

# Like Father... Like Father

## *Discovering the Divine Reflection of Our Children*

By Chip Richards

*We arrive at the airport just a few minutes late. While I scan the monitors to see which baggage carousel my dad's flight will be on, my then four-year old son Joshua – dressed in full Peter Pan regalia (tight green pants, brown belt with plastic sword, bare feet and a single vine from the garden draped around his bare torso) – takes off in mock flight down the concourse. As I 'fly' a few steps behind him, I have the privilege of observing the faces of people he passes along the way. People of all ages, from all walks of life, turn to watch as a three-foot high, half-naked Peter Pan soars past. I can literally feel a hallway of hearts open up as each person – with no exception – breaks into laughter or a warm full body smile.*

I recently spent a week in Hawaii where both my father and my four-year old son Joshua were present. This was a special time as I was continually, simultaneously immersed in being both a son and a dad. Observing myself and reflecting on the two roles as they shifted throughout each day, my awareness of the parallels between our earthly child-parent exchange and the communion we share as children of our Divine Father expanded immensely. Indeed there is much to be learned and gained by considering our roles as parents and as children in both earth and spirit realms.

**Like Father... Like father.**

God is to us as we are to our children.

When we look upon our children in the dawn of their life, we see in them a world of truly limitless possibility. We see that they truly can do anything they want and we see how powerful it is for them to spend time doing the things they love. We smile to see them discover gifts, talents and interests, and we watch with compassion as they experience frustrations and challenges along the way. We know that these small obstacles are nothing compared to the mountain of pure potential that lives within and the road of promise that lies ahead. In fact we can see that the very things that challenge our children are often what ultimately allow them to realize new possibilities and open paths they may not have otherwise seen.

As we see a bigger picture and expanded potential for our children, so does God see in us a Divine blueprint and the inherent perfection of our true Self. With the eager heart of a loving Father, He delights in our journey of awakening, is ever patient with our limited perception of what's possible and never ever stops believing in who we really are. Like a child who is just taking its first walking steps with a loving parent who KNOWS this child will one day run with the wind, God sees in us our limitless potential – FULFILLED. It is only we who ever see limits or apparent lack in our life.

Sometimes part of seeing the big picture with our children requires leading them through experiences that they – at the time – may not appreciate or fully understand. The benefits of eating vegetables and brushing teeth for example are often too far removed from the moment to be perceived as holding any value whatsoever. My son Joshua may have a deep desire to visit his cousins in America, but have no appreciation of the 15-hour flight required to make this meeting possible. While I can see that 15 hours is currently the best path to achieve the desired 2 weeks of fun, for Joshua, the blocked ears, cramped spaces and 200 strangers sitting in his airplane 'bedroom' seem totally unnecessary. The plane will take flight and eventually land, and depending on the chosen perspective, the time in between will either be a joyful dance of games and laughter (as it thankfully is with Joshua), or a nightmare of struggle and resistance.

Likewise in our own journey of unfolding, we often encounter experiences that we do not appreciate or understand – the truth of which may reveal itself only later (days, weeks or even years). What we must realize is that our job is not to control or even to necessarily comprehend these events. Our job is simply to be aware of the flow of Divine in us and to trust that our journey is being guided (and joined) by the ultimate Parent figure. If we can accept the fact that Spirit is ALWAYS there, working for our absolute best and highest interest (just as a parent seeks the best for its children) we can begin to see the truth in the notion that there is a GIFT in every experience. That obstacles and challenges on the road may simply be what is necessary in order for us to get from where we are, to where we dream of being. Our response to unexpected events is like the child in the plane – we can either trust and embrace the journey, or struggle and fight our way there. In this light we learn to embrace times of unforeseen challenge as the foreshadow of new light, and we allow ourselves to explore the hidden joys of apparent obstacles – for they just may hold the keys to higher possibilities.

## Like Son... Like son.

In the Gospel of Thomas, Jesus says, “Yet I have said that whoever among you becomes like a child will know the Kingdom...” (saying #46). Our children, with their innocence and pure connection to the Source, reveal to us – as Jesus the Son did – the many beautiful principles of living life ‘at ONE’. Present, determined, joyful and joy bringing – simply by being themselves. They spontaneously and beautifully answer the “call” of each moment (i.e. Joshua as Pan in the airport), and their willingness to fully embody the energy that moves them, opens us up to our own inner callings and to the magically powerful – yet easily forgotten – role of PLAY in our life. Indeed our children show us how to dance with the Divine.

Children are 100% natural and perfectly aligned. They come into the world with perfect posture and movement patterns that later in life take us months and years to re-train. They are honest and expressive. They always speak their truth and they never censor their love. They are joyful and buoyant – often with little regard for the current circumstance. Traffic jams are perfect times for stories and songs, and a broken down car in 40-degree heat simply means it’s time to go swimming. *As long as we’re together*, there’s joy to be found in every moment. Each new ‘turn in the river’ is simply an opportunity to expand the adventure and our connection with each other and the world.

Children carry no baggage. They are forgiving and they hold no grudges. They hold no unnecessary pain, and they are incredibly quick to recover. They are deliberate, clear and inexhaustibly focused on what they want. When they truly desire something, their persistence and determination – even in the face of “no” – is incredible. They never question their worthiness and they have absolute faith in the Universe’s (i.e. their parents’) ability to continually supply what they need. They may not move mountains, but their ability to move most parents into empowered action demonstrates an innate manifesting ability to be truly admired and learned from. One could say they are self serving, but as they draw into their life the experiences they truly desire, their light seems to shine brighter and brighter into the world.

In the words of Eileen Caddy:

*“Life is not complicated for a child.  
It lives fully in the moment  
Enjoying what it is doing.”*

*It does not really worry about tomorrow  
And what it may bring.  
Life is good for that child  
Life is fun  
Life is glorious and exciting.  
That is really living as you should live.”*

## **Like Father... Like Son.**

Along with being authentically, unapologetically themselves (and any other character they may choose in the moment!), children have a unique way of mirroring the people and circumstances around them. This can have a down side when we consider the levels of violence and disharmony portrayed in the media and public world, but when considered in a spiritual light, we come to realize that our children have a beautiful way of outwardly expressing our own inner truth, and showing us what we need to see about ourselves. If we are attentive to their behaviour we see that in many ways they draw us back to what's truly important in the moment.

Joshua, for one, seems intuitively committed to drawing out the subconscious need of each adult person he encounters. With his grandmother (an unrealised artist) he constantly asks her to design, build, sew and create things for him – thus fulfilling her indwelling need for creative expression. With me his father, he finds me at my absolute peak busy and mind-packed moments, and literally forces me to stop working and play with him – often liberating a flow of new ideas, which had previously felt forced. He brings his occasionally self-conscious aunty out into public to do strange things (i.e. dress up like buskers and play guitar on the footpath) and he chooses the most strategic and emotionally sensitive moments to cling overbearingly to his mother – thus amplifying her own need for time alone. Interestingly, all of these behaviours in Joshua mysteriously vanish as soon as the desired shift is made within each person!

As we begin to appreciate the parallel between the way God looks upon and interacts with us, and the way we in turn interact with our own children, two things happen. First, as we achieve a Divine Father perspective on our own circumstances, we gain a wider and deeper vision for our life, and we open to a new level of self-acceptance and belief in our journey. We feel compassion instead of self-judgement at our momentary frustrations, and we emerge with a sense of faith that enables us to go with the flow of the Divine river – even when we cannot see exactly where it takes

us. We can relax in the knowledge that just as we seek and wish the best for our children, so too does God always have our highest good in mind. He accepts and loves us for exactly who we are, and also sees in us the full potential of all we can and will be. He celebrates our discovery of gifts and “callings” in life and is ever committed to joining us on the path – and lighting the way! God the Father is never too busy for His children. Indeed NOW is always the perfect time.

The second thing that happens as we become aware of the all-providing, all-compassionate presence of Spirit Parent in our life, is that we become much more aware and inspired in our own behaviour as parents of our own children. We honour them for the purity, truth, innocence and wisdom they bring into our life, and we join them in the joyful act of co-creating magic in the everyday.

In written reflection, the following words from Spirit emerged in my journal:

*“To understand My perspective on your life, take a moment and recall your feeling of excitement when your own son was born. You watched anxiously as he struggled through the transition between worlds, and were filled with absolute elation to finally have him alive and whole in your arms - ready to truly begin his life with you. I stand here now as your Father, equally excited to share this life with you as my child. I have watched and supported your journey of awakening (transition between worlds) and I now wish nothing more than to shower you with gifts of love and light, and to guide and nurture your journey into the real YOU – which is and always will be a perfect part of me.”*

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