

PowWow #11

PowWow #11 is by Joyce Worley Katz, created for the monthly assembly of Apa V, Sept. 3, 1994. Thanks to Arnie for doing the onerous chores. This is Mailing Number Eleven, on the Labor Day Weekend (..wish I wuz at the Worldcon..) when the Topic of the Month, is ***A Learning Experience***

Food Tales

A Fable

Young Man decided he would conquer All Things. He went to Old Man and asked how he could do this.

Old Man said, "In Great World are many people. Young Man cannot conquer All People but he may conquer each person he meets." So Young Man went out into Great World.

In Great World, he caused Good Farmer to plant seeds at bad time, and Bad Farmer to plant seeds at good time. He caused Bad Woman to be Good Woman; he caused Good Woman to be Bad Woman. He caused Miser to give money; he caused Spendthrift to save money.

All people Young Man met, Young Man changed.

He went back to Old Man. Young Man said, "Old Man, I have conquered All Things, because I can change All People." But Old Man laughed.

So Young Man went to Old Woman. Old Woman said, "Before you can conquer All Things, you must first conquer self."

So Young Man again went into Great World, this time to conquer Self. When he was cold, he thought of other things, and was no longer cold. When he was hot, he thought of other things, and was no longer hot. When he was hungry, he gave his last food away, and in unselfishness no

longer felt hungry. When he thought proud thoughts he humbled himself by thinking of his errors. When he was ambitious, he abased himself with lowly works.

When he finally conquered Self, Young Man went back to Old Man and Old Woman and said, "At last I have conquered All Things, for I have changed Other People and I have changed Self."

But they laughed and said, "Go now and talk to Bull-Frog who lives in the pond."

"Bull Frog," Young Man said. "I have conquered All Things."

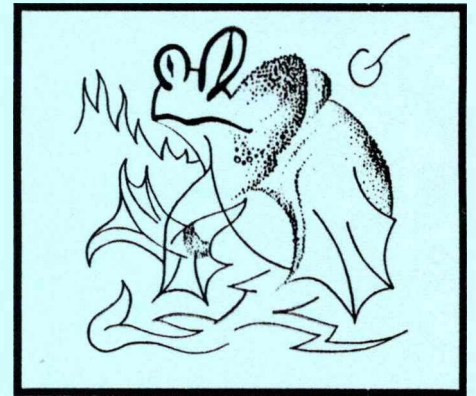
And Bull Frog said, "Harrumph!" and went on singing to the moon.

The End

I wrote the above fable when I was 22, living in Hollywood, spending my days working at the Hollywood Cafeteria, and my nights at Shelley's Manhole, the jazz club headlined by Shelley Mann.

That was back when I described myself as a "Truth Seeker", and believed that The Answer could be found. Turning that Princely Idea into a frog was another Learning Experience.

Who Was First To Kiss A Toad?



More Froggy Smarts

Now that the River Crimea has stopped its rushin' by our house, the local Wild Life has spread out through the yard instead of staying clustered around the stream. But the frog life is still thriving. The big toad that used to live in the stream has moved nearer to the sprinkler heads and a more dependable source of water. During the heat of the day, I believe he goes under the deck: a dark, slightly damp and bug-filled haven.

I worry about the frog. Now that the stream is gone, I watch daily to make sure he doesn't hop in the pool, and when he does, I fish him out to save him from drowning. I also worry he might be jumped by the cats that visit the deck morning and night.

But, I can save my concern: frog hide tastes bad, and the cats have learned to leave him alone.