



*San Gregorio State Beach / Stanford.edu / Pritchard*

## Freedom

We can't know what the Quarks may have been thinking  
when they chose to Share the Gluon Particle, the Strong Force,  
and in their enduring Relationship, created Time.  
If they knew their expression of Belonging was beginning the Universe.

Nor have we any idea what the first Metabolizers had in Mind,  
when they began passing Molecular Strings to those in need.  
Exercising their Freedom to energize the activities of Others.  
If they sensed that their altruism was opening the Garden Gate.

When the 18th century Revolutions called for "Liberté..."  
overturning kingdoms / conceiving democracy,  
those who'd fought against the Change soon appropriated the word, "freedom."  
Claiming it meant their right to keep their ruling class power and privileges.

Given the evidence of our war after war History,  
the global stress caused by mass migration resulting from centuries of colonization,  
the Climate Crisis, alongside other serious Planetary problems —  
we've inherited a World misinformed about the meaning of Freedom.

Freedom is the condition that allows Subjectivity to exist.  
Being a distinct Self doesn't mean Self-as-Separate from Others, Nature, the World;  
It means being able to choose what thoughts to think, words to say, acts perform...  
Free to tell or repeat whatever Story we wish about Ourselves.

Freedom can't mean that anything can mean anything.  
Freedom without Responsibility spells disaster.  
We can get things wrong, but only for so long.  
The Universe has a Moral Arc.

Freedom enables Self-Reflection. Introspection. Self-determination.  
We're free to change our Minds.  
What more wished for Reality than to be closer to free.  
To emulate the sea gulls, fare as flowers.

Everywhere signs of what Freedom can do.  
See things differently / defy expectation / thwart prediction / precipitate an epiphany.  
Only Freedom can liberate us from the Self-as-Separate Narrative.  
Freedom makes Love possible.