

WHAT CAN WE DO WHEN EVERYTHING'S DONE? – THE SHRIMP –

- a short tale by David Cammegh

Whilst we may experience Free Will, everything is ultimately written. That is, our lives are created and complete well before we are born into this life or any of our previous ones. Hence, my old adage, 'We do not create. Creation happens to us'.

But, why do anything when everything is done? Why gather enthusiasm when everything is done? Well, just as an example, consider that when I tell my nephew that he can go on a roller coaster ride he is instantly full of enthusiasm. And when he is on the ride I point to somewhere other than where we're going and I ask him if he wants to go there. He says he would not. When I ask why, he says that he wants to go where the rails take him. He's smiling more than ever. When I ask him how he can enjoy a ride when the rails set the route of his journey, he says, 'So, what? I like the rails because I don't have to worry about where they go. I just enjoy the ride.'

I imagine that if I asked the ocean waves whether or not they had any choice at all in crashing against the sea wall they would say, no of course not. They would ask, how can we, the waves, be out of accord with all of the seas? And when I ask them how they do what they do with such force and enthusiasm when they haven't Free Will to do what they want, they would look at me strangely. They would say, so what? What's the point in Free Will? Why not just go with the flow and put all of your effort into that?

Then I turn to a shrimp on the sea floor, pick him up and ask, Do you mind having to be a shrimp, when the waves can be great big crashing waves? And the shrimp says, 'I am tiny to the waves. The waves are tiny to the ocean. The ocean is tiny to the Sun. The Sun is tiny to the Galaxy. The Galaxy is tiny to the Universe. The Universe is tiny in all Creation. Everything is tiny, and yet everything is gigantic when it is in the flow of things. And when this is understood the wonder of life is incredible, exhilarating beyond belief.'

And I ask the shrimp: 'What if I exercise my Free Will to apply myself to the flow of Creation? Is that not Free Will?' And he would answer: 'It is indeed Free Will. It is also Fate. It is both. Anything you decide is fated to be that way. But when you've understood and tired of Free Will, like a child tires of a toy, you can learn to be in accordance with Fate and the flow of things. Thus you'll align your will with the Will of All, which some might call the Will of God. This is when things get really good.'

Then I say to the shrimp: 'When I do that, will I get what I want if I try hard enough?'

And the shrimp says, 'Of course. And more. But you don't need to try.' And then I say, 'What! I'll get all the girlfriends I want, and the things that everyone gets, like big cars and TVs? All without trying?'

The shrimp says, 'Stop being so very naughty and cocky – focussing only on such trivialities will only lead to misery. You are not God. You are not a magician.'

I say: 'Don't I create my life?' The shrimp says: 'Like I said, you are not magic. You would do well to remember that, because only then will you be able to free yourself from the miseries that life throws at you. If I were to talk to your hidden unfathomable depths, then I would be talking to the part of you that creates your life. So, in effect you, the separate person you think you are, does not create your life, what is hidden within you does. But you can't access this side of you and alter its course, because the course is set as it ever was and always will be. So, really, you both create your life and it is created for you. It is created for you at a very deep level within *you*. It is there that the pattern begins, and as it emerges into consciousness its flow is already set. And you will follow it. It will "force" you make choices that you think are free, and it will enable you to have the results you experience. This you cannot change. You can only change things when you are given the desire to do so, or given the circumstances to make the change...'

The shrimp sighs. 'Now, my lecture is over and I must go and do things, because the urge has taken me to do so. And, no I did not summon that urge. It came to me. It summoned me. Yes, I can choose to deny myself of my urge, but my urge to deny this would also have come from within – another gift to me, another summons.'

And then I ask the shrimp: 'I have many things to teach. How can I do this if there is no Free Will to do so? Why do it?' And the shrimp says, 'Aren't you listening? You will do what you have to do. If you have ways and means to teach people, and they like what you teach, then you'll be *reflecting* the changes that are happening. *You will not be the cause*. Because all that changes is connected to you and you to it. So, teach what you have to teach with enthusiasm and vigour. And enjoy the fruits of your efforts, and enjoy your understanding that all things come and all things go. And know that when you teach a good lesson and it is understood that someone else is changing and is going forward and living more of their lives, and getting closer to the flow of things. Now, as I said, I must go. And I will bite you if you do not let me do this.'

And I say, 'Bite me? If you don't get what you want, you'll bite me?' And the shrimp says, 'Yes, if you don't let me go I'll bite you. But I will do so without hatred. I'll bite you knowingly within the flow of things.'

And then I say, 'If I am a murderer and a thief, may I therefore carry on as I please?' Increasingly impatient, the shrimp says, 'If you are a thief and a murderer, then you would still be in the flow of things, because all is done and will be done as it is – everything is rightly in its place, no matter what it is. But if you steal and murder you would not *know* you are in the flow of things. You can tell this, because when you *know* you are in the flow of things, you are aware of your actions and *what they say about you*. Now, go or I will bite.'

And so I release the shrimp. Now, much enlightened, I walk away from the sea and the shrimp. I watch the Sun fall in the sky and I watch the Moon rise. I see all the planets on their path, the stars in the sky move slowly to their destination. And I feel so connected to them all and beyond and I am filled with great peace. If only we could place one foot inside the details of our lives and the other into the whole Universe and beyond we will be able to live happier, more exciting and lively lives.

And now I know the answer to the question, *How can we do when everything's done?* The answer is that the doing is all part of the ride and the overall experience. Our will doesn't make us do anything. It is Existence that does that. And we will do whatever will be done within Existence.