

What Makes a Hero?

I Was Just Thinking.....

7.3.06

.....about the doping scandal at the Tour de France. Where are our heroes? Indeed, WHO are our heroes? If we had a healthier understanding of heroism, would our heroes be movie stars and sports figures, rock singers and teen idols? In a culture that worships the commercial, the superficial, the material, we have forgotten to look underneath to see who is really there. In fact, that issue of looking underneath has become fraught with fear, low self-esteem and/or self-loathing, in large part because the vast majority of us are not celebrities or super-heroes, millionaires or CEOs. In a world where money is god, or, more correctly, our god is money, those without – not just those at the lowest end of the money/fame chain but also those without huge quantities of money – feel left out – perhaps even deliberately tossed aside by that god onto the slag heap of life.

But *what if*... each person on this planet understood him/herself to be precious and perfect in the “eyes of god(dess)”, that truly genderless Absolute from which we each choose incarnation? *What if*... there is a way to see and understand this notion? Each of the banned cyclists in the Tour de France, beginning with Jan Ullrich and Ivan Basso,

must feel that, by himself, he is not good enough. (This thought is, of course, supported by our voyeuristic society.) With a different perspective, and the comprehension that one's best is indeed good enough, Ullrich and Basso et. al. would find the danger and demeaning of the Self resulting from self-dishonor – putting image, fame, money, supreme/extreme though not realistic excellence, before humanness. If we begin to look inside ourselves without fear to see all the beauty (of whatever sort) that lurks there, and respect that beauty in ourselves and all others, doping would not only be unnecessary for these fine athletes, it would become anathema.