

## LEARNING HEART: Weekly Reflections

### Summertime 2011 *In Summertime We Dream*

#### Week Six - The Wonder of Yearning

My mother used to tell a story about me as a child. When asked what I wanted for Christmas I replied, 'Everything, everything.' This, of course, could be the result of plain greed. I prefer, however, to see it in terms of the huge possibilities we carry in our hearts. Robert Browning wrote, 'Ah! But a man's reach must exceed his grasp, or what's heaven for?' We are full of a yearning for what is beyond us. There is a deep desire to be more than we are, to experience life and love more fully, even to be like God. We want to shine like the stars, to fly like the birds, to love like the greatest lovers. There is a lust for 'life to the full' in most of our bloodstreams.

This powerful push is in everything. All life is fired by longing. I have read that if you put a two-inch band of solid steel around a young water-melon it will, as it grows, slowly burst that steel. That same implacable pressure is found in all of nature. Everything is incessantly driven to grow, to expand, by uniting with others, to spread outside itself. . .

The human heart is no different. It is full of the instinct to reach out beyond itself, to bring joy and justice everywhere. There is a restlessness in all of us, a searching that is very hard to truly satisfy. The unsatisfied drive is impossible to ignore, to avoid or deny. It is always there.

All of this has to do with God. God's seed is within us when we are born, the mystics tell us and, as we grow, so does the seed. This growth is a deep fire, making us yearn for the heavens while still on earth. The relentless pressure of this capacity for, and identity with, the divine, is not only in the human soul; the whole earth, too, is ablaze with divine fire. The universe is all of apiece. This relentless yearning is written into the DNA of life as it is in the story of our inner spirits. It is God's incarnate, authentic signature. We know that all true human longing is God's longing.

*(Prism of Love pp135, 136)*