

Oriah Mountain Dreamer: **The Invitation**

It doesn't interest me what you do for a living.
I want to know what you ache for,
and if you dare to dream
of meeting your heart's longing.

It doesn't interest me how you are.
I want to know if you will risk
looking like a fool for love, for your dreams,
for the adventure of being alive.

It doesn't interest me what planets are squaring your moon.
I want to know if you have touched the center of your own sorrow,
if you have been opened by life betrayals
or have become shriveled and closed from fear of further pain.

I want to know if you can sit with that pain,
mine or your own,
without moving to hide it,
or fade it, or fix it.

I want to know if you can be with joy,
mine or your own;
if you can dance with wildness
and let the ecstasy fill you
to the tips of your fingers and toes
without cautioning us to remember
the limitations of being human.

It doesn't interest me
if the story you're telling me is true.
I want to know if you can
disappoint another to be true to yourself;
if you can bear the accusation of betrayal
and not betray your own soul.
I want to know if you can be faithful to yourself,
and therefore be trustworthy.

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The Invitation *(Continued)*

I want to know if you can see beauty
even when its not pretty every day,
and if you can source your life from your God's presence.

I want to know if you can live with failure,
Yours and mine,
And still stand on the edge of a lake
And shout to the silver moon, "Yes!"

It doesn't interest me to know
Where you live or how much money you have.
I want to know if you can get up
After the night of grief and despair,
Weary and bruised to the bone,
And do what needs to be done for the children.

It doesn't interest me who you are,
But how you came here.
I want to know if you will stand
In the center of the fire with me
And not shrink back.

It doesn't interest me where
Or what or with whom you have studied.
I want to know what sustains you
From the inside when all else falls away.

I want to know if you can be
Alone with yourself,
And if you truly like
The company you keep
In the empty moments.

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