

A Little Better

By Jim Gold

“Do it a little different and better each time. Those are the rules.”

That’s what Big Mama Lotion said after cooking breakfast. “And these rules hold for any age. From six to eighty, four to ninety, two to one hundred. Age doesn’t matter. Rules of life are the same.”

Marcel swallowed his oatmeal, “What about the ladder of fame?” he asked. “I want to be known and famous.”

“You mean ladder of wisdom. Fame and famous are transient, short term, lower rungs on the wisdom ladder. ‘All is One’ is at the top.”

“Hmm,” Marcel considered, as he stirred his oatmeal.

Mama continued. “If you combine short term with All is One, you end up with ‘All is Short,’ Or ‘Many is One.’ At the top of the ladder, it doesn’t matter anymore. There, on the highest level, short is long, many is few, one is all, and all is one.”

“Pretty good.” Marcel took another spoonful. “You’re smart.”

Mama Lotion nodded in agreement, and untied her apron, “This shows how, in the long run, differences and distinctions, groupings and differentiation are only for sissies. True bravers, heroes of the ladder climb, live beyond this cowardice. They believe in no differences, distinctions, groupings, or differentiations.”

“A wise lecture, Mama. I’ll take your wisdom to the grave.”

“Not so fast, my son. First, do the laundry and take out the garbage.”

from Carlos the Cloud

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