

From *Two-Legged Medicine*, Part IV, Chapter 13 (a section)

The Man Behind the Curtain: Uncovering Your Oz

It is so easy to give our power away. We blame parents, our society, our base human natures, and even ourselves, for our apparent lack of knowing what we need and how to provide it for ourselves. Like Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz, we must pull back the curtain to that powerful voice that holds the key to granting our wishes. In doing so, we are aghast as we realize that the man behind the curtain is really a fake. He cannot really help us because he cannot help himself. He preys upon our insecurity by manipulating us to think he's powerful. It's all whistles and mirrors.

That's the bad news. The good news is that once we find the wizard to be a fake, we also realize his genius. He is only in the position he's in because he has realized something we have not: that we just need permission to find what it was we thought we were incapable of finding. Once we know that, we do not need to answer any longer to the wizard without. The way home is to activate the wizard within. Your inner guide will direct you in the magic ways of finding that which you truly need. He will help you turn the dross to gold, your unused talents into active gifts.

In this way, the Wizard of Oz is really about spiritual discovery and empowerment. We are not the weak, incapable creatures we imagine. In fact, like the Tin Man, the Scarecrow, and the Cowardly Lion, the very things we think we lack are often strengths we have, albeit in their hidden state. These hidden strengths need to feel the call to adventure and answer the quest of discovery. Then they can embark upon their own empowering journey to become all they are in us. It is a form of finding the god or goddess within.

So who is the man behind *your* curtain? What is his (or her) name? Is it a parent or disbelieving teacher? Is it someone you expected to rescue you in the past? What does (or did) their face look like? Maybe it is a compilation of many faces from which you expected but did not get help. On the positive side, you might also see features of those who knew you indeed already had what you felt you lacked. Did some of them know you had the answer within? Spiritual maturity requires that we pull the curtain back on the mommy or daddy god/goddess outside of ourselves who we expected to make it all better for us, and to embark on our own fearsome journey, where every bit of our courage will be required.

Usually, we will only set out on our journey when we have wholly lost our way. We have no other resources. We are desperate. That is the time to begin. You pull back the curtain and enter into the hero's or heroine's journey, as was outlined in Part I. You find frightening winged monkeys, dark witches, and have to face your worst fears. But along the way you also find the power of good. Ultimately, you find your own way home. And you will seldom be fooled by the little man behind the curtain again.

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