

WHEN FATE STEPS IN

-THE MYSTERY OF MANIFESTATION-



A WRITING SAMPLE from A WORK IN PROGRESS

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INTRODUCTION AS DREAMERS DO THE HAMMER OF FATE

In the opening of Walt Disney's "Pinocchio", titles scroll as the song, "When You Wish Upon A Star," song by Cliff Edwards, who plays Jiminy Cricket in the film. As the film opens, Jiminy comments on the song, saying he would never have believed in the promise of the song to those who dream deeply, if he had not been involved in the following story...."

I have always had great big media dreams.

And these took me through all kinds of adventures- starring in a science fiction series; working with the world-famous ventriloquist, Paul Winchell, hosting several holistic talk radio shows after being cured of a life-threatening health problem; being thrust into the position of a front page reporter at a time a community was in crisis; working closely with a great, young Russian composer; creating a global freelance writing business and developing a company that specializes in film and book film franchises.

Wonderful adventures, to be sure- but all accomplished in the shadows, without being famous, without becoming a mega millionaire, without much of the public knowing about

my media aspirations, but yet with an output of energy and dedication that has been very fulfilling, in between the highs and lows of economic fortune.

By gambling with my talents- under any and all conditions, I have reached a measure of happiness and skill- but also a deep interest in why things happen the way they do.

The high tide and low tide of my personal fortune have never escaped me- and, long ago, I began a very serious inquiry as to the relationship between my dreams, my consciousness and various teachings and personal insights as to their connection.

So this book is about exactly that- how things happen in relationship to one's personal goals and how in what way these manifestations relate to consciousness. Or to be blunt- probing the mystery of why things manifest.

So, you could say I have great big dreams and great big questions about why some come true and some don't?

With all respect, I believe, at this point, I am a seasoned screenwriter with as much experience as many Hollywood

screenwriters. Why then- am I not rich and famous like those people you hear every day on TV or the Big Screen?

Why not? But also- why?

But I bet there are a lot of people out there like me. Singers, actors, songwriters, musicians, artists, composers- who are working in the shadows- and wonder why....

There is a vast media underground out there- and many talented people who never get to the Oprah show or are hired by DreamWorks to write a script.

I never really thought about this much when I was younger because my really strong initial career desire was to be a dramatic poet- and I lived in this isolated, non-commercial literary wonderland until I was in college.

In the beginning, the desire to be a writer was based primarily on artistic and even spiritual leanings. Money and fame really had nothing to do with it.

I blame my initial career choice fully on my parents. For apparently, they decided I was going to be a writer before I was born. Strange, huh?

It was sort of like an arranged marriage- but, in my case, a vocational marriage, whose intention surfaced no more than a day after I was born.

The conspiracy to shape my future vocation, in addition to many other factors, like being helped and funded by my parents at times- and then abandoned to be ill and neglected in the bowels of urban ghettos- often left me wondering and confused.

Still, for some reason, it was my parents who initiated the idea of being a writer.

But if my parents got me stuck in media, the person who got me truly interested in media, was Walt Disney.

My first movie was *Snow White*, which scared me to death, especially that Bad Ol' Queen with the Poison Apple. She scared me as much as the Witch of the North in *The Wizard of Oz*. And I just loved to be scared, damn it.

Somewhere along the line, *Pinocchio* came to the movies and left me in a certain state of wonder- and a lifetime infatuation with the song, *When You Wish Upon A Star*.

In one sense, you can look at this book as an attempt to analyze the meaning of one of the most popular songs in the world, *When You Wish Upon A Star* and the movie, *Pinocchio*, where it appears as its opening title song. In another sense, it is an inquiry as to if it is true- and if so, in what sense- and, further, if all this is true- how does it apply to people, particularly me- and you, dear reader?

Yes, *Pinocchio* begins with *When You Wish Upon A Star*, in those old days when relatively complete screen titles really began in the beginning of the movie and they took awhile to scroll down the screen.

At the beginning of the story, when the titles are over, Jiminy Cricket says how he didn't really understand the song until he visited the woodcarver's shop of Gippetto. Then he opens the storybook of *Pinocchio* and the Gnostic tale of *Pinocchio* and how a wooden boy became real. So, in a sense, you could say Jiminy is saying that the whole story is about the meaning of the song.

Of course, some of you may be wondering why do I call this a Gnostic tale?

Gnostic comes from the attic Greek word, *gignomai*, which means “to know.” The Gnostic refers loosely to a relatively large number of early Christians who thought of ‘knowing’ in a higher sense. In contemporary terms, you could say that they thought of knowing from the standpoint of higher consciousness. At least, this is my interpretation. Further, as I see it, this type of ‘knowing’ is closely linked to the idea of being “*in the spirit*” in Christian theology, but in a profoundly non-fundamentalist *gnostic* way.

Yes, I believe it could be said that the story of Pinocchio could be a key to unlocking the relationship between one’s dreams and the process of manifesting them.

This book is called *When Fate Steps In*, a reference to a lyric in the song where it says that when you wish upon a star, with a wish driven by a “secret longing,” fate can step in and see the dreamer through all the obstacles before him- that is, to the completion of his dreams.

This book is about your most intimate dreams and your consciousness- and the process of manifestation, which bring these dreams into physical, emotional and intellectual realities.

It is about how Fate weaves through people lives, those seeking Higher Consciousness and those who simply make their way through life gallantly trying to achieve a multitude of personally important objectives. It is about Conscious and Unconscious Manifestation.

But not all dreams come true- sometimes for obvious reasons like going on a trip but forgetting to change your worn-out tires and sometimes for reasons so perplexing the dilemma of a broken marriage, a lost job, a failure in school can stay with you the rest of your life.

When I first began to write this book, I had to do a great deal of self-examination. My purpose was to create a book about how people, including myself, go about realizing their dreams, using the famous Disney song, “When You Wish Upon a Star” as a kind of template for that amazing reality.

It was to be a “how” book- by looking at how myself and others realized their dreams, but not a clear-cut and dried “how-to” book.

It was not going to be a formula book like “Think and Grow Rich” by Napoleon Hill or “The Science of Mind” by

Ernest Holmes or the book/video that launched many a purported happiness trip, “The Secret.”

When Fate Steps In would look tentatively at the how and why- but not pretend to be the literary equivalent of handing the reader the Aladdin’s Lamp that would make all their dreams come true. It would be about examining the mystery of the process- and, yes, probing for answers- but not trying to seduce the reader with the easy answers and simplistic claims out there.

I believe that the ‘Aladdin’ formula is limited. I believe the Blue Fairy, who dispenses her favor to Geppetto’s marionette, contains the seeds of a better metaphor. But, in the end, the Blue Fairy is more mysterious than the Genie in the lamp- and her ways are harder to fathom.

That doesn’t mean we can’t learn from or about her. But it does mean that the blue print for manifestation may be much more individualized than people might grasp from some of these more popular versions of wishcraft. In other words, one size does not fit all. There may be too many parameters involved in the answer.

For one thing, people like Donald Trump and Ted Turner, giants in their industries, make no esoteric claims about their success. Whereas the very opposite appears to be the case with Oprah and Madonna, giants also, but believers in a Higher Power having an essential role in their success.

When I began this book, I knew already that my personal understanding of the relationship between my own dreams and their manifestation was intimately connected to my understanding of consciousness, what consciousness meant in the larger picture and how consciousness was involved in the manifestation of one's dreams.

But unlike some partisans of manifestation, I did not mean just the mental or intellectual side of consciousness, but a more comprehensive picture of consciousness, including what some would call 'higher consciousness.' 'Higher consciousness' means an awareness of levels of existence that lie often out of the realm of ordinary perception and are often linked to words such as 'samadhi' in Hinduism, 'satori' in Zen, 'fana' in Sufism and 'The Kingdom of God' in esoteric Christianity. Such words denote a state of transpersonal

consciousness, where the personal “I” of a person blends partially or merges completely in a state of universal consciousness, sometimes spoke of I AM, a mystical unification with the consciousness of God.

A word about the term, ‘manifestation,’ in this discussion, it means when a wish or dream, consciously held, becomes a reality. Not just a physical manifestation in a simple sense, but sometimes a cognitive or an emotional reality. For instance, one might wish for a boat- and that would be a physical reality, but also, one might wish to understand string theory or how to write music or even to experience real love for the first time- so there could be cognitive and emotional manifestations as well. To understand and feel things deeply are quite worthwhile dreams and equally worthwhile manifestations.

Is there a linkage between altered states of consciousness and manifestation? Is it true that there is a linkage between visualization and focus in a more or less normal state of consciousness and manifestation?

One of the greatest dreamers I ever knew was Leo Chandler, to whom this book is dedicated and whose story will be presented later in the book. Leo helped bring one of my most important dreams to fruition. But his own life was is amazing- and is, without question, a life touched by Fate.

The events which befell Leo and made him into the amazing person that he was- typify the *strangeness of life*, a quality which I have personally encountered in many years of seeking answers to these arcane questions. Sometimes Fate is a hammer. It sends a strong, but often perplexing message. You just can't ignore it.

I have a few stories to tell about songs and their powerful, but mysterious impact on my life, stories that most certainly embody for me the *strangeness of life*. Here's one of them.

During the late sixties, after dropping out of St. John College in Annapolis in my senior year, I spent a considerable time hanging around Yale with my best friend from high school, whose name was Rick and whose room was in Morse College. At the time, it was said that I was the second underground student at Yale, but the truth was I didn't go to

too many classes, but mainly went to the library, ate some food at their mess halls and slept in various people's rooms.

One day, when I was in Rick's room, I turned on the radio and *The Sound of Silence* came on.

Hello, darkness, my old friend- the song began...

I had heard it before and I loved Simon and Garfunkel's song, but this time I had a strange reaction. I got the chills and crawled in Rick's bed, feeling also queasy in my stomach.

About ten minutes later, Rick rushed into the room. He had been over in our friend Joe's room at Trumbull College. .

"Hey, something really strange just happened!" he said.

"What?" I replied, still feeling odd myself.

"Joe and I were listening to *The Sounds of Silence-* you know Simon and Garfunkel's new album- when I felt this weird chill and I climbed into Joe's bed and pulled the cover over me."



I glanced over at his radio and told him my story.

Rick had heard the same song at approximately the same time with the same exact reaction- chills, queasiness and going to bed and pulling covers over him- but he heard it on a record player (yes, there were records back then in 1966) and I heard it on the radio.

If this “coincidence” wasn’t enough- not many months later, Rick hosted a party in New York.

Strange to say, one of his visitors was Art Garfunkel with whom I had a long talk. We talked about what he was doing and I told him a few stories including my experience with his song.

At the evening he said, “I don’t know about the rest of your stuff, but that story about *Sound of Silence* was very interesting.”

And so we parted.

So for the last four decades or so, the *Sound of Silence* has often come on when I am making a big change in my life. And so it was back then, when I left Yale to go to New York to begin my serious search for a spiritual teacher.

Later on, songs would surface in my life in various strange ways- that is to say, my own songs and those with my collaborators. I have had songs materialize – with songs and lyrics intact- in a few minutes in contrast with songs that I have started and struggled with for months and even years.

Can I explain this phenomenon?

No- not completely, though I may have some clues.

But if something like this happens to you regularly, can you deny that life has a strange flavor to it? For me, sometimes it seems dry and even bitter- and at other times, it seems exultant, exciting beyond even sometimes our wildest dreams of what is possible in this world.

Life has always seemed a mystery to me, a mystery that I just had to solve. And, as a writer and an artist, my work has always served a vehicle for investigating that mystery.

At one point, I decided to turn my attention directly towards the power of manifestation, a mystery that sometimes seemed to be following me around like a hungry dog, bothering me, forcing me to confront the strangeness of life, but also to question there was any sense of justice or order in the realm of human life? Was there really a Hand of Fate and could it be understood in any meaningful way?