

REALITY QUEST

Volume One

February 14, 1994

Issue XVI

THE FATHER QUEST

It is natural for one to search for something they long for yet do not possess. When a child is born into the world, the first person most come in contact with, and form a bond with is the mother. The father in ancient times as well as modern times, is orthodoxly pursuing the temporal things to keep mother and child alive. Because of this, the child is much more acquainted with his or her mother than its father. In this situation the child usually spends its life pursuing the evasive relationship with its father, while enjoying the security it has with the relationship it shares with its mother. This being the case, in later life the child seems to make a greater effort in trying to know its father than accepting and being satisfied with the familiar relationship it has formed since birth with its mother.

I found myself constantly trying to please my father as I was growing up. When I played sports, I always played a little harder when I knew "Dad was watching". My father was a mystery to me for many years. I held this "mystery" in awe until I became a father and began to realize what being a father is all about. Now I understood all the "mysterious" things my father did. I now knew what it meant to "go see a man about a horse": it meant, "none of your business". When I was a child, this statement got my tiny mind going in every direction as I tried to determine what my father was really meant to do. It was mysterious and adventurous to me. Had my dad died before I came to understand his "mysteries" better, my memory of him would have always haunted me to honor him.

My father is a practicing Mormon today. He was not always this way. He used to smoke, a taboo in Mormonism, and rarely ever attend church. His father died before he hardly got the chance to be a grandfather to his grandchildren and the rest of his family. One of the last things my grandfather said to my dad was, "Michael, what ever you do in life, stay close to the Church and follow its leaders". My grandpa is still a "mystery" to my dad, so the advise he received from his father on his "death bed" has affected my father's life to this day. Because the "mystery" of my father was uncovered by me, the advise my father gives me does not have the same effect on me as the advise his own father gave him. However, as with most human beings, I had to replace the mystery of my father with some other "hero" who was, to me, mysterious. I replaced my father with my "Heavenly Father". This mystical replacement lasted for about five years before I uncovered the mystery of my heavenly father and replaced him with another "hero" - me. At present, I have no mysterious father figure to fulfill the inward desire that human's possess to have a "hero". However, my inner-self is just as adventurous and mysterious as both my heroes before me. It is this "father" *which dwells in me and I in him*, which I am longing to find and know.

This "*Father Quest*" has been going on for thousands of years in the lives of men and women of every part of the earth. In the *Odyssey*, Homer, an ancient Greek poet and author, wrote of the search of Telemachus, the son of Odysseus, for his father. More common in Western thought, is the search Jesus made for his father. In the Gnostic's scripture, as well as the New Testament, though not as poignant, the search for his father is Jesus' life. All throughout the Christ's experiences are allusions to the search for *the father*. Like my own life, which some consider blasphemous anyway, so I can compare it to the Christ's, Jesus discovered the "mystery" of his earthly father, Joseph, and pursued the "business of his (heavenly) father". Jesus' search began when he was about twelve years old, about the time most children begin to understand that their fathers are mysterious and start their quest for the "father figure". It is interesting to note that most gang members in our modern society are initiated at about the age of twelve. If one were to look at the family structure of these gang "wanna-bees", one would find a very common, almost boring father figure with no "mysterious" characteristics, or no father at all. The "gang" is simply a group of young people beginning their "*Father Quest*". They find their fatherly figure, or hero, in the gang leader, or in the gang itself.

Sports Stars, Movie Stars, and other illusory men and women have become the fatherly figures that our young people are responding to. From these "idols" come a sense of great mystery and adventure. Young people have replaced the religious "fatherly figures", as well as their own boring, uninteresting father who sits in front of the television and drinks beer after work, with many illusory idols. What mystery and

adventure is there in a man who works 12 hours a day, comes home, eats, goes to the bathroom, and sits down to watch the "tube" all night? I do not personally know one father who is the type of male figure with whom a young person can fulfill his or her "*Father Quest*". Most orthodox, good fathers let themselves be replaced with the illusory fathers of religion, such as, Jesus, Buddha, Mohammed, ect.... Some of my brothers, who are active Mormons, look up to Jesus as their Lord and "hero". The Mormon scriptures even states that Jesus can indeed be "the Father" and "the Son", thus playing a double roll as redeemer (hero) and God:

"I would that ye should understand that God himself shall come down among the children of men, and shall redeem his people. And because he dwelleth in flesh he shall be called the Son of God, and having subjected the flesh to the will of the Father, being the Father and the Son- The Father, because he was conceived by the power of God; and the Son, because of the flesh; thus becoming the Father and the Son- And they are one God, yea, the very Eternal Father of heaven and earth. And thus the flesh becoming subject to the Spirit, or the Son to the Father, being one God, suffereth temptation, and yieldeth not to the temptation, but suffereth himself to be mocked... Yea, even so he shall be led, crucified, and slain, the flesh becoming subject even unto death, the will of the Son being swallowed up in the will of the Father."

(The Book of Mormon, Mosiah 15:1-7)

This allegory was written by Joseph Smith, the author and proprietor of *The Book of Mormon*, to illustrate the constant crave of the Son (the flesh) to find out what is the will and to do the will of the Father (the spirit). The Son's quest is to do the will of the Father. It is obvious, not only from this portion of Joseph Smith's writings, but many of his unabridged lectures, that he understood the human's inward desire (the spirit) to master the outward actions of the flesh. These were the same teachings as Buddha, the Essences teacher of righteousness (Joshua, or Greek, Jesus), Mohammed, Ghandi, Socrates, and many other influential men in history. In other words, all of these spiritual leaders taught the necessity for the human being to control the actions of the flesh (the Son) by submitting them to the spirit (the Father), or "the light" which all human's possess. Only by doing this, can a human being reach Nirvana (Buddhist), Paradise (Moslem), Heaven (Judeo/Christian), or the Celestial Kingdom (Mormon). In reality, all the human being is trying to do is satisfy its need to "find its father", or in other words, the mystery of life inside us all.

One of my friends was attempting to locate me by going through the phone book and calling all the C. NEMELKAs. She phoned my aunt Claudia Nemelka, who is the wife of my father's brother, Duane, and when asked if she knew where I could be located, she responded, "Chris? He's a mystery." Little did she know the ego boost she gave me when my friend recounted what had happened. My little, old ego is just as real as anyone's. It needs nourishment and finds this in being the object of one's "*Father Quest*". My two oldest children, Brittany and Joshua, were maliciously adopted away from me because I couldn't afford all the child support a biased judge thought I should. This judge, all though he never met me in his life, not even in his court, mind you, rendered his judicial opinion stating that the children would be better off not being under the direct influence of their natural father- me. Little did he know, but he gave those two children every bit of reason they needed to choose me as the mysterious *father* who they would search for when they were of the age to embark on their *quest*. That is the whole reason I did not fight the adoption proceedings, which most assuredly would have been overturned upon appeal if I chose to fight. For this same reason, I moved to Montana so that my x-wife could have more access to her children. She would have become the object of their quest had I kept the kids from knowing her. They now know her and her husband, but they have no idea what their real father is like. Yes, they knew me for a time, and these memories will greater enhance their desires to search for their "*father*". If I remain a "mystery" to them, my thoughts, ideas, and perceptions will mean just as much to them as the advise my grandfather gave to my dad as his last words. Alas, I will fulfill the desires of my ego, which are the same desires most human beings have, i.e., have someone look up to you as a "hero".

Marcee, "wife" number 3, and Vicky, "wife" number 4, both have children by me, but refuse to let the child have my name, and have chosen to find someone else to be the "hero" of their children. Jackie, to this day, still accepts me as the "father" of her children. These women know that I feel it is the right of the woman to pick the father they choose for their children. However, they seem to want it a requisite on me to take care of the child, temporally, until they find the illusory "father" they are looking for. In response to this I wrote them the following letter:

January 4, 1994

Dear Marcee and Vicky,

Vicky called me the day she got the letter and in no uncertain terms, told me to stuff it! She would allow me to see Racheal Alexandra, our daughter, if I did so under her auspices and according to her desires; in other words, she wanted me to have no control over the child's life. Vicky is "in love" with another man who she hopes will someday come back and marry her. I sincerely hope this happens. She is under the illusion that this man will not try to adopt our daughter and get her away from the influences of a man (me), who will let him, if that is what Vicky chooses for her. My little child support payment is not going to satisfy the ego of any man who has to carry the burden of supporting a baby who does not have his same last name. (I speak from experience, Brittany and Joshua Ladenburg) Therefore, why in the world should I have to pay support for a child which I have nothing to do with by choice of the mother? Yes, I could very well be like most other men and sue for my parental "rights" regardless of what Marcee, Vicky, or Jackie wants. However, if these woman want to intensify the "*Father Quest*" that these children are going to embark on with age, let them. It will only cause their own relationship with the child to suffer when the child comes to know that his or her father wanted very much to do with them while they were growing up, but respected their mother's desires to find them a "hero" of her own choosing. I hope they choose well. (Boy, that's egotistical!)

Marcee responded to me with the following letter:

Dear Chris,

Jan. 8, 1993[sic]

This is my response to the letter you had written to me on Jan., 4 1994, regarding Riley and your fatherly rights you wish to have. In no way is this response a manipulation. If you let it manipulate you then that would be your doing. This is only a response with emotion and feeling behind it. I know your letter to me seemed like a business proposition, but I do not approach things in that manner. This is also not a guilt letter only my true feelings.

Chris, I ask you to please not fight me on this matter. I have many feelings about this I only share alone. Nevertheless, they are my feelings and I finally have a mind of my own which I can think on my own. Thanks to you who has shown me how to do so. When I married you it was a strong concern of mine that I was making the correct decision for my children's sake. Whenever two parents separate there is a hardship on the children what ever the case may be. I was concerned about how Jackie and I would be treated if any differently from one another. For my sake of happiness. I was told many times that we would always be treated equally. Since then that has changed. I know in your mind it was better that way, which is fine. It caused me a lot of unhappiness which I have been trying to rid[sic] of. We have also talked many times on how we will handle this separation with Riley and the name he carries. To my understanding you agreed to give me all rights to make the decisions in Riley's childhood. We agree any visitation would be done in my home or with my presence. To work as friends and a quote, family unit, Chris, Marcee & Riley. I have been cooperating completely to my knowledge. Also you said you had no intentions of ever suing for visitation. If you did I would then know what kind of man you were. I know now your views have changed, in your mind for the good. In my mind the change is unfair. I know you do not care what is in my mind. But I do care and would like to share them with you as you have yours.

As far as Riley's name goes, Riley will be living with me for his younger years until he desires not to. If I remarry and have other children by the name (Smyth) should Riley not have the same name as the brothers and sisters he is living with and going to school with? He will always be your son and always know you're his father. If he comes later to want to live with you, do you honestly think I would not grant him to change his name to Nemelka to be equal with his family there? Even if it meant going against my husband? For isn't this pain I feel from being left out of your so called family? I felt bad that you wanted everyone to go by the Nemelka name but me. Just maybe Riley might feel the same way when I start a new family and my name changes and everyone else's but his. You know Chris my word is good. You know my love I have for others and I know you know my love for Riley. I do want what is best for him and this is what I feel is best. If not I will be willing to change it. I also ask you to give up your fatherly rights legally. Work with me without your ego. I've been reading old letters you had written me. Letters without your male ego but with your humble love wanting only happiness for me and others. Yes, I only had Riley from you because I wanted you to be the father to my children. Since that day I took that oath your fatherly ideas and others have changed. I don't agree with them all as I did in the beginning. So I see it unfair when you state that I should have went to a sperm bank or you didn't have Riley just to have sex with me, cause neither did I. Why must you try to hurt me?

I am asking you to trust me. I know I am asking a lot. For if you asked me the same I would say no. I fear you would change your mind. (For the best in your mind of course) I will not destroy my son, if I do it will not be on purpose or to spite you) let me pay with the loss of my son's love and respect. Nothing you do will hurt me as that would. Don't assume how my husband will be for we don't know. Maybe I will rule him. (Ha! Ha!) I know I need a man in my life. I also know not so much for love, sex, possessions but for strength. I know that is a weakness. Maybe he will help me someday to find my own strength as you have helped me in gaining much strength I did not have before. My fears are so much greater than my strengths. You see I can't get from you what I need for now with what you have to offer me. You have Jackie. She has Chris. I am alone and you offer to see me when you can and most your time will be spent at Jackie's with her and her children. I am not ready to be alone. I have been alone seems to me my whole life that is why I wanted a family so much. Yet I know we are all alone and have only ourselves in this life, but maybe we can help each other if we don't loose the love in our hearts to anger, pride, or ego. I do not wish to leave my son in someone else's care to go work for money. But I know we have to have money in this world as it is. So I will. I have closed my case at welfare. I will take care of Riley without your help if that is what you wish I do, since I do not like your other alternatives. I will work with you but not be controlled by you. You said to me that if I do not respect you you would have nothing to do with me and would not send me your newsletter. Is that not what Gary did to me? When I gave up his ideas and did no longer do what he thought I should do? He kicked me out of his life. Why? I still loved him and still wanted to be a part of his life. And I do yours. I know your definition of love is different than mine. But the love I feel for others I wouldn't want to be without. Though sometimes I allow it to hurt. I once trusted you more than any human I know. Now that I don't have that I have my fears. I don't know what to feel. Do what you want. I know you will anyway. Riley is my only strength now. Please let me have my illusionary strength as you let Jackie have her, what you call, her illusionary relationship.

Riley, I have made a copy of this letter for you. So maybe you can understand your mother's heart in doing what she's thinking of doing. I will try to the best of my abilities to do the things that benefit your life. At times I know I will fail, and at times you might fail, and your father Chris might fail at times. But I think we will try our best. I love you and love being a mother. Thank you both for that blessing that brings me happiness. Love Marcee. P.S. I wrote this at 2:30am I hope I said what I mean. (*the letter then continues:*) I hope I can allow Riley to look to who he chooses. Of course while the children are young they look to the adult parents in their life which in a lot of ways affect them later and in a lot of ways will not affect them later. I do know the basics Chris. When he is older he will understand the things you wish to teach him. He might accept your ideas, his step-father's ideas, neighbors father's ideas. Let him choose. My wishes are that he accept the good in everyone and come up with his own ideas like you have done. I love you Chris no matter what you choose to do. But understand I need to do as I feel is right for Riley and I. Which I am not sure what that is but I will learn as I go. (*end of letter*)

Anyone one who truly knows Marcee can not help but love her. She is truly a person without guile. She will never quite understand how deep my love for her is. However, she is a very emotional individual who has been down a rough road in life. She has always longed for the love and "strength" of a man. Most men, and maybe me too, have treated her in a way that has broken her spirit. Yet, she shows some strengths which few woman possess. I must allow her to do what she thinks is best for her, even if I disagree. She is wrong when she supposes that I want to treat anyone better than her. Most of her letter are assumptions made by a broken heart which longs to be mended. Oh, if I could only be the man that could fulfill her needs and quiet her spirit. I am not. Contrary to her beliefs, I am not a man who can fulfill any woman, not even Jackie, because my *Quest* fills the place in my heart where a woman like Marcee, Jackie and Vicky needs to be. I once tried to place them all there at once, but I failed. I was once their "hero", but they uncovered my "mysteries" and have chosen to find other heroes to take my place. I do not fault them for this. I praise them all for the progress they have made in overcoming the things they have.

I called Marcee after receiving her letter to thank her for her thoughts. The conversation ended like it usually does, a wounded bird blaming its broken wing on its master who taught it to fly too high, too fast. I do not agree with what Marcee and Vicky have chosen to do with their children's and my relationship, however, they have made their choice and they choose to do things their way. I will not bother them at all or attempt to influence the children at all, unless they obligate me to do so by the courts of men. However, I hope they will refer back to this newsletter when their children began "**THE FATHER QUEST**".

