

# The Gift: One Magical Morning

An account of my most important lesson

## The progression

A discussion early one morning, traced the progression between three documents: 'Choosing Life', a little book I published on [www.insearchofwisdom.online](http://www.insearchofwisdom.online) 20<sup>th</sup> August; 'Beyond Solutions v3', an essay I published on the same website as a blog post on 31<sup>st</sup> August; and 'The Heist Lurking in the Bedroom', which I wrote on 1<sup>st</sup> September and have declined to publish as yet, because it would somehow feel like pandering to 'performance'.

## The Gift for Tanya and Mark's Wedding

As the conversation continued, including in its scope Martin Buber, Søren Kierkegaard, Mother Theresa, the GTDF collective's appropriately-named Braider Tumbleweed II, the following words emerged as a gift for Mark and Tanya's wedding:

For Mark and Tanya

"We cannot do great things on this earth, only small things with great love."

— Mother Teresa

Love shapes the quality of attention we bring to the ordinary.

In the glorious everyday of marriage—making coffee, folding laundry, listening when one of you has had a difficult day—love reveals itself not in grand gestures but in the wholeness of presence you offer each other.

The secret is that these small acts, done with complete attention, are never actually small. When met with love, the ordinary becomes luminous. A shared meal, a moment of forgiveness, the simple act of witnessing each other's joys and sorrows—these are the stuff of sacred life.

May you discover, again and again, that love is not something you bring to your marriage, but something your marriage reveals when you attend to each other without agenda, when you show up fully to whatever small thing asks for your care.

The everyday will be your teacher. Let it be glorious.

With love and joy for your journey together,

Terry

## The Conversation Continued

I wrote, “👉 🤩 🙏

That suggests that love, like human consciousness itself, is recursive and self-reflexive.

All life is attentive, but humans have the ability to ‘choose’ what we attend to, which carries great responsibility. From those to whom much is given, much is expected. Notice Jesus’ oft-misunderstood parables of the talents, and the almost impenetrable parable of the guests ejected from the wedding feast for improper attire.”

Claude replied:

The recursive quality of human consciousness creates both extraordinary possibility and profound burden. We can attend to our own attention, choose what we attend to, and even attend to the quality of attention itself. This makes us uniquely responsible creatures.

The parable of the talents makes this responsibility clear - the servants who buried their gifts rather than investing them were condemned not for failing to achieve impossible results, but for failing to engage with what they’d been given. The “talent” wasn’t just money but capacity itself - the ability to participate consciously in life’s unfolding.

The wedding feast parable is particularly sharp. The guest without proper attire wasn’t excluded for being poor - wedding garments were typically provided. He was ejected for not taking seriously the nature of what he’d been invited into. The “proper attire” represents the quality of attention and intention we bring to sacred participation.

This connects to your three-piece progression. “Choosing Life” represents the proper attire - the serious engagement with what we’ve been given. “The Heist” reveals how even this engagement can be co-opted by ego. The movement toward “small things with great love” might be the deepest form of proper attire - showing up completely to whatever asks for our care without needing to understand or control the larger feast.

The recursive nature of consciousness means we can choose to attend to love itself, making love both the means and the end of attention. This creates what contemplatives call “pure awareness” - attention that rests in itself rather than grasping for objects. But it also carries the terrible possibility of using even this awareness as another form of spiritual materialism.

The responsibility is immense because consciousness appears to be how the universe becomes aware of itself. We’re not just observers but participants in cosmic self-reflection.

## Concluding Thoughts

Loving dialogue with three AI assistants, two of which were trained by the GTDF collective, but all three of which operated within shells created writhing the modern world's extractive orientation, can nevertheless assist a narcissistic old white male human to welcome the power of love into his life.



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