



TALENT, PASSION, AND CURRENCY: THE GIFT OF BEING HUMAN

01.

*And that one talent
which is death to hide
Lodged with me useless...
From Milton's sonnet on his
blindness*

02.

No matter what or how much I
think, I get from a to b viscerally

03.

Currency is current.

04.

The only thing I can give is
what's mine.

...once upon a time some years
from now... things changed
before we ever got there... no,
we changed *things* before we
ever got there.

Talent

: meaning association implication

Dictionary definitions such as the one provided below, typically define talent as a unit or weight of worth, a skill, ability, or characteristic feature, an aptitude, or mental power. Talent is essentially framed as a thing possessed by an individual.

Talent: Noun

Etymology: Middle English, from Old English *talente*, from Latin *talenta*, plural of *talentum* unit of weight or money, from Greek *talanton* pan of a scale, weight; akin to Greek *tlEnai* to bear; from the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30

1 a : any of several ancient units of weight b : a unit of value equal to the value of a talent of gold or silver

2 archaic : a characteristic feature, aptitude, or disposition of a person or animal

3 : the natural endowments of a person

4 a : a special often creative or artistic aptitude b : general intelligence or mental power : ABILITY

5 : a person of talent or a group of persons of talent in a field or activity

Source: Merriam-Webster Dictionary Online

By this definition talent also seems to be 'a given': something that is inherited by, or bestowed upon individuals with the implication that the bearer is more or less the receptor of a gift. The word 'gift' is often used as a synonym for talent - e.g. talented children are 'gifted' children, or, "he really has a gift for numbers". Talent just is and the individual with the talent is just lucky.

Not addressed through these definitions is that the 'possession' of talent carries with it not only enormous societal pressure but a *moral obligation*. The obligation to self and inevitably to others that the talent be developed and applied in order for it to 'be' and in order for the possessor of the talent to 'become'. We know that if we are not the best we can be that we cannot be happy...

Self-actualization in the case of those bearing rare gifts requires special consideration.

If it is said that the individual possesses a talent, then it should also be acknowledged that the talent might very well possess it's host - and a sort of mutual possession of passion, occupation, and responsibility ensues. The responsibility to live and work with, to master and evolve a talent, and to gift it to others in the world, reframes what is oversimplified when termed 'a gift' into a proactive and passionate engagement that commands and directs our lives.



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Talent

:a Parable

The biblical 'talent' parable is the tale of a master who before leaving for a trip gives to his three servants different sums of money (talents) based on his evaluation of their capability - respectively five, two and one talents. Upon his return, the master asks his servants to account for their talents. The first servant reports that he took his five talents and traded them making an additional five talents in the process. Very pleased, the master praises the favoured servant and compensates him by inviting the servant to be joyful with him.

The second servant who received two talents says that he too, doubled the prospect. Again, the master is pleased, praises the servant as being good and faithful, ups his responsibilities and invites the servant to be joyful together with him.

The third servant who had received only one talent reports that knowing his master to be a judiciary man, he had carefully buried his talent in the ground to *keep it safe*, and dutifully returns the original amount. Displeased, the master calls him not only lazy but wicked, claiming that if that were what he'd intended he'd have banked the currency and made interest. The servant is stripped of his talent which is transmitted to the servant with ten talents because whoever has much will be given more, and whoever has a little, even the little they have will be taken away. The master then orders that the timid servant be excommunicated into the darkness where there is "weeping and gnashing of teeth."

This parable apparently originates the term 'talent' as a skill or ability and relates that we are under moral obligation to use our abilities whatever they may be forthright vs. burying them for safekeeping.

Back to moral obligation and the endowment of talent.

It is safe to say that all human beings have a talent of one sort or another - from an uncanny aptitude for math, parenting or dancing - there are a myriad to choose from - pick one. But perhaps the greatest talent we have to work with is one that we all share... the gift, the skill, talent, aptitude... but really, it's a gift - 'a gift for being human'.

This is what I would like to here address. Our potential to achieve an excellence at being human, humane, super-human... heroes even... and why not? So then, from the moral obligation that comes with talent to the divine potential of being human. Advance.

The Media Charette, spectacular brands, human agency, life in general, and an obsession with the vague certitude that there is 'a crack in the medium' leads to an investigation designed to negotiate the space or phenomenon and its implications.

The task at hand will be no different from any other: to explore the media that is us and the media that is the world - on the go and in the flow; to navigate both via our remarkable super powers of feeling, thinking, and willing; through our senses, intelligences and experience, with whatever tools we have and can invent, through the extensions of community, storytelling, technology, and empathy.



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Working with the material, we make considered, overt commitments and stick around for the question period. Buried inside us or drifting without roots, talent and passion will not be useful. The root of passion claims intentfully, and is typically attached. Engagement to a degree means 'strings'. There can be no sacrifice as whatever 'it' is, was willfully manufactured (under a banner of human love, understanding, and hope). Passion is not something left hanging in the wake, it's not just a trace. Consequence is relative. Relativity prerequisites relationship. Relationship... means 'I'm right there'.

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...

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advance:

Passion is where whatever force we can organize and offer meets whatever other force is out there intended to meet it. Talent is currency. Currency must be current. Be. Become. Repeat.