

March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**Whereunto shall I liken this generation?** It is like children sitting in the markets, calling to their friends, saying, We played the flute and you did not dance; Matt 11:16-18

Dear Friends

Having shared a home with a student flautist for 20 years, I am familiar with its inspiring presence. The spirit is lifted and the heart just sings along.

In the tranquil village of Capernaum, people were familiar with the most audacious of Christ's miracles, the best of his music so to speak, his most gracious moves, and yet many were unmoved. Flabbergasted, Jesus went on to suggest that people with 'elective autism', those who have learned to be emotionally inert, are somehow worse than the doomed citizens of Sodom!

Though dance is not an art normally embraced by those with puritan propensity, I must confess that I find allure in the mystique of human chemistry and harmony of synchronous movement. Little wonder that authors use dance as a metaphor to explore the dynamic relationship between truth and learning: For example:

*"Without music, life would be a mistake..I would only believe in a God who knew how to dance".* Nietzsche

*"Common sense and a sense of humour are the same thing, moving at different speeds. A sense of humour is just common sense, dancing."* William James

*"In life as in dance: Grace glides on blistered feet"* Anon

*"We dance around in a ring and suppose, but the Secret sits in the middle and knows"* Robert Frost

*"Mentors and apprentices are partners in an ancient human dance, and one of teachings great rewards is the daily chance it gives us to get back on the dance floor. It is the dance of the spiralling generations, in which the old empower the young with their experience and the young empower the old with new life, reweaving the fabric of the human community as we touch and turn."*

This one really made me think:

*"Openness to transcendence is what distinguishes the community of truth from both absolutism and relativism. In this community, the process of truth-knowing and truth-telling is neither dictatorial nor anarchic. Instead it is an eternal dance of intimacy and distance , speaking and listening, knowing and not knowing, that makes collaborators and co-conspirators of the knower's and the known."* Parker Palmer:

Those who treat truth as a factual fortress to be fought or foisted will find metaphors of conflict framing their phrase. Equally, where truths have no reference point, the language of luck will suffice. Between these, faith in idiom embraces ineffable but unverifiable truths in a romantic dance of hope, in contrast to lead footed harbingers of debilitating doubt. Fundamentalists, actually, have no need for faith since belief is no longer tentative or dynamic. Our joy is to embrace those who are intellectually excited and spiritually romantic in a partnership between the fixtures of reality and the mysteries of God's kingdom.

May the Sacred Choreographer bring a frisson to your dance and delight in discovering the abundance of His grace.



Best music

Victor.

Taa, . Tattee -Taa, Tattee-Taa., .Taa-Taa.....