

QUESTIONS

The song his friend hummed, somehow so wonderful, came to an end. The wind carried it off as it faded gently, softly.

"Aaron," he said. "Let's eat something."

This brought Aaron back down to earth instantly. A surge of warmth moved through his body erupting from his face in a big smile.

A nice lunch was spread before them of sweet meats, breads, melons, strawberries, cheeses and a type of fragrant pudding. A cool jar of water was drawn from the river. It tasted like a sparkly, fruity nectar. A sudden thought sprung into his mind- his father used to call a cold bottle of beer on a hot day his "nectar". He refused to drink his beer from cans because he said cans are for soup. Aaron caught himself dwelling on the good things back home, things seemingly forgotten during his adventure. Yet home seemed like a vague dream.

Questions started to swim in his mind and to surface bringing him back to the now of this raft on the great river. The water kept moving faster and faster while the river miraculously grew larger and larger. "All this water! Where does it come from?" These and other questions began to bubble over from his mind.

"Where does all this water come from?" Aaron finally asked. "The river just keeps getting bigger and bigger!"

"The whole world was made from water and with water," was the reply. "Even now most of what there is, is water. Your own body is made out of more water than not. So it should not surprise you that this great river continues to grow as it draws not only on the world but on the final source of all you see. That source has no limits, no end to it."

"If everything is or was made from water, then why isn't the world one big ocean and everything in it liquid?" Aaron came back.

"As the rain falls from the clouds and turns to ice or snow or is turned by the sun into clouds once again, so the tiny building blocks when placed together rise to become substances and take many shapes and sizes. Growth means change and with change comes an endless parade of different things. The tiny, tiny particles that make up water can

be built up with no end forming everything. Yet water remains the simplest, purest form."

"How does the sun make clouds? Do they just rise up out of the ocean? The wind must have something to do about it." Aaron continued.

"The wind does have a lot to do about it. Yes. The warmth of the sun heats different parts of the earth, the other parts are cooler. The warmer air moves towards the cooler (the same with water in the ocean) or can push a cooler air towards a warmer. Anyhow, this moving creates moving air called wind. As the warm air moves along it draws up water when it goes over the ocean or large places with water. The warmer the air the more water it can draw up. When warm air with lots of water meets cooler air the water starts to change from invisible to visible growing into all kinds of shapes that are called clouds. When more water is held in these clouds than the air around them will allow, the water falls out of the clouds as rain, snow or ice again depending on where it falls and when it falls. The temperature of the land or water also shapes this whole process as does the very shape of the land."

Aaron thought quietly for a long time about what his wise friend said. Finally he spoke again saying, "If the ocean is so big, what does it hide beneath the surface and why does it hide so much?"

After a pause and with an enjoyable gleam he replied. "Many things are hidden both in this world and out of it. Much is yet to be discovered. It is this way to draw people towards a discovery of the source of the many unseen things. The greatest discovery! Hopefully those who look will find. A true seeker, one who is honest with himself and others, will always find what he's truly looking for even if he isn't sure what it is. The ocean is a place where many creatures live and play and die. It is their place even as man and animals have the earth. And of course, the ocean is for the pleasure of those who sail upon it and for those who play along its shores. For food, pleasure and to present an experience that tells of a greatness, a vastness that goes beyond what people can cup inside their minds."

"The ocean also is a place of cleansing, as water is taken up into the sky to be dropped later as clean water upon the earth. Deep below

the surface water is purified through heating in the depths of the ocean floor. This circulated water returns upwards (filtered and re-freshed)."

"Mountains greater than earth mountains. Valleys greater than earth valleys. A world of mysteries to be solved. To explore. To discover. To see the many reflections of the Great Source. Living things that continually stretch the minds of men and women. Non-living things that flood over human understanding. A life time of discovery. A moment of revelation."

This delightful conversation carried throughout the delicious meal and on into the afternoon. Aaron was filled with many other questions and received equally filling answers. A feast for the mind as well as the body caused enlightening stirrings for the "inner" Aaron. Everything from the moon to ther planets to suffering babies to orphans was talked about. Also gems and gold and corn and rice and types of people covering the earth. Pain, happy things, ancient riddles. Things talked about by wise of the day that Aaron had yet to hear of were simplified so much. So much! Yet every delicate, sensitive answer brought Aaron nearer, it felt, to the source of all and its strength and overshadowing wonderful power.