

A TOGETHER PERSON (By Geraldine Morris)

Two eyes. Two hands. Ears. A heart. No distinguishable characteristics. No outstanding differences. A few have become famous. But far more remain unknown to most though their contributions are immeasurable to those surrounding.

Two eyes that see the world. Two eyes that appear to be just like any other eyes, yet see a little bit further and look into the eyes of others. Eyes that see heartbeats and desires. They see the "stuff" that makes a person what they really are - pain, agony, life, death, meaning.

Two hands always extended. One reaching inward to the meaning of one's existence: the other, reaching out to people, searching for the satisfaction of companionship in union with others, seeking out the needs of individuals, seeking out pleas for understanding which have been heard by two ears.

Two ears that hear the cries of others. They listen for the subtle hints of danger. They listen to an other and hear what they cannot express in words. Ears that take the sounds of change, transposing them into impulses that are felt.

They possess that certain something that says "I care." I care about you because you are a worthwhile human being; you are important.

These are the trademarks of a "together" person. And yet, the description is incomplete. The "together" person stands tall. They stand above pettiness, but are able to bend to the level of human anxiety. They are sought out by all races because they recognize only one color for problems. Their language is universal, as they answer a universal phenomenon. They are a builder - an instiller of self-respect and self-value. They are on a continual "high." A high that comes naturally from the love of people. And because of this, they are loved.

They may never get any further than a Harlem Street corner, or a hidden office desk. They may never become rich because their wealth cannot be counted in dollars and cents. Their debt is continuous, and they pay generously. They get "the meaning of life" and they share its richness and fullness with others, asking for nothing in return. Thus, even if they leave this life early, they leave behind a treasure. Yet, sometimes, they cannot be aware that their concern helped to hold some person together.