**Unity & Oneness - Stories & Illustrations**

**Affirmation: “I feel my connection with every living thing. My heart is open to the oneness of the universe. My eyes and ears behold the unity of all people. Their joy is my joy, their pain is my pain, because we are part of each other. Thank you, God, for these feelings of oneness which so touch and move my soul.” *(Richard & Mary-Alice Jafolla, in The Quest)***

**In Hawaii, the word “aloha” means both “hello” and “goodbye” and this causes no end of confusion. *(E. C. McKenzie, in Tantalizing Facts, p. 41)***

**Amoebas can be taken apart and new ones created. Cytoplasm from one amoeba, the nucleus of another, and the membranes of a third are combined, and a new creature swims away. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 250)***

**It wasn’t purely a devotion to science that caused Charles Darwin to turn the world upside down, say authors Adrian Desmond and James Moore. The father of evolutionary theory was an abolitionist at heart: If he had embarked on his journey to the Galapagos Islands already troubled by contemporary rationalizations for slavery, he might never have concluded from the evidence he gathered there that all life shared a common ancestry. Darwin came from an English family steeped in the abolition fight. “It makes one’s blood boil,” he wrote five years before publishing The Origin of Species, to think of the subjugation of so many. When he purposed that various Galapagos finches descended from a shared ancestor, he was arguing knowingly for the common brotherhood of man. *(The Week magazine, February 27, 2009)***

**The female anglerfish is six times larger than her mate. The male anchors himself to the top of her head and stays there for the rest of his life. They literally become one. Their digestive and circulatory systems are merged. Except for two very large generative organs and a few fins, nothing remains of the male. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 125)***

**A male angler fish could swim for years without meeting a female of his own species. Nature’s solution to this problem is for the female to carry a dwarfed husband tightly fused to her body. Marine biologists believe that this nuptial begins when the eggs first hatch and there are many fry of both sexes. A male then grasps hold of a female with his mouth and hangs on until he has literally become a part of her. His mouth becomes fused to her stomach, and for the rest of his life the male remains attached to his mate, marking the most amazing union on earth. *(Jean George, in The Living World of Nature, p. 230)*

The Portuguese man-of-war is not one animal but a colony. It is made up of many modified animals of the same species, perhaps several hundred in number. They live together and divide their work. A lone animal of one type forms a float. Several other animals provide the tentacles for fishing. A third variety digests the food caught by the second, and a fourth has the job of reproducing. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts)*

Ants, bees, termites, and wasps were long thought to be the only animals that live eusocially--that is, they form communities of overlapping generations in which cooperative care of the young, common defense, and a breeding queen are the norm. Naked mole rats later joined their ranks as the only known eusocial mammals.  And last spring, marine biologist J. Emmett Duffy of the College of William and Mary in Virginia added Synalpheus regalis, a newly discovered species of snapping shrimp, to the eusocial register, the first marine species to have that distinction. *(Discover magazine)***

**Cuddling? My dear, you don’t know the meaning of the word “cuddling.” At night, miles of columns of South American soldier ants roll up in one big ball to sleep. Now that is “cuddling.” *(L. M. Boyd)*
As winter sets in and lakes and ponds freeze, geese, ducks and other waterfowl can be seen standing on the ice, yet their feet never freeze. Why? Close veins: The arteries and veins in their feet lie against each other so the cold returning blood of the veins is warmed by the arterial blood. *(Audubon Society's Encyclopedia of North American Birds)*

The researchers, working at the Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics on the CU campus, placed several million atoms in a clear-glass vacuum tube. A system of lasers and magnetic coils trapped the atoms and allowed the scientists to plunge them to a smidgeon over the coldest theoretical temperature--absolute zero, at minus 459.67 Fahrenheit degrees. At that temperature, the individual atoms have “sort of an identity crisis” with their wavelengths overlapping, making them indistinguishable from each other, explained Eric Cornell of the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Boulder, CO. At that point, the atoms act as one, forming a super-atom. *(Ann Schrader, in The Denver Post)*Lucy says while throwing the beach ball into the ocean: “My beach ball! It's coming back! That kid on the other side of the world sent it back! Our nations are in harmony!” Charlie Brown: “The wind changed.” Lucy: “Two nations, using two innocent children and a beach ball, have demonstrated to the world that they can live in total harmony!” *(Charles M. Schulz, in Peanuts comic strip)***

**The Barrier Reef is the greatest wonder of the world that I have seen in recent times - 1800 miles long stretching from New Guinea all the way down Australia. The further you move toward shore the deader the coral is. Coral polyps are living organisms. They know somehow that if they hang together, if they cluster together in a beautiful flowing group on the ocean side of the reef, where the predators and opportunities are, they will be winners. *(Denis Waitley)*
What is man without the beasts? If all the beasts were gone, men would die from great loneliness of spirit, for whatever happens to the beast also happens to man. All things are connected. *(Chief Seattle of the Duwamish tribe)*
Bees live through the winter by mutual aid. They form into a ball and keep up a dance. Then they change places; those that have been out move to the center, and those at the center move out. Thus they survive the winter.  Should those at the center insist on staying there, keeping the others at the edges, they would all perish. *(Joe Griffith, in Speaker’s Library of Business, p. 351)*
When attacked, according to some observers of the American bison--also known as buffalo -- the animals gather in a circle, the females and young huddled in the middle, the males facing outward, heads down. The tactic let them survive every predator but man. *(L. M. Boyd)*
Richard E. Byrd responding to the Antarctic winter of 1934: “I had never known such utter quiet,” he wrote later in his diary. And suddenly, standing there alone on the Barrier, the quiet flooded in and engulfed him...and for an instant he was part of it, part of the silence, the space, and the harmony. For an instant he felt his oneness with the universe. *(Lillian Eichler Watson, in Light From Many Lamps, p. 33)***

**According to some experts, what really did away with family “togetherness” was central heating. No longer did everybody have to gather in one room to stay warm. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Christmas reminds us we are not alone. We are not unrelated atoms, jouncing and ricocheting amid aliens, but are a part of something, which holds and sustains us. As we struggle with shopping lists and invitations, compounded by December’s bad weather, it is good to be reminded that there are people in our lives who are worth this aggravation, and people to whom we are worth the same. Christmas shows us the ties that bind us together, threads of love and caring, woven in the simplest and strongest way within the family. *(Donald E. Westlake, in A LIkely Story)*
The Civil War was carnage. Then Jefferson Davis of the Confederacy died. And Ulysses Grant of the Union died. Their widows, Varina Davis and Julia Grant, settled near each other. They became closest of friends. *(L. M. Boyd)*
The three colors from which all other colors are created, called “primary" colors, are red, blue and green. Additive colors: The additive method relates to beams of light such as those from the sun, televisions and computer monitors. It states that when all the colors are combined, white light is formed. *(Jeff Harris, in Shortcuts)*

In an attempt to strike a more congenial tone in Congress, liberal Democratic Sen. Charles Schumer of New York and conservative Republican Sen. Tom Coburn of Oklahoma will break with tradition and sit together at the president’s upcoming State of the Union address. *(Associated Press, as it appeared in The Week magazine, January 28, 2011)*The seven continents were once joined together in one large continent.  The name scientists have given this super-continent is Pangaea, meaning “all Earth.” One can see how the continents used to fit together by looking at a map or a globe; the coastlines of different continents fit neatly together like the pieces of a puzzle. As plates continue to move and bump into each other, they might eventually join together to form a new Pangaea. *(Barbara Seuling)*
Polyp, fish, worm, plant, crab, mollusk, and plankton in symbiotic relationship (the habitual living together of organisms of different species) make up a coral reef. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 127)*
The diamond owes its brilliance to the perfect arrangement of the innumerable little prisms within it, each of which refracts the light of the other. *(Charles Fillmore, in Atom-Smashing Power of Mind, p. 49)*
A diamond is the hardest substance found in nature. Diamonds are extremely hard because of their structure. Each carbon atom in a diamond is bonded to four other carbon atoms, forming a super strong shape called a tetrahedron. *(Jeff Harris, in Shortcuts)*
Larry Trimble, one of the world's greatest authorities on dog training, at one time actually slept with a pack of wolves in Canada. They were in captivity but were quite wild. He admits this would not have been safe for most people, but he says he talked to them. They understood him. They weren't afraid of him because they knew he wasn't going to hurt them. *(Eric Butterworth, in Unity magazine)*
The first day or so we all pointed to our countries. The third or fourth day we were pointing to continents. By the fifth day we were aware only of one earth. *(Sultan Bin Salman-Saud - Saudi Arabia, astronaut)*
To an Eskimo, an owl or a fox or a wolf is not an inferior organism but a fellow consciousness, capable of happiness and fear, hunger and thirst, boredom and curiosity, just as each human being is. The Eskimo witnesses human kinship with the animal world on a very immediate and concrete level. *(Bartleby Nash, in Mother Nature’s Greatest Hits, p. 146)*
Poison ivy climbs like ivy but isn't; poison oak is often found on oak, but isn't oak. Both are anacardiaceous shrubs, members of the cashew family. And if you think poison ivy and cashews are strange bedfellows, the onion and the lily also belong to the same family. *(Jeff Rovin, in The Unbelievable Truth, p. 133)***

**With enough patience, certain kinds of fish can learn to recognize and respond to their human owners with genuine enthusiasm. In one verified case, a pet trout was so devoted to its owner that it would slide up onto the bank of the stream where it lived and allow itself to be petted. Human inhabitants of certain South Pacific islands have even succeeded in befriending nurse sharks. And in the Cayman Islands, a well-known stretch of shallow water is occupied by a group of Atlantic stringrays which flop up like excited puppies onto the heads and shoulders of divers who bring them handouts. *(Bartleby Nash, in Mother Nature’s Greatest Hits, p.96)*
All flags fly under the same sky. *(Jim Rosemergy)*
In touching a flower I am touching infinity; through the flower I talk to the infinity. It is that still small voice that calls up the fairies. *(George Washington Carver)***

**In 1970, at the Atomic Energy Commission's Brookhaven National Laboratory and at the University of California, scientists discovered how to fuse one gene with another. The gene “marriage” produced a new and complex enzyme -- one capable of performing more sophisticated processes. Scientists imagine that the basic protein molecules that eventually became living things might have evolved in some similar manner. *(Reader's Digest)***

**Some geologists surmised that exploding bombs might have been the cause of the Japanese earthquake following World War II. Science cannot verify this surmise, although it does teach the unity of all things. *(Charles Fillmore, in Atom-Smashing Power of Mind, p. 29)*
Managers at a tire manufacturing plant hosted a delegation of Chinese visitors on a tour of the facility. The visit concluded with a luncheon to which I was invited. When it was time to say goodbye to the person seated next to me, I asked the interpreter how to “Goodbye” in Chinese. With a broad smile, he lifted his right hand in the air and waved. The response brought a chuckle to all. *(Jean Green, in Catholic Digest)*

Among the guests at a dinner my parents gave recently were a rabbi and a Catholic priest. When the party sat down to dinner, they were confronted with one of those seemingly insurmountable moments -- who was going to say grace? Everyone looked meekly down at his plate; my mother and father gulped for words. At the crest of the terrible moment, the priest looked around the table and said: “If you don’t mind, I’d like to say an old Jewish prayer.” They all bowed their heads, and the priest said grace – in Hebrew. *(Paul Marcus, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Rev. Billy Graham has been noted for his willingness to work with leaders of different religions. “Each time a President has asked me to lead the Inaugural prayer, I have argued that I should not do it alone, that leaders of other religions should be there too,” he said. “We are a multi-religious nation, and it would be good to reflect that at this important ceremonial occasion. I was only able to persuade Mr. Nixon.” *(Colin Greer, in Parade magazine)*

Think of it from the standpoint merely of gravity. Science teaches that every particle of matter exerts an influence on every other particle. You cannot move without moving the world.  Raise your hand, and you jog the sun. Turn this page, and in the Great Nebula of Andromeda, almost a million light-years away, there must be answering motion. *(James Dillet Freeman, in Unity magazine)***

**Working at a college with a preponderance of non-English-speaking students, my sister sometimes had difficulty in communicating with the newly arrived. Once as she was enrolling a young man, she reached a standstill at the question of birth date. No matter what words or motions she used, the young man remained puzzled. Finally, a Chinese student standing nearby asked my sister, “What do you need to know?” After my sister explained, the Chinese woman turned to the young man and hummed the first few bars of “Happy Birthday to You.” His eyes lit up in recognition as he exclaimed, “May 12, 1955.” The helpful student shrugged and said, “Same song, every country.” *(Susan R. Berringer, in Reader's Digest)*
One of the most dramatic examples of this movement toward oneness is the phenomenon that takes place when individual heart cells are put into a nutritive solution. Initially, each microscopic cell is pulsing, beating, to its own internal rhythm. (One is reminded of little Christmas lights which twinkle at different tempos.)  But soon a most curious thing happens. Two of the tiny cells will come together and immediately begin to beat as one! Then two others will join and beat as one. And then two more. Everywhere in the small dish single heart cells will seek each other and unite as one. Soon the newly formed dues will begin linking with other duos, and they will beat as one. Then these quadruplets will merge with other quadruplets and so on, until at last there is only one single group of heart cells, all beating as one! *(Richard & Mary-Alice Jafolla, in The Quest, p. 85)*

Mesembryanthemun, a South African herb which has no spines for protection and grows where other vegetation is scarce, escapes attention by looking exactly like the pebbles among which it nestles. *(Ripley’s Believe It or Not! - #21, p. 11)***

**Big Diomede Island, which belongs to the USSR, sits across from Little Diomede Island, which belongs to the United States. Both islands in the Bering Strait separate the Soviet Union from Alaska by only two miles.  It’s believed that Russia and America were joined together at one time in one big land mass. *(Barbara Seuling)***

**If everybody worldwide joined hands in one long line, said line would stretch about 152 times around Earth. That's more than 3.8 million miles. *(L. M. Boyd)*
Light from the Sun contains all the colors. When the colors are mixed together, they make white light. *(Kim Taylor, in Light)*
Four unusual meteorites found in Antarctica are thought to be pieces of the planet Mars, blasted free in a giant explosion. Fragments of a meteorite which crashed in Dundee, New Brunswick, Canada, in July 1972, gave off a strange green glow for several days! Amino acids -- the chemical building blocks of life -- have been found in two meteorites billions of years old, indicating that the seeds of life are scattered throughout the solar system! *(Ripley's Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 129)*
It was at Cana of Galilee that Jesus turned water into wine. Metaphysically this miracle is accomplished when we in spirit realize that the union (wedding) of the fluid life of the body with the spiritual life makes a new element, symbolized by wine. When the chemistry of the body and the dynamics of the mind are united, a third element is brought forth, and man feels that, “in Christ, he is a new creature.” *(Charles Fillmore, in The Twelve Powers of Man, p. 141)*

Scientifically, we know that the molecules of our bodies are in a continual process of exchanging themselves with molecules of other bodies. Each time we inhale, we are breathing in new molecules which were once part of countless other people. Each time we exhale, we are releasing molecules which had taken up temporary residence in us, sending them forth to be part of others’ bodies. It is a constant exchange, and it shows how, on a physical level, we are part of all creation. (Although not a provable fact, according to many reputable scientists, it is highly likely that because of the incredible number of molecules in one human breath, there are molecules in each living person that were once a part of Shakespeare, Julius Caesar, Alexander the Great, and, yes, Jesus Christ!.)  *(Richard & Mary-Alice Jafolla, in The Quest, p. 310)*
Masters of disguise, moths are so instinctively clever they settle only on the kinds of vegetation which blend in with their coloring. (Larry Masidlover)**

**On both the Atlantic and Pacific sides of the Panama Isthmus live fish that are quite similar but not identical. These prove to scholars that a million or so years ago the oceans there once flowed into each other through a natural Panama Canal. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**You said the five interlocking Olympic rings are black, blue, red, white and yellow. Why these colors? Because at least one of them appears on every national flag. *(Boyd’s Curiosity Shop, p. 249)*Sydney, Australia: Athletes from North and South Korea will march as one delegation behind a reunification flag at this week's opening ceremonies at the Olympics, a decision that elated many on the divided peninsula. The athletes will wear the same uniforms for Friday's opening ceremonies; during the Games, however, they will compete as separate countries, with their own uniforms, flags and anthems, Olympic officials said. *(Rocky Mountain News, September 11, 2000)*
Every particle has been found to contain every other particle, which suggests that all the mystical talk about the interconnectedness of life is scientifically valid. You and I and everything are one. *(Gregory Barrette)*
Eloquent of the bond of inner unity is the fishing art of temperate America’s great white pelicans. The pelicans come swooping down and form a wide semicircle offshore. Then, as if at a signal, the birds start wading toward shore. Shoulder to shoulder, beaks poised just above the water, they advance as a living net. Now and again all the birds join in a tumultuous thrashing of the smaller area near the shore. The beautifully coordinated drive ends with a tightly penned haul of fish imprisoned in the shallows of the shore line. Then the birds fall to feasting on such a repast as no one of them could have secured alone. *(Alan Devoe, in The Living World of Nature, p. 245)*
Huddling together for mutual warmth, utilizing their specially developed dense feathers, they could survive hurricane-force winds that few other creatures could endure...That night the temperature went down to 40 degrees below zero and the penguins formed themselves into long, oval-shaped masses. The big emperor and his mate were packed in among thousands of other birds. The winds raged all night, but they were warm together. *(Franklin Russell, in Reader’s Digest)*

“I’m sorry if our hammering disturbed you. We were hanging a picture.” “Oh, that’s perfectly all right,” said the neighbor. “I just came over to ask if it was okay if we hung a picture on the other end of the nail.” *(Dr. Delia Sellers, in Abundant Living newsletter)***

**At noon Greenwich time, December 31, 1986, men, women and children around the world gathered to participate in the most comprehensive prayer activity in history - a planetary affirmation for peace, love, forgiveness and understanding involving millions of people in a simultaneous global mind of Peace on Earth. *(John Randolph Price, in With Wings As Eagles)*
Charles & Myrtle Fillmore felt that there is power in united prayer, that when several persons with a high degree of faith in God’s goodness join together in affirming Truth, a channel is cleared, as it were, through which His blessings may flow forth more freely and abundantly. Therefore, they felt that the location of those for whom they prayed did not matter. Though miles might separate the persons concerned, if they were together in thought, they were together in the true sense of the word. If one person prays in a spirit of love and faith and lifts himself into oneness with God, then all who are attuned in thought with him are lifted into that oneness, no matter whether they are sitting side by side or on opposite ends of the earth. *(James Dillet Freeman, in The Story of Unity)*
A human being is part of the whole, called by us ‘universe,’ limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feelings as something separated from the rest -- a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a prison, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons close to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from our prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all humanity and the whole of nature in its beauty. *(Albert Einstein)*
Observe the Redwoods of California. Their roots are the shallowest of all trees. If they stood alone, they would fall, but together their roots intertwine, and they grow to be the strongest and tallest of all. Stand together in Unity and you shall not fall. *(Robert Wood, in Along The Path, p.109)*
The word religion comes from a root word that means “bind together.” Thus the word actually means unity, oneness, wholeness. *(Eric Butterworth, in Spiritual Economics, p. 1)*
Sea otters live where there are very strong currents. A family of otters will spend every night resting in a kelp bed. To prevent themselves from floating away from one another, they twist themselves around in the seaweed until they are tied in. The kelp bed may be carried away by the current during the night, but the otter family will still be together. *(Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 126)*Snowflakes are one of nature’s most fragile things, but just look at what they can do when they stick together. *(Vesta M. Kelly, in The Saturday Evening Post)*
To keep a feeling of unity and family, officers of Southwest Airlines spend one day each quarter working as baggage handlers, ticket agents, and flight attendants. And when the salaries are raised, executives get the same percentage raise as non-contract employees. *(Bits & Pieces)***

 **The word Universe, in its literal meaning, is “the whole of things,” the basic unity of all life. Actually, we are implying a larger thought of God.  The words God and Universe can be used interchangeably, referring to the whole of things, or Allness, which is present in all and through all. *(Eric Butterworth, in Spiritual Economics, p. 5)*
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