

## My Long Journey (Part Two)

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Through my work with Norman Miller, and from my investigation of other creative geniuses within the myriad domains of culture (for I was trained by Norman to take the whole of culture as my realm of study and exploration), I have learned a number of valuable lessons.

First and foremost I have learned to approach life in terms of its essential wholeness and to refuse to become a mere specialist, boxed within a single area of expertise, learning more and more about less and less. Although such individuals may be a bright light within the narrow field they have consigned themselves to, from the viewpoint of the whole of reality their light shines dull indeed. Practically speaking, under the current paradigm of the West, to pursue such a course demands courage, sincerity, and integrity. It also demands great sacrifice and humility, as well as the capacity to withstand loneliness and solitude. For myself, I have taken this path because it was the instruction I received as a naive and idealistic young man, and because there is something in my nature which has a strong inclination to pursue this way of life. However all this would not have been enough, for had I not been afflicted with brain damage which permanently closed the door to normal social channels, undoubtedly I too would have eventually succumbed to the 'way of the world'.

I have learned to see life as a long journey, one that spirals ever upward, ascending towards some far off horizon of glory, viewed now and then from a distance (oft in a way that brings overwhelming exaltation) but nonetheless forever remaining beyond reach. This is because, given we live in an infinite cosmos, the horizon is ceaselessly receding away at a rapid pace, and the mountain range just scaled is inevitably replaced with another of greater magnitude, demanding so much more, compelling us to dig ever deeper to tap inherent potentials which otherwise would remain dormant and undeveloped. Within the context of the long journey, our consciousness is free to expand outward in all directions, much as ripples on a quiet pond caused by a tossed stone will spread until they touch upon the farthest shore.

I have learned life is awesome mystery and the only way to approach this mystery is with humility, reverence, and awe. Ultimately, in the face of the great unknown, unless we are blessed with a redoubtable and resolute thirst for adventure, it will be too easy to believe we have everything figured out, and to succumb to those mass delusions on the nature of reality which form the underlying paradigm of the times.

Those on the long journey are pioneers, striking ahead and blazing a trail through the thickets of ignorance which others may one day choose to follow. Those on the long journey are innovators, making new discoveries, introducing new ways of doing into the framework of ordinary life. They are the harbingers of hope. They bring zest and sparkle to that which is mundane and humdrum. Finally they promise, by way of example, liberation from the treadmill of existence whereupon the tired masses of humanity groan in travail, unable to lift their heads to see what has always been there -- the eternal presence of our Heavenly Father existing here and now and forevermore.