

The Guy in the Glass

When you get what you want in your struggle for self
And the world makes you king for a day.
Just go to a mirror and look at yourself
And see what that man has to say.
For it isn't your father or mother or wife
Whose judgement upon you must pass,
The fellow whose verdict counts most in your life
Is the one staring back from the glass.
Some people might think you're a straight shootin' chum
And call you a wonderful guy.
But the man in the glass says you're only a bum
If you can't look him straight in the eye.
He's the fellow to please, never mind all the rest
for he's with you clear to the end
And you've passed your most dangerous, difficult test
If the man in the glass is your friend.
You may fool the whole world down the pathways of years
And get pats on the back as you pass
But your final reward will be heartache and tears
If you've cheated the man in the glass.

I have become fixated on the words to this poem by Dale Wimbrow and the deep meanings to be found within. I see it as a comment on the identity of self and a comment on the seeking of power or happiness from within yourself.

We cannot use others as our gauge of how good or bad we are. People's perceptions of us, after all, are limited by how often and under what circumstances they see us. The people who only see us on our days off, have no idea how we react under pressure. Likewise, the people who only see us under the heaviest stresses may not know the sweet side of us. Also, we need to consider that the opinion of others is colored by their life experiences. Thus a person who has been let down often in the past by others will perceive you as untrustworthy no matter what you do. Likewise, people who think we are the greatest for a single unselfish act, may not be thinking about how consistently you react with compassion for others. We must, therefore, be able to look ourselves in the eye on a daily basis and evaluate whether or not we have done our best.

This leads me to think of how much, therefore, our happiness lies within. If the power to be happy is ours we must learn not to judge ourselves on the opinion of others and we must remind ourselves to perform in a manner consistent with the image we want to see. Promotion, monetary gain and the flashy show of success are all just **trappings** that keep you from viewing your soul. If you can look your image in the eye every day as you dress or undress for the day and recount with pride your actions, then you have the power to make yourself happy.

So start your day with a real look at yourself in the mirror and don't worry about your hair or your wrinkles. Just concentrate on seeing your soul.