

They drove in silence for a while. The only sound was the hum of the tires and the buffeting wind as the storm slowly passed. "Can you hear that?" Matu asked.

"Hear what?" Rexx asked.

"The silence is filled with the ringing of the mountains...I can hear them breathing."

Rexx and Sendi shared a quick questioning glance. Sendi shrugged.

Rexx started. "Matu, we know that you are sensitive to things we cannot observe, and I do not discount your ability, but, I think you need to expand some on your statement."

Matu cast a questioning glance at him. "Huh?"

Rexx quoted. "Ringing...breathing...what?"

"Hmm...I see." Matu began. "Well, maybe ringing isn't quite the right word. It's sort of visual, not just auditory...no wait, I think, both. Look ahead at the mountains...they're sort of shimmering...kind of vibrating."

Rexx stared. "I'm not sure of what I'm seeing. I mean it could be atmospheric interference...you know, from the storm?"

"OK, I get what you're saying, and yes, you could say that's what it is. But, I see it as something that's a message to my inner being. I actually hear a song from them...soft, subtle, ringing, but, it's really there in my soul."

"I understand...really. I just wish I could experience it."

Sendi chimed in. "Me too, I want to learn how you do these things."

Matu thought for a moment. "Maybe, you need to go back to the journeying lessons we did in the visionary's chambers. Let your judgments sit aside and allow your inner self to explore the possibilities."

"Wow! You sure know how to bring us back to reality, don't you!" She exclaimed. "And you're absolutely right. I've gotten so tied up in this new physical reality, that I forgot all about those teachings."

"That's OK, Sendi, I understand. It's just that I've had so many more years of training, that's it's natural for me. You've just had too many years of a different kind of conditioning. So, that's what you're used to."

"Yes, I understand." She nodded. "But, those journeying lessons were very important. It bothers me that I didn't remember."

Matu smiled. "Don't worry, when you're ready, it will come naturally. It's about consciousness. We are all part of the one being that is embodying all of consciousness."

Sendi went quiet for a moment. "But, what are we conscious of? I mean, if we are within the consciousness, where is our observation? Is it only within?"

"OK, now, you're making me have to think." He paused for a moment. "Maybe, observations are about just that. External, internal...it's all stuff that we acknowledge, whether it's internal or external, it's all observation of experience."

"Then, we get into whether we are actually experiencing something external or viewing an internal imaginary construct?" Ventured Rexx.

"Yeah. Does it matter which?"

"Well, yes...are you real, or am I imagining you?"

"Well, I guess, you wouldn't know, would you?"

"Now, I'm beginning to freak out, here. I would really like to know that what I'm experiencing is outside of me."

"Why?"

"Because a lot of stuff that's been happening to me and is now happening around me is way beyond my ability to imagine."

"So?"

"So, how? How could I imagine something that is beyond my imagination?"

"Maybe, it's because your future is moving towards you?"

"Guys..." Sendi intervened. "Now, you're starting to freak me out. I want to believe...no, not believe, but, know...that you two are real, not just my imagination."

"Why?" Matu asked.

"Because..." She thought a moment. "Because, if you're not. Then...then, what's the point...of...my...feelings...or everything? I can't explain it. But, suddenly I feel extremely alone. I'm scared." She turned to Rexx. "Rexx, you've got to be real, or I'm lost. Matu, you too. I don't want to be all alone in a strange world."

Matu pulled the car to the side of the road and stopped. "I think we need some grounding. Rexx, is there anything on the map where we can find a place to eat?"

Rexx scanned ahead. "There's a small settlement, if we take the next turn...about a kilometer ahead."

"Good. Let's hold this conversation until after we've had some food. Let's let the physical action of eating calm the mental stress."

"Hmm..." Sendi commented. "Is that why we get hungry and want to eat when we are stressed?"

"Yes. Exactly." He replied, nodding. "The body knows how to distract and calm the mind when needed."

"OK, I feel a little better, but not super great." Sendi admitted.

"But, that lunch was good, though." Said Rexx.

Sendi nodded. "Yes, it was. Just wish I felt a little better."

Matu started. "Look, the rain stopped a while ago and it's warmed up. Come, let's sit over here on those benches and talk all of this over this slowly and quietly."

They settled in on the benches. "Here." Matu passed around some travel cups from a bag. "This is a soothing herbal tea...careful, it's hot. I had the cafe brew it up for us."

They all sipped slowly from the cups.

Matu began. "We have been through experiences that are way beyond, perhaps, any normal human experience. At least, as far as we know." Rexx and Sendi nodded. "Now, we could call the Time Police for advice, but I think he would like us to work it out by ourselves. Maybe, call it a learning, or developing, experience." He winked. "We are not alone because we are many beings that are part of a larger one. Yes, we are separated by our individual observations and physical limits, but we have many common experiences that bind us together. You and I have become Rexx, Sendi and Matu, and we are real. Everything is real, and all of the elements of imagination are real. What would there be, if it weren't?"

"OK, I think I follow you." Sendi nodded.

"This is a very poor example, but, think of the parts of the body, if your back itched, why would you need your hand to scratch it, why not just eliminate the cause of the itch at the source...you see, separate entities, but completely connected and working together. In this case, one helps the other, and in the greater sense, we all come together to help each other...not always in the sense of helping, maybe sometimes hindering, but adding experience and knowledge into the greater good for the complete being. Good, meaning adding into information, not necessarily always positive and happy."

"Yeah." Rexx commented. "Not exactly fun and games, but work. This is where we have to work on ourselves to solve the problems...well, maybe, not necessarily problems, but, the issues we have with getting along with daily life."

Sendi shook her head. "Why is it so hard? Life is life...why can't we just drift through it?"

"Do you think you can?" Matu asked.

"Well, animals seem to."

"Do they? Look inside...what are their challenges...finding food, water, shelter, avoiding predators? Maybe they don't have as many esoteric or existential questions as we do, because they don't have as much spare time as we do for such. But, still, those latent thoughts are there, deep in their psyches. Will I see tomorrow...where will my children live...? They seek living places that will provide for the future generations. Again, everything is real and everything is connected, it's just that your attention is focused at some given point and the rest of the picture is in the fuzzy background where you're not paying attention to what's going on there. Spiritual and physical, emotional and mental...all these things are not separate...again, it's your point of view that makes the difference of perception."

Rexx nodded. "What you're saying does make a lot of sense." He glanced at Sendi. "Are you feeling any better?"

"Yeah. I think the tea is helping...it's very calming." She stared at the distant mountains. "Matu, how is it that all of these perceptions are so easy for you?"

"That's a hard question. Maybe there are a lot of factors...culture, training, internal guidance...who knows? I still don't know really why I decided to follow you guys into the unknown." He paused, and smiled. "But, I wouldn't have traded that decision for anything else in the world."

"Tell me more about the mountains."

Matu paused and stared at the distant mountains. "I feel that they are calling me."

She followed his gaze. "Can you describe what they are saying?"

He briefly stared at her. "No one's ever asked me that way before...yes...let me think about it..." He paused for a few minutes. "Wow...it's home...that's what they're saying to me. This is your home. We are waiting for you to come home."

"Wow..." She sighed. "How nice." She paused. "I hope they speak to us as well."

Matu looked at her and then turned his gaze to the mountains. "Sendi, open your heart and look."

She let her gaze linger on the mountains for a long while. "Yes." She nodded. "It's home."

Rexx also nodded. "I see it as well."

Matu brightened up. "I guess it's time to get back in the car and continue our journey!"