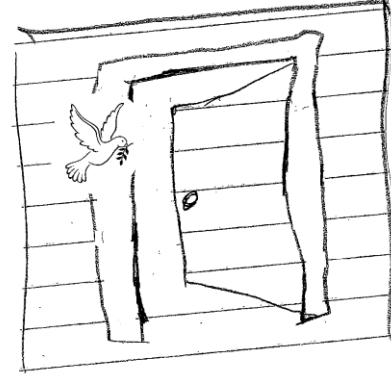


Sooner or Later Truth Will Tell the Truth by Means of Time

Reflections by BRLC student, James.

"At the age of 65 my 23 year old son told me I was the biggest con he ever knew. He said, "Somehow you have managed to travel to so many countries, be involved in nationwide organizations, have an introduction to two Ivy League universities, run a business having at least 62 employees at one time and you never were able to read above a second grade level."



And now, in old age, my memory is failing and I have to learn phonics. I can say with a smile that I am having fun and being free because I don't have to live a lie. Instead of running from words I embrace them."

These are words from James, one of our students here at BRLC. James came to our office at the end of 2015 and told us that he had dyslexia, and up until now he had been able to memorize words in order to get by. James began to work with us in two ways. First, he worked in one of our online programs to improve his reading, and second, he orally presented his creative writing, which we recorded and collected. We are extremely lucky now to have a tutor working with James. His tutor, Nancy, spent years as a teacher using the Wilson Reading System, a program specifically designed to teach people with dyslexia how to read. She and James are committed to do their best in this endeavor. Nancy had been accustomed to working with children, and James is the first adult she has taught. As you know, our mission at BRLC is to encourage people to reach their full potential and James is a case in point.

He has found the opportunity here to not only learn to read, but also to find a voice for his reflections. Please take a moment to read a couple of his passages. We are hoping to find a publisher for a collection of James' works. If you know about the process of publishing works, we would love to hear your advice on how to proceed. Thank you all sincerely for being part of the BRLC community. We would be able to offer nothing without your time and support.

Here are some examples of James' writings:

The Importance of Nothin

by James

This is the first time that I can think of realizing how important nothing and nowhere are. Someone asks you or asks me "What are you doin?" and you say "Nothin." And sometimes people ask you "Where are you goin?" and I say or they say "Nowhere." How important that is.

It is sad to say it took me a long time to realize that. I remember one time I was all bottled up and in the middle of decisions at the age of 23 and I had a conversation with one of my favorite uncles. He told me I needed to go for a trip.

He told me that I needed to go nowhere.
I thought he was pullin my leg.
He knew I had all these things on my mind, and I had to come up with an answer.

But I played along with his game to take this trip and go nowhere.

So I asked him, "Uncle Raymond, how do I go nowhere?"
He says, "I'll take you down to the bus station. You count the money you have in your pocket on the counter. And you tell the bus person you wanna buy a ticket round trip for as much money as you have on the counter."
And he said, "Get on the next bus and go there. And when you are ready, get on the next bus and come back home."

So I took me a trip to nowhere. The best trip I ever had.
I got a chance to see how insignificant I really am.
And how special and important I really am.
If I'm not home things get taken care of, and if I am home I get to participate.
But that trip to nowhere helped me to appreciate from that point on that I need to stand still and let things play out.
Only time and experience will give you the wisdom when to participate or not.
Standing still more often will help you acquire that wisdom..
So if someone asks you where you are going, it really is ok to say, "Nowhere."
And if they ask you what you are doing, it's ok to say, "Nothin."

Obstacles

by James

The major reason why we or I don't start things is fear.
Fear becomes a dominant factor in our life.

Fear is the reason why we do something and the reason why we don't do things.
Fear is not something we overcome.
It is something we learn to embrace and work with.

We have two feet for a reason, so we can take one step at a time.
When inertia comes up and it's time to start something, in order for us to cover ground, we have to put our feet down.

Letting Go

by James

I was enjoying life, got off of work, getting some gas and friends of mine drove up, named Bob and Diane, husband and wife.
They said, "Whatcha doing?"

I said, "I'm through for the day. I guess I'll go home."

They said, "Jump in, leave your car here and go with us to Lake Mead."

Said, "We're going water skiing. It works better when there's two people in the boat and one in the water."

I said, "Man I can't swim."

He said, "We got a life jacket just for you. Don't worry about fallin in the water with that life jacket. You're gonna be skiing in the water!"

With that adventure spirit of mine I said, "Why not."

We are at Lake Mead in the boat and they said, "You should go first."

He said, "The life jacket will hold you up. Now I'm gonna jump in and tell you what to do before we move."

So Bob jumps in and I jump in right behind him, trusting that the lifejacket would help me learn and have fun.

Diane threw the ring in and Bob said, "Take it in your hand."

He said, "Lay back and put it between the skis. When we take off your gonna pop up and when you do stay in a rockin chair position."

He said, "How do you feel?"

I said, "This is totally different."

Diane hollared out, "You're gonna be alright, we are only in the part where it's 200 feet."

I didn't need to hear that feet business.

They're in the boat and we're off. And I pop up, holdin onto the ring in a rockin chair position.

Coming in the opposite direction was this pretty lady up on one ski, laying back, half flying in the wind. There it go.

And I realized here I am, I'm actually skiing.

And along came another girl, half flying on one ski, laying back.

I says, "I can lay back like that."

And as I lay back, coming out of the rocking chair position, I found myself going forward into the water.

The next thing I knew I was under the water.

Bob had told me if anything happens, let go of the ring.

Big strong robust man that I am, I'll just pull myself up.

I started to pull and the darker it gets.

And something says, "If you want to live, let go you fool, let go."

So I did, and I popped up.

That goes to show you in many cases in life in order for you to live you have to let go.