

"Listen"

"Shhh... Be quiet and listen to me," she said.

"Stop talking so much.

There's so much you need to hear, but you'll miss it

As long as you're speaking.

The thoughts of other minds,

The wisdom of other journeys,

An abundant wealth of things to learn,

If you will only listen.

You must listen with intensity and

Lose yourself in reflection.

My profundities are not easily grasped

And are lost on all the masses.

Only the sincerest of seekers

Benefits from all my wisdom.

I can help you, can help you

More than you'd ever guess.

I can show you life through new eyes

And cure you of delusions.

I can cleanse you of impurities

And wash away your sins.

The innocence you lost and long to get back?

I can help you with that.

The hatred and judgment in your heart

From which you yearn to be free,

The madness you feel when life doesn't make sense,

I can guide you through all these things.

I can take your mind to new heights

That you didn't even know existed,

Bring healing to your body, healing to your soul

Bring you more joy than you've ever known.

But you have to listen.

Quiet your thoughts.

Open your mind.

Let me speak my words of life into your open wounds."

"Who are you?" I finally asked.

She said, "My name is Poetry

And I've been here all this time

Just waiting for you to notice me."

Dustin R

South Carolina

Thank You FOR READING!

Below are some questions to reflect on from this piece. Feel free to also use one as a conversation starter with a fellow reader, or even a loved one on the outside!

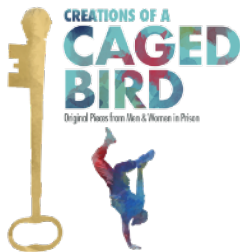
How has reading – whether poetry or prose, fiction or nonfiction – helped to shape your judgment? Has the experience of reading others' words ever led you to change your mind?

Has it expanded your own thinking, and changed you in certain ways? Consider the role that poetry, books, movies, and music can play in shaping our capacity to think broadly and critically – and in doing so, to develop good judgment.

We'd love to hear what you thought of the piece, or if you've had any meaningful conversations as a result. Or perhaps you'd like to share an expression of your own (visual art or creative writing). You are always welcome to write to us at Shining Light at P.O. Box 267, Annville, PA 17003.

**Note: We will not be able to provide a response to your letter or receipt of your submission, but know that we value your feedback and contributions and will take them seriously.*

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