

Story #10b

Heart Thought

10. Be ready to have your thoughts turned in a new, useful direction at any moment.

(The Teacher's Bill of Rights)

I'm going to start with a fable from Volume 2 of *Bickart's Just-in-Time Fables* (2020) and then make a point of describing Heart Thought. Ready?



#65 *The Elephant*



*An ancient elephant was telling stories to his grandchildren.
When he got to the funny parts his eyes gleamed like a child.
“Grandpa, grandpa,” pleaded the most inquisitive one of the*

children, “you tell them so much better than mother and father! They stay so serious, but you are silly!” “There’s a reason for that,” began their grandfather in his instructor voice, “you see, when you are young, you have fun. Then, as you grow up, you get serious and forget about excitement. But, when you get old, you turn back into a child.” “But grandpa,” interrupted the inquisitive one, “if you turned back into a child, how come mother and father let you take care of us?” “Ahhhhhh,” replied their grandfather, visibly amused, “I am an ‘old-child’. An ‘old-child’ knows how to have fun - but he also knows a few other things he has learned along the way.”

YOU GROW OLD IN ORDER TO GROW YOUNG

Heart Thought is having an old thought that's young - returning to your childhood - reawakening your childhood. Here's an example of having a Heart Thought that happened to me in a professional way. It was just a few years ago. I was giving a workshop to a group in England that has an international audience. The organization was the International Network for the Study of Spirituality. We had a great workshop. It was an hour long. I was talking about Heart Thought and how one can have intuitions while teaching - while you're speaking. A person teaching at a college in Spain asks me a question. He says, "You are making me think that these intuitions are such a wonderful thing. It makes me feel bad about all of the left brain training we are doing when we have students write academic papers with all of these citations. We basically say, "Don't have any thoughts of your own." So, all of a sudden, as I begin to answer him, words come out of my mouth that I had not thought of before. I did not

know what I was going to say. The answer just started coming out and I found myself saying, "Why don't you let your students add something new to their battery of tools? Allow them the ability to make a citation for an intuition? The rules would be something like, the citation could only be used if you think it came from a good source, just like your academic citations. If you judge it to be a good source - just for you - it might not be for someone else - then you say so. You cite it, and you keep it very clearly separate from what *they say or I say*. You state the intuition as an idea that just came to you. And you allow for it.

The Spanish professor became interested. Then I said right there in the middle of the workshop, "THAT WAS AN INTUITION! I NEVER THOUGHT THAT IN MY LIFE! That was a Heart Thought right now - live!"

And that is how to play the game. Like the old elephant - like I did in that workshop - that's how to play the game of life. Allow yourself to be so open that an idea can come to you. Live as if you are playing like a child - like you just got a *great idea* - and then, let it through. So, that's it for today. Heart Thought. I'll see you in one of those tomorrows.



References

Bickart, J. (2020). *Bickart's Just-in-Time Fables* (Vol. 3). Asheville, NC: Red Shirt Interactive Group.