

7 — FORBEARANCE (continued)

My son, beware of those who exaggerate in prasing you, before those who exaggerate in speaking ill of you. And more than those who praise and those who speak ill, beware of those who neither speak ill nor praise; their weapon is sharper than yours because they are more forbearing than you. They know that he who praises powers is a liar even if he says the truth, and that he who speaks ill of power is truthful even if he lies. And because they know it, you will find that they neither praise nor blame. That is why, I advise you to be forbearing towards those who blame rather than those who praise.

“Let the land, the sea and the air teach you forbearance, my son. On the land, there is room for the polecats as well as for gazelles; there is room for the cactus and the violet alike; for the dust and the gold; for the wicked and the good. — The sea does not reject the octopus and only accepts the whale; it does not reject the sponge to welcome only the pearl. It receives likewise the pure water of the stream and the troubled water of the gutter; the vessels of the pilgrims as well as the ships of the pirates.— The air does not dance to the nightingale’s song and gets irritated by the frog’s croaking. Air does not get drunk with the perfume of the lily while it vomits of a carrion smell; it is not proud of the falcon and ashamed of the bat; it does not welcome the day and dread the night.

That is why I advise you to be forbearing before all and above all. My son, this is my advice to you: I leave it as a deposit in your heart and not as a rope around your neck, for far you might lose control of yourself. Take care of your deposit and may God bless you.

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