

*“...man is ultimately self-determining. What he becomes—
within the limits of endowment and environment—
he has made out of himself.”*

American Street Philosophers

WE’VE BEEN THINKING... AND IT WORKS

AMERICAN STREET PHILOSOPHERS

volume:

I THE SUCCESS OF FAILURE

II WE’VE BEEN THINKING...AND IT WORKS

III KEEP ON...KEEPING ON...

IV THEM IS US

V THE ‘ELSEWHERE’ OF RISING EQUALITY

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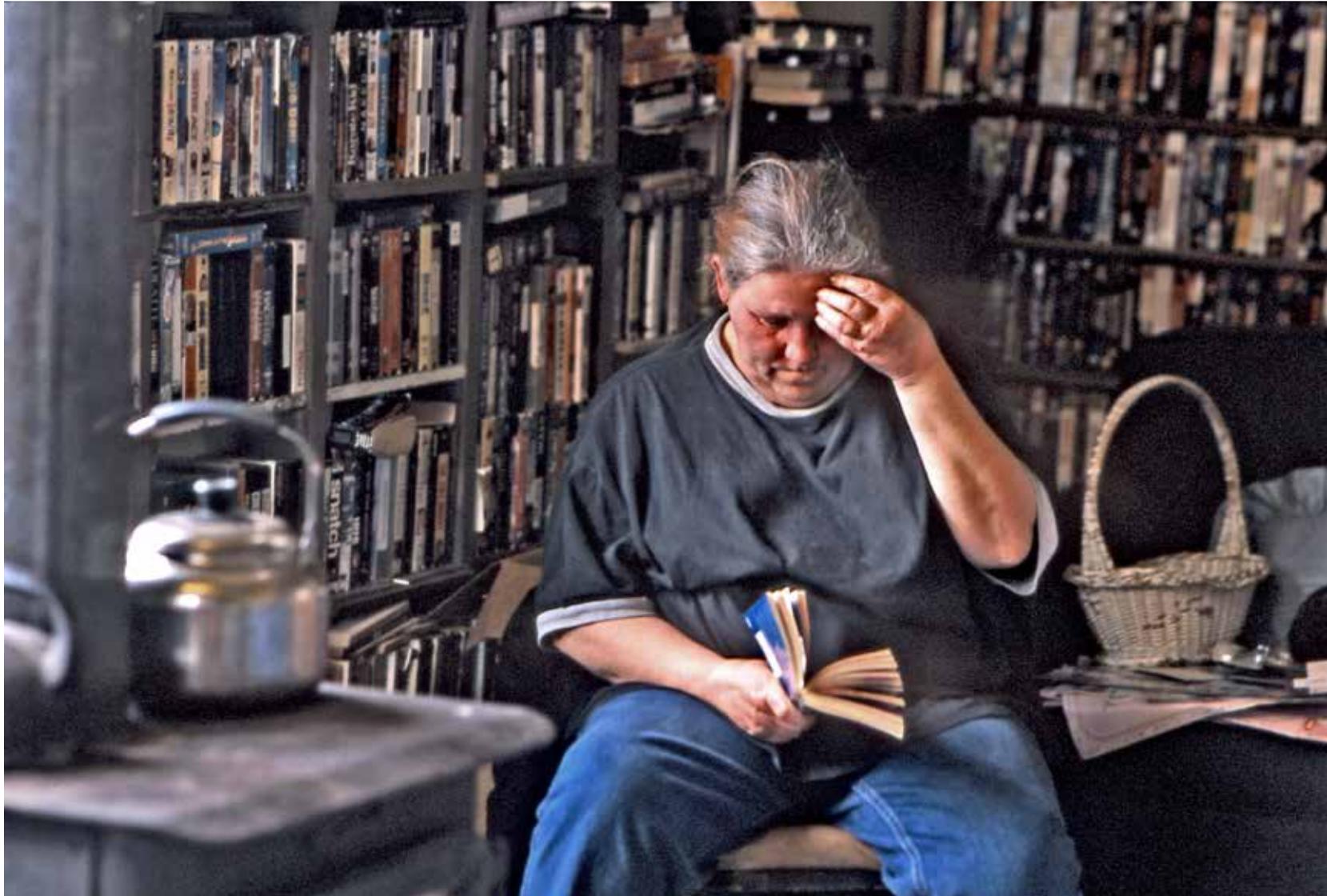
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Steve Wilson and Friends

*“...there may be such a thing
as authobibliotherapy—
healing through reading...”*

Viktor E. Frankl in *MAN’S SEARCH FOR MEANING*

Contents



“I just want to be me.”	6
Trying to Figure Out	16
“Self-Happiness?”	24
Positive Goals	30
“Simplify	32
Curious Place and Non-place	40
All People Matter	49
It is Saturday.	61
His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama	66
with games and laughter.	72
Living the Agreement—or Not	87
...but if...	92
!!America...Democracy??	101
Responsibility and the Burden of Courage	108
Understanding Community Process	118

“It takes me a few minutes
to get my brain inside my head.”
Tami’s thoughts organize.
A Villager, Michelle, and I attend.

Trying to Figure Out

“You don’t get a choice,
you just get born.
We’re alive. We’re walking around.
We’re trying to figure stuff out.
We’re not really able to ‘get it.’





“When you come out
you realize what hasn’t happened.
That organ, the lung, doesn’t breathe.
It’s the muscles that learn to breathe,
...it’s a whole library
I’m trying to understand.

“I’m changing.
I’m still a negotiation
just being myself.
...there’s a whole bunch going on.

“What the hell is going on?”



“Trying to figure out
how to get absolutely perfect.
It’s a simple motivation.

“...and yesterday matters,
I haven’t figured out how to go back in time
and then to go camping.
At night.
Without somebody coming up to you
grab you, pull up
and you’re five steps away from being safe.
We all must be safe
and that includes every life on the planet.



“...and that’s important:
when trees are gone we’ll suffocate.
Trees give oxygen.
Without oxygen it is impossible to survive
...it hurts, the pain is severe and then you die.
I just want everyone to be alright.”



“You could go back
and re-plan it
to find paradise for everyone
and nobody’s upset
because paradise is so cool.”

**“To be wild and still be calm,
...that’s liberation.”**

**“...to become light
and be so connected you are everything,
...that’s paradise.”**



Smiling to me,
Michelle says,
"We take care of our sage."



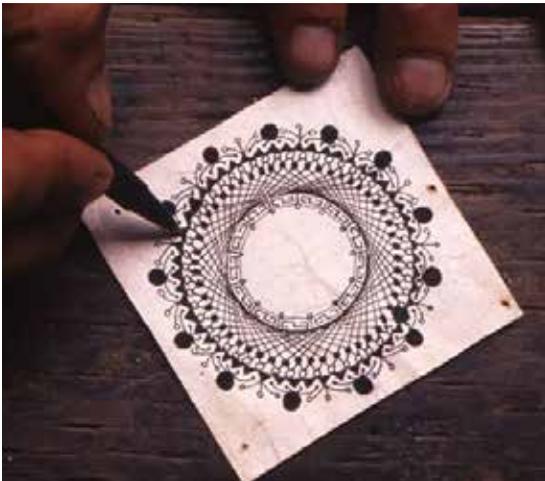
“Simplify

without analyzing all the time.
I require my life to have quiet,
contentment, acceptance.

“I hate how much time it takes
for just my physical maintenance:

- teeth
- shower
- shampoo
- trim hair
- trim nails
- shine shoes
- clothes.

“Everything takes time
And at the end of the day
how much time is left for pleasure?”







Ben has thoughts
about the Village:
“...sit. You must listen.”



Curious Place and Non-place

$10' \times 12' \times 8' = 960 \text{ cu ft}$



“Curious place, this Village.
There’s a lot of other hand/
one hand elements about.
If you just love living here,
you must be crazy.
On the other hand,
if it’s driving you crazy living here,
you’re letting stuff get to you too much.
Yeah, it’s too crowded,
but on the other hand,
you have, such as it is,
a built-in support group.
Yeah, you get a 10 × 12 room
sans indoor plumbing
...beats the doggie-do out of the back seat.

“And they do good work
which equals
we do good work
which means I am a part of something
that makes a difference.

“On my small scale,
every breath is a miracle
and doing good work paradise.

“So yes, small and slow
but we like to think
we’re moving in the right direction.
And days away from
being a visiting alumni and hearing,
‘Been missing you’.”

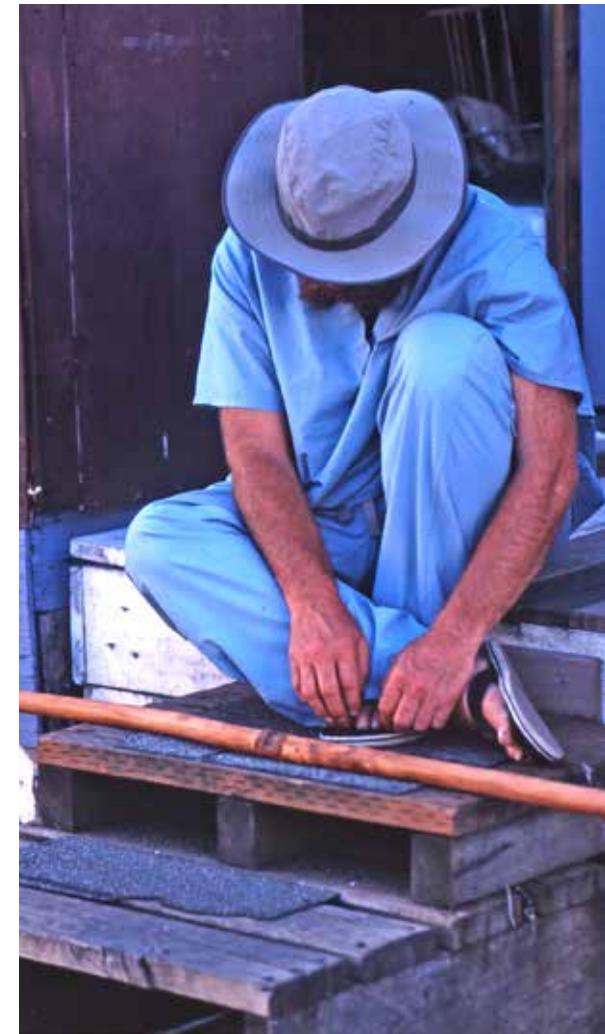


...with a mischievous
twist of voice,
Ben continues...

“This isn’t a bad place.
Everybody is really nice to me,
especially the ‘authorities.’
They’re the ones who seem
to be in charge.
You can always tell who they are.
They wear white coats.
They’re really nice.

“I was talking to them last week.
Told them I was an authority too.
They said that was good,
and they gave me a white coat
but it didn’t fit.
It was too tight.
I couldn’t move my arms.

“Yesterday I told them
I wasn’t really an ‘authority,’
that I was just pretending
to be like them.
They said that was nice.
They made me give back the coat
and said I couldn’t stay
in the small room
...couldn’t live here for a ‘3-day out.’”









It is Thursday in Dignity Village.
Martice on Security.

All People Matter

4:15 am

“Here, as of now, this month,
I’ve several times
stood up to the platter
as I’ve done over 60 hours this month.

And no one
has been an adult in this place;
has been nothing
but an ‘attatudude’
about people, things and being real people.

“As, hey when I asked
if anyone needs help
to do anything around here
they will say ‘No’
and can’t even smile.





“Very unhappy people
whom have entered our so-called
'helping our selves'
...Hell no.
Open your eyes, shut your mouths
and let's not keep back-stabbing
one's mental frame.”







“For now no bodies need
to pack up all they can carry
...and walk
so when they lose their personal frame
they die.
Yes. Everyone must follow the rules:
1 - No Violence
2 - No Theft
3 - No Drugs or Alcohol
4 - No ‘illigent’ behavior
5 - Everyone must respect ourself’s
and everyone’s point of being human beings.

“Everyone must.”



“...is they helping?
...toddlers don’t even act this way
because they can’t have everything at tantrum time...
Naps usually is in play for babies’ with ‘attuditides.’
...true?”



“The Village totally depends on us adults to keep our spaces peaceful and earthy.”





...the Security Shack at Dignity Village.
Midnight silence outside.
The gift of electricity inside.
Late night discussion and Ptery-talk

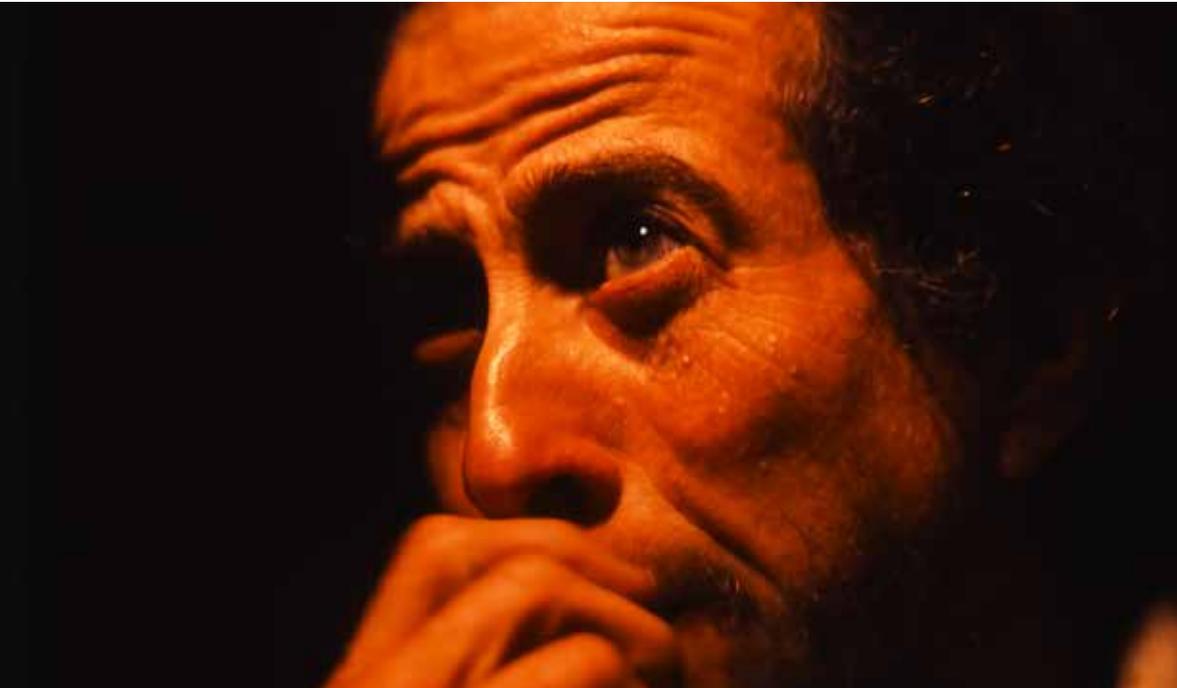


“The reality is Understand, Participate, Balance.
I enjoy how I end up working my choice.
For me, **success** is in community.”

Understanding Community Process

“We can start with something we can criticize later.
Everything means something with plan and purpose.

“How I ended up working for community in Dignity Village?
I felt left alone in the Village and that was good.
I stepped back to gain the foundational vision.
Dignity Village has the lowest eco-footprint in Portland
and the Village community has the potential
to be the right direction.





“Community is a good purpose for people
who want to hide from unsustainable consumerism.
You learn how to hide while creating your alternative.
Hide when you don't **need** confrontation.
...when you don't **want** propaganda.
...when you don't **choose** conversation.



*So why the value of community?
And how?*



“People are here because of failure.
Personal failures struggling in and because
and often globalized as multiple systems
degrade the atmosphere, the biosphere, humanity.

“Look around the natural resource corporate-control,
market-driven pro-growth, special interest financed planet.
Success harbors failure.

“Tweet, text, ‘like’, blog, email, ”friend”
lack intimacy with ourselves.



*Being unconscious of ourselves
we become ‘confusions’ playing loosely with the planet.
Success becomes failure.*

“A climate of fear captures self-isolating behavior, often disables,
replaces simplicity, honor, kindness, compassion, unity and love.
**Gaining the understanding of what I am and what I can do
helps take away that fear.**

*“Part of the community process is appreciate individuality.
Reach out, encourage curiosity. Let it run.
Culture and opportunity act and react.
Within that allowance lurks self-isolating danger,
also sustainable things and processes...**Balance.***





“Lots of conflict in community. **Prepare for upheavals.**
Conflict OK if of the nature that people stay at the table,
then it can be beneficial to the community.

“**Keeping diversity going is the ‘truth’ of community.**
Expanding fellowship, including Earth, is the reward.”

Weeks and months of contentious crisis leadership,
defacto pro bono winking, bending basic rules
periodically fragment the Village.
Without choice Ptery’s future created itself:
exit Dignity Village’s spat of contentiousness,
enter urban farming at a live-in co-op garden.
Keep on...keeping on...

**Thoughts need weeding
like plants in a garden.**

