

Scripture for July 27, 2008

## Reflection from John Surette, SJ

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Wisdom – Connections

**Our first reading today speaks to us about the “wisdom of Solomon.” This is a phrase that has come down to us through the centuries and is still in common use today.**

**In our reading God is pleased with Solomon’s compassion and concern for the people. God is moved by Solomon’s wise and understanding heart.**

**So, what precisely is wisdom? My favorite description of the wise person is “one who sees the connections.”**

**There is a story told about “The Tinker King.” It seems that on the day of his coronation he was given the gift of a magnificent ermine robe. The king asked “from where did it come?” The reply was that it came from a royal merchant, to which the king replied with the same question “from where did it come?” The second answer was that it came from Persia, but the king was still not satisfied and asked the question again. Finally the answer was given that it came from many small animals that were trapped and killed. The king was silent. He touched the robe softly but sadly and refused to wear it.**



**The king was wise. He knew that he died a little whenever anything died a lot. He saw connections!**

**On another occasion a visiting prince brought the king the gift of a valuable pearl. The king asked the prince why the pearl was so valuable.**

The Well

*A Center for our*

*Sacred Unity with God,*

*Earth, and One*

*Another.*

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**The prince replied that it was valuable because it was so difficult to retrieve it from the ocean floor. The king asked again why is it worth so much. The prince replied that it was so valuable because sixteen male slaves drowned in their attempts to retrieve it. Upon hearing the answer the king was silent. He touched the pearl softly and sadly and refused to accept the gift. The king was wise. He knew that he died a little whenever anything died a lot. He saw connections!**

**Our Planet Earth is dying. No doubt about this. Temperatures are rising, soils are eroding, forests are shrinking, rivers are running dry, fisheries are collapsing, polar ice caps and glaciers are melting, plant and animal species are going into extinction, cancers are increasing, and the children of all species are dying.**

**Can we understand this planetary dying in our intellects and more importantly can we feel it in our souls? Can we experience that we are connected to all aspects of this dying? Can we see that each of us dies a little whenever something dies a lot? If we can, then we are filled with wisdom!**

**Earth's human community is in many ways dying. No doubt about this. The gap between the rich and the poor is widening, justice is experienced only by the few, medical care is becoming available only for those who can afford it, economic, political, and environmental refugees are increasing in numbers, and educational and religious institutions are under increasing stress.**

**Can we understand this human dying in our intellects and more importantly can we feel it in our souls? Can we experience that we are connected to all aspects of this dying?**

**Can we see that each of us dies a little whenever anyone of us dies a lot? If we can, then we are filled with wisdom!**

**I am reminded of the words of a song:**

*It's in everyone of us to be wise.  
Find your heart, open up both your eyes.  
We can all know everything  
Without ever knowing why.  
It's in every one of us, You and I.*

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