannot handle—it's about *seeing* and *being* who we really are. Life is a stream of well-being, a stream of love, a stream of perfection... it does not even recognize anything less than its own magnificence. It doesn't test our strength or our patience or our endurance or our character—we do that to ourselves!

As difficult as it is for some of us to see, the belief that we are being “tested” is just another excuse for not recognizing our own power, our own value, and our own freedom. If life tests anything, which it does not, it would be our “identity,” not our coping skills...

When you know how powerful you are, when you know how valuable you are, when you know how free you are... then you will also know that there are no wrong answers, no mistakes, and no tests to pass—you are already that which you have come here to be! You are “you”... and by being “you,” by recognizing “you” and by doing your best to stay connected to the “you” you already are—you will realize that your life is not so much about learning as it is about recognizing; that it is not so much about being tested as it is about being connected; and that life is not about being stuck in a classroom, but that it is about being free.

If there were a way that I could reach inside of you, pull out your true identity, and hold it before you—you would be absolutely awe-struck by the beauty of you, by the perfection of you... by the magnitude, the grace, and the power of you! My God! you are magnificent! ...you are brilliant! ...you are everything that wonderful is made of!

You don’t need to be tested! You don’t need to prove anything to anyone! You don’t need to spend your life struggling to maintain a 4.0 average in “Life Skills 101!” You don’t need to find a purpose for being here... and you don’t need to travel ten thousand miles searching for knowledge or searching for answers or searching for the ultimate gift... **You are the ultimate gift! ...Just open yourself up, and rejoice in what you already are!**

See yourself, believe in yourself, trust yourself and, if you do nothing else in this lifetime, love yourself... Love yourself without limits; love yourself without questions; love yourself without guilt... Life would give its last breath for you, and if there is anything worth loving in this world—it is who and what you already are!

Seeing and knowing your own truth is not a test—it is a gift. Nothing is more important or more valuable than recognizing your own true identity... You, and only you, have the power and the freedom to be who you really are—so, be your own best friend, be your own greatest love; and give yourself something priceless this year... give yourself the gift of “you.”

— Heather K. O’Hara

 **THE WISDOM OF AXIS**

Something to think about . . .

By many, I've been called the Sun, ...by Rumi, called the Moon.
To some, I am the Golden Thread, ... the Dawn, the Breath, the Light.
I have been named both Truth and God, ...Axis, Source, and Ra, ...
But of all the names that I am, I am the name of Love.

— Heather K. O'Hara
from *AXIS, The Song in the Center of the Soul*
<http://www.Quantum-Grace.com/books2.htm>

 **LOTUS NOTES**

News from www.The-Lotus-Project.com

Something incredibly wonderful has happened! ...

Since its introduction in January 2007, we have been tracking the number of visitors, and the nations from which those visitors come, with great enthusiasm! In creating The Lotus Project Web site, it was my intention to reach people all over the world with a message of peace—people, like you, who have the freedom to read what you choose to read, as well as those who are not allowed to enjoy that same freedom.

Because this newsletter (yes... this one!) has been blocked by certain governments, I was hopeful, although not sure that The Lotus Project's message of peace would ever reach certain nations... but guess what?

...Peace has found its own path; and nothing can stop it!

Although I will not single out a country, or countries, that currently restrict the personal rights and freedoms of their citizens—I will share with you the complete list of nations that The Lotus Project Web site (and its signature video, "One Song") has touched with its message of world hope, world peace, and world love—regardless of any restrictions that might be in place!

United States
Canada
Australia
Great Britain (United Kingdom)

Hungary
Panama
South Africa
Netherlands
France
Singapore
India
Finland
Mexico
Guatemala
Slovenia
Nigeria
Japan
Hong Kong
Spain
Switzerland
Romania
Germany
New Zealand (Aotearoa)
Russian Federation
Sweden
Lithuania
Poland
Austria
Italy
Yemen
Brazil
Norway
Sri Lanka
Czech Republic
Trinidad and Tobago
Mauritius
Egypt
Ireland
Chile
Malaysia
Greece

We are all “One Song” ...and I encourage you all to keep singing!

If you have not yet done so, please feel free to visit The Lotus Project at any time of day or night. Print out affirmations, send eCards, and download the “One Song” video... all absolutely free! And, while you’re there... please remember to sign the guest book!

<http://www.The-Lotus-Project.com>

 **A TOUCH OF GRACE FROM READERS & WRITERS**

Submitted by C. Rhodes / USA

“Today... I wish you a day of ordinary miracles:
A fresh pot of coffee you didn’t have to make yourself;
An unexpected phone call from an old friend;
Green lights on your way to work.

I wish you a day of little things to rejoice in:
The fastest line at the grocery store;
A good sing-along-song on the radio;
Your keys, right where you look.

I wish you a day of happiness and perfection—
little bite-size pieces of perfection
that give you the feeling that God is smiling on you,
holding you gently,
because you are someone special and rare...

Yes, I wish you a day of ordinary miracles:
I wish you a day of Peace, Happiness and Joy.”

—Author Unknown

 **RESOURCES, RECOMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS**

BOOKS I HIGHLY RECOMMEND:

**The Astonishing Power of Emotions:
Let Your Feelings Be Your Guide**

**by Ester and Jerry Hicks (The Teachings of Abraham);
Published by Hay House; Hardcover; Includes a free CD**

This newest book, by Ester and Jerry Hicks, is “the art of allowing”
extravaganza! If you are not familiar with the teachings of Abraham, you
are missing out on something rather wonderful: How to be happy,
appreciate, and make peace with where you are right now.

You can find it at your local bookstore or at HayHouse.com

THE ILLUMINATED POET... A Free Gift for Newsletter Subscribers Only!

If you missed it and haven't yet saved or printed out your free copy of my newest eBook, *The Illuminated Poet*, please know that all links to this book will be deactivated on January 15, 2008. Yes... I extended the date because I want all of you to have this collection at your fingertips... when you find yourself in need of a little inspiration or a lot of wisdom; you will find it in this book! You are welcome to print as many copies as you'd like, but please do it soon!

Click on the link below to open and print *The Illuminated Poet*; 117 pages

<http://www.quantum-grace.com/The%20Illuminated%20Poet.pdf>



✦ **THANK YOU AGAIN...**

In closing, I would like to thank you again for helping Quantum-Grace.com and The-Lotus-Project.com become the highest examples of people helping people. Only by inspiring, encouraging, and supporting each other will we evolve into a new and higher level of awareness.

Your good energy and positive thoughts are not only the best gifts you can give yourself, they are also the greatest contribution you can make to the spiritual evolution of humanity. Know that you are important and that you count in a very big way. Live your love, trust your joy—stand up and say your name!

“Be the change you wish to see in the world.” — Gandhi

May you walk with impeccable grace, my good friends.

I love you all, ...Heather K. O'Hara

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<http://www.Quantum-Grace.com/news2.htm>

IT'S INSPIRING. IT'S EMPOWERING. AND IT'S FREE.

PLEASE NOTE: I never sell, trade, rent, or give away your email address to others. Your information is always kept in the strictest confidence. That's a promise you can count on.

For questions or comments about this newsletter, please feel free to write to me at:

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May you walk this world with beauty, power, and grace—
and may you know, every day of your lives,
that you are loved and all is well...

Happy Holidays!

Heather K. O'Hara