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OPEN WHILE FAILING



*No matter how hard you try,
your potential gifts are greater
than what you actually
give in your life.*

At depth, you are infinite. If you allow yourself to feel who you are fully in this moment, you will find no horizon, no end. Everything you experience and do in your life is like a ripple on the surface of a boundless openness who you are.

At your heart, you can feel your depth open as love. Deep down, you know that you are *immense*. Sizeless, really, and of ultimate importance, or so it seems. Yet, if you look at your daily life, you find paltry enjoyments and picayune dramas.

You feel that your life can be truly significant, potentially full of love and great gifts. But it isn't playing out that way. It always feels less than you sense it can be. Your career isn't quite *it*, your intimate life isn't what it could be, your heart doesn't wholly love, and your mind can't sufficiently articulate your profundity. Your life may feel really good, but still, there is a depth of love and knowing that isn't quite making its way to your daily surface.

You can absorb yourself in family frolic, delicious meals, an interesting job, and great friends. Even when an unlived depth tickles your surface, there is

always a phone call to make, a child who needs help, or something on TV. You don't have to pay attention to the unquenched callings from your deep heart. It's more comfortable to relish the tenderness between you and your loved ones, or the adventures of your daily routine. Your unlived depth can wait.

After all, even when you have *tried* to live from your depth, you have failed. Like an artist striving to capture deep vision on thin canvas, your masterpiece moments are few. Usually, no matter how skillfully you apply yourself day to day, your profession, sexual life, and spiritual reach fall short of the love and virtue you know is possible. Rather than churn in the constant friction of failure's abrasion, you may choose to glide in the goodness of so-far success: decent health, financial comfort, a home full of affection and care.

Still, in quiet moments of no distraction, you wonder. Your depth knows love without bounds, yet your relationships seem cleaved by membranes of mistrust. Your depth resonates with truth absolute, yet your expressions are somewhat stumped by fear. However beautiful your life seems, it is a tad more tawdry than your heart's grace would have it.

This is how it must be, and always is. The truth is that your daily life is but a thin strip of experience barely seeming in the profundity of who you are at depth. Your activities and relationships never capture the grandeur that wants to unfold from your heart into the world. There may be moments of palpable glory, brief openings through which magnificence effulges without curtail, but mainly your life is a tragic almost-there of unfulfilled longing and partial gestures of tense effort.

For the most part, your happiness is a sparse lie. You are deeper than your life shows, and you know it. You are more loving than your relationships allow, more brilliant than your career suggests. In your secret depth of being, you are infinite, creative, and boundless—and utterly unable to press your full glory into the world. So you settle for some comfort and assuage your lack with entertainments and, perhaps, unconsummated spiritual pursuits.

You are suffering depth's inability to effuse the world with boundless love and truth, with *your* boundless love and truth. If you allow yourself to feel this suffering, even amidst life's goodness, then your heart can open beyond delusion.

When you no longer need to distract yourself in affection and comfort, then you can enjoy your family's love and your career's adventure without lying to yourself that it is enough. It isn't.

Only depth is enough. Through real practice, you can feel open as the depth that you are, rather than remain mollified in goodness or depressed in futility. Life is good, and it is futile, and depth is true in any case. You can open as infinity even though your relationships and actions fall short. To collapse in failure—or to gloat in satisfaction—is to avoid opening as depth.

You can open as love and live as love, even though you are not fully received by those you love. You can open as infinity and offer your deepest truth, even though your gifts may be refused by those you want to serve. You can live as openness even though your daily life may seem tawdry in light of your heart's deepest shine.

You are not here to transform the world and create love on earth. In truth, you aren't here. Here is in you. You are openness. Abide as openness, live as love, and appear as limits. You really have no choice.