

## Article 183: Death Without Having Really Lived – part 4

Maybe this next story will help you decide about your self and life. This is about a young orphan-lad named Marcus living on the Italian mainland near Antonius' small island, who, being left alone and isolated at a very early age, set out to discover the truth of life for himself. Ohh, he was afraid, but he decided that if great opportunities were not where he was, then he would travel from place to place, set his fears and insecurities aside, and grasp on to what he was entitled to have, ...and that was to be his direction or way ...or star or goal in life.

So, Marcus set out on a journey to discover what life had to offer him ...or what it held out to him. He decided, "If I must be self-directed, and truly so, I've been cut off from all family and friends ...and reserves, and deprived of everything and everyone who might help me, and left alone to deal with matters, then I'll do things alone ...by and for myself ...and gain whatever I choose to have.

It all seemed so simple, ...and though Marcus was directed, he was also aimless and uninhibited. He was guided, yet he wandered. He was controlled, ...but wherever he went, he was unlimited and uncontained ...and he carried a sense of freedom and purpose with him. He promised himself the finest life ever ...and he meant to have it.

One day, Marcus set out upon a pilgrimage to the northern lands, ...and though he was alone, he began singing ...which created a feeling of accompaniment. He gave himself wholly to his songs, ...ohh, he sang to the treetops ...and far beyond. And as he walked along, he searched within himself ...and within all things around him, attempting to see and feel and sense what was truly happening ...and know the promise of life. He cared enough about himself and his life to look within all things for the correct interpretation and understanding of life along the way.

Marcus was friendly to others ...for he promised, "If I'm always to express my finest purpose, then I'll make new friends every day," ...and as he continued his journey, he often learned great things from other travelers who told him many strange and exciting stories. As a result of his listening, Marcus learned to tell tales, ...ohh, not lies or outrageous distortions, but he had a way of recounting tales that awakened joyous significance and understanding in his listeners, ...and as he believed in and created even finer stories, even larger crowds gradually understood his words and the great meaning they conveyed for them.

Marcus was always freely accessible, for he declared, "Well, ...if I'm to learn from them and understand myself, then I must open my heart and mind and sense of being ...and carry others along with me." And yet, when he was hurt by others' words and actions ...and their meaning, he had a

tendency to close down and shut himself away from the important and meaningful things in life.

Well, Marcus continued his journey until he met a fellow-traveler named Justinian going in the opposite direction. Being his usually friendly self, Marcus invited the man to rest and refresh himself, while they discussed which was the better way to travel, for Marcus had come from the direction to which the man was headed and Justinian had come from where he was going, ...which then would offer the greatest advice?

Would Marcus say that where he'd been was better than from where Justinian had journeyed? Or would Justinian muster up the courage to declare that his travels had been greater? Ohh, ...it didn't really matter very much to either man, for they only wanted to prepare each other for their separate journeys. "Well," Marcus began, "I'll tell you the story of my adventures"; and he began speaking about his life's journey, ...indicating all the important events and occurrences which had ever happened to him. Ohh, it was truly an exciting and wondrous story, one filled with adventure and strangeness ...and purpose and meaning. Marcus was quite satisfied with himself and his life ...for he'd been real and genuine, which was significant and important to him.

Later, ...ohh, much later, after listening to all of Justinian's adventurous stories, Marcus announced, "Well, it seems that your journey was as strong and exciting as mine. And just as wise and fulfilling and important, ...and if I were to continue my journey to where you've traveled, ...well, little would be gained by that. So, wouldn't it be better for us to combine our lives and energy ...and journeys, and pick a third road to travel ...and go off together? Maybe out of this union, or the awareness of our journey, we can each create a finer sense of being or purpose or accomplishment in life than either can do alone, ...and greater happiness as well.

"Now, that means that, as we journey together, you'll give me your understandings ...and I'll do the same for you. And we will pledge to meet others ...and situations together" Well, after a lengthy and intense and probing exchange of ideas and feelings, the two men decided to do just that ...so they set out upon a road leading in a different direction. Together, they began a new journey in life.

What they soon discovered was that when Justinian was weak and Marcus was strong, or when Justinian was strong and Marcus was weak, ...in either situation, **both men** discovered and gained a tremendous sense of courage and security and joy in helping the other. By forsaking his own weak spots and helping his friend, Marcus expressed even greater strengths, and Justinian did much the same. Soon, each one's weaknesses passed away by being blended into the other's strengths.

They also withheld any improper thoughts or words or feelings or actions which usually seem to annoy and bedevil two individuals being so closely and constantly together on long journeys.

Ohh, ...it was great and glorious and enjoyable traveling together seeking advice from one person after another, telling them exciting tales of their journey, and helping and inspiring those in need. They walked from one land to another~from one group of people to another~expressing their love and affection, their awareness and understandings, and their beliefs, ...which they usually shared through telling stories ...and doing what was needed of them. They were welcomed and respected travelers, ...unlike many others who were, in any way, mean-spirited ...or who took advantage of people. Marcus and Justinian compassionately helped everyone they met, even though they appeared to be the ones in greatest need, ...but they were not, because they truly had each other and their individual purposes to rely upon, which gave them an extraordinary strength and comfort.

Marcus did most of the speaking, for his soul carried a great sense of wonder and inquisitiveness about things ...and his words conveyed his astounding appreciation of life. Everything and everyone in life was important to him. He was the visionary and dreamer who created images to inspire others ...while Justinian was more the "hands-on" one. He did the wondrous things that Marcus often referred to in his stories. Justinian had creative and healing hands ...and directed others in the physical matters of life; yet, ...well, he was also completely involved in the spirit of what he did ...and what life offered.

From their separate talents and apparent diversity, a great strength and energy and bond grew ...such that they depended upon each other ...and never separated from that union, ...and they carried each other along in life for a bright some time.

Years later, nearing the end of their journeying together, as Justinian became ill~for he was the weaker one ...though Marcus was the elder~Marcus willingly and lovingly carried his dear friend until Justinian finally died with these words on his trembling lips. "...discover a new friend and set yourself upon a wondrous new journey..." But Marcus wasn't open to that, because he felt there was no caring within him greater than what he carried for Justinian. Ohh, he just couldn't give that up ...or offer it to another. And he wept desperately.

But when he continued his journey alone, ...by being open, Marcus soon discovered a wonderful individual to travel with ...and care about ...and to share his long journey with. And at times, he even carried his new-found friend. And their travels continued for another ten years ...until Marcus died with his new-found friend's promise filling his soul, "I will carry

on with our journey ...just as you continued Justinian's quest. I'll do what you've taught me ...and offer others all the wonder and learnings, the affection and devotion, and the enrichment which you carry within you, ...and which you've given to me."

Then he exclaimed, "Ohh, ...dear one, I will continue our incredible journey ...and share it with others."

Well, there are the two lives. The first one was lived in splendor and independence and authority ...and freedom from responsibilities and duties. It was an isolated life, one with few changes, ...but it was steady and reliable and secure ...and filled with possessions.

The second life, beginning in the same isolation, grew into a journey of coming together, supporting, sharing, caring, and helping others, ...and even carrying those most in need, ...all of which was continued and furthered by others.

The first life ended with the words, "Such a waste! Such a terrible waste! Ohh, ...it was all such a waste!" While the second one ended with the promise, "Ohh, ...dear one, I will continue our incredible journey ...and share it with others." Which of these two lives are you living today? Ohh, please make your life an incredible journey for yourself and others, ...don't let it be a waste. Which life is as you truly desire?

**Truly share yourself with others  
through honesty, openness, and intimacy,  
by being and living your  
Declared Self and Forever Purpose!**