



THE NOBLE HEART™

Shaken

October 1st, 2008 E-letter

“Noble simplicity is the psyche of heroes” – unknown author

“So, what’s the story?”

What has become a trite phrase is still a core, orientating question. Seven months ago I asked this very question of God and He brought to me Heb. 12:27 – not necessarily a verse I wanted to hear. I was hoping for something more like “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your Master’s happiness!” (Matt. 25:23) What God said instead was that He was about “the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.”

“*Shaken!*”..... Is this not the word of our time? It seems like everything and everyone is being shaken.

Well, God followed through on what He said – He always does. He shook me and my world, and things started to fall apart. I was in a season of uprooting not planting, tearing down not building up, scattering not gathering. There is a season for every activity under heaven. (Ecclesiastes 3). The good thing is that seasons change....

The hard thing is that seasons change.....

It seemed like all the things that I loved and were familiar and comfortable with..... from relationships, to my work, to the way I did life were being shaken. And in the shaking, that which is truest about us is revealed, both the good and the bad, who we truly are and what we have falsely become. The assurance of God is that which cannot be shaken will endure and remain, and that which is untrue will fall. A friend of mine told me that lies have speed but truth has endurance.

Ultimately, at the end of the shaking a decision must be made. Will we realign our life to what God has now revealed as the truest things about us? Or will we try to pick up all the things that are lying on the ground from the shaking and reattach them? Realignment or reattachment.

As Elrond said to Aragorn in *The Return of the King*, “Put aside the Ranger, become who you were born to be.” The Ranger was a good man fulfilling an important role, but there was a greater, more needed role for Aragorn. He was *more* than he was when he became a Ranger. He had become a king. You are not who you were five year ago, or one year ago. There is always something to “put aside” and something to “become”.

Thomas Kempis wrote, "A man is raised up from the earth by two wings—simplicity and purity. There must be simplicity in his intention and purity in his desires. Simplicity leads to God, purity embraces and enjoys Him."

Gods' great purpose in a season of shaking is to raise us up, allowing us to live as pilgrims.... for pilgrims travel lightly but with great purpose. It is the cry and the struggle of every human heart to understand our truest desire and created intention. God will reveal it, "For it is God who is producing in you both the desire and the ability to do what pleases Him" (Phil. 2:13 ISV) and He "will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go." (Psalm 32:8)

After seven months (just about the length of a winter in Colorado) my season has changed. This feels like a season of planting, healing and building... in a different role but as the same man, just lighter from the shaking.

What can *you* no longer neglect or hold back? What must *you* do? What things are no longer appropriate or helpful in your life, from what you know about your true self at this moment? What must you put aside, and what must you become? What season does God have you in?

Ask Him.

With you in pursuing noble simplicity,

Gary