

The Genius vs. The Ingenuous

Whereas not everyone
can aspire to genius,
each of us
can become ingenuous.
And, whereas genius
is a gift for the few,
to be ingenuous
is a call to all.

The genius elicits
our admiration;
the ingenuous summon
our participation.
the genius dazzles you
with his virtuosity;
the ingenuous attract you
by their transparency.
the genius makes it sound
complicated;
the ingenuous find things
rather effortless.

As the genius climbs
the steep mountain,
the ingenuous frolic in
the level meadow.
If the genius pierces
a far-flung cloud,
the ingenuous call it
a low-lying fog.
When the genius reaches
the highest peak,
the ingenuous see
only a foothill.

While the genius
may see more,
the ingenuous agree
there's more to see.

Where the genius becomes
anxious and perturbed,
the ingenuous remain
calm and undisturbed.

If the genius is
contentious and petulant,
the ingenuous are
unpretentious and tolerant.

It's humbling when
the genius perceives
at the end
what the ingenuous suspect
at the start.

So, although it's a privilege
to work with a genius,
it's usually our preference
to live with the ingenuous.
For, the genius creates
a coterie,
but the ingenuous form
a community.

The genius breathes
a rarefied atmosphere;
the ingenuous are
a breath of air.
The genius can be
very much alone;
the ingenuous, however,
are never lonely.
The genius is brilliant,
but unapproachable;
the ingenuous shine
by being irreproachable.

The genius may disregard
the ingenuous;
but to dismiss genius
is disingenuous.

Respect genius,
therefore,
but emulate
the ingenuous.

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