

## The Places We Go

Often it takes something major to wake us up, as we struggle to maintain an illusion of control.

In life, most of us want things to go to the places we have envisioned ourselves going. We have plans and visions, some of them divinely inspired, that we want to see through to completion. We want to be happy, successful, and healthy, all of which are perfectly natural and perfectly human.

So when life takes us to places we didn't consciously want to go, we often feel as if something has gone wrong, or we must have made a mistake somewhere along the line, or any number of other disheartening possibilities. This is just life's way of taking us to a place we need to go for reasons that go deeper than our own ability to reason. These hard knocks and trials are designed to shed light on our unconscious workings and deepen our experience of reality.

Often it takes something major to wake us up, to shake us loose from our ego's grip as it struggles to maintain an illusion of control. It is loss of control more than anything else that humbles us and enables us to see the big picture. It reminds us that the key to

the universe lies in what we do not know, and what we do know is a small fraction of the great mystery in which we live. This awareness softens and lightens us, as we release our resistance to what is.

Another gift gleaned from going to these seemingly undesirable places is that, in our response to difficulty, we can see all the patterns and unresolved emotional baggage that stand in the way of our unconditional joyfulness. Joy exists within us independently of whether things go our way or not. And when we don't feel it, we can trust that we will find it if we are willing to surrender to the situation, moving through it as we move through our difficult feelings.

We can take our inspiration from any fairy tale that finds its central character lost in a dark wood, frightened and alone. We know that the journey through the wood provides its own kind of beauty and richness. On the other side, we will emerge transformed, lighter and brighter, braver and more confident for having moved through that darkness.



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## This is How it Works



It is a slow day in Key Largo and US1 is deserted. Times are tough, the virus has nearly everything shut down and everybody is in debt and living on credit.

Two Tallahassee government officials heading to Key West drive through town, stop at a small cafe - one dons his mask and goes in and lays a \$50 bill on the counter, saying he wants to take a look at the menu with his traveling companion then order take-out.

As soon as he walks out, the cook grabs the bill and runs up stairs to pay his debt to his boss who gave him an advance on his pay.

The boss takes the bill and runs down the road to pay his debt to Key Largo Fisheries.

Rick Hill takes the \$50 and heads off to pay his bill to the man who supplies them with fresh lemons.

The guy at the fruit stand takes the \$50 and runs to pay

his debt to Denny's Liquor store, who offered him last week's rum on credit.

The liquor store owner runs to the cafe and pays off the cook for last week's lunches.

The cook places the \$50 bill back on the counter so the guy from Tallahassee won't suspect anything.

At that moment the guy comes in from the pow-wow in the car and says "My friend is a vegan and I think we will just eat when we get in Key West." he picks up the \$50 bill and leaves.

No one produced anything. No one earned anything. However, the whole town is now out of debt and looking to the future with more optimism.

AND THAT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IS HOW A STIMULUS PACKAGE WORKS IN THE KEYS.

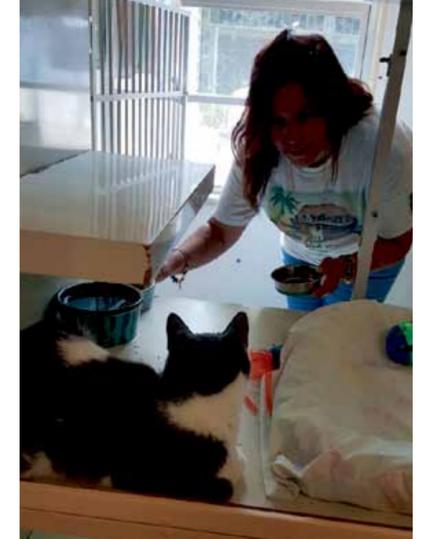
## Meanwhile, at the Key Largo Animal Shelter...



Dara is feeding Tiny, our gentle giant.



Iliia feeding Zimba the orange cat; he will grab her hair if she's not quick enough to give him his meal!



Iliia feeding Loki, the grey and white cat.

As people are home with their pets at this stressful time, their pets may sense the stress from them. Providing a peaceful and stable environment, love and comfort will help. Give them more attention and time, including more dog walks!

### CAN YOU INTERPRET THE FOLLOWING?

1 SAND	2 MAN BOARD	3 STAND I	4 READ
5 WEAR LONG	6 R ROADS A D S	7 TOWN	8 CYCLE CYCLE CYCLE
9 LEVEL	10 O M.D. Ph.D. B.S.	11 KNEE LIGHTS	12 III I OO
13 CHAIR	14 DICE DICE	15 TOUCH	16 GROUND FEET FEET FEET FEET FEET FEET
17 MIND MATTER	18 HE'S/HIMSELF	19 ECNALG	20 DEATH/LIFE
21 G.I. CCCC CC	22 PROGRAM	23 C	24 YOU S ME T

- |                          |                       |                        |                            |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Sandbox                | 7 Downtown            | 13 High Chair          | 19 Backward Glance         |
| 2 Man Overboard          | 8 Tricycle            | 14 Paradise            | 20 Life After Death        |
| 3 I Understand           | 9 Upper Level         | 15 Touchdown           | 21 Soldier Overseas        |
| 4 Read Between the Lines | 10 3 Degrees Below 0  | 16 6 feet Underground  | 22 Space Program           |
| 5 Long Underwear         | 11 Neon Lights        | 17 Mind Over Matter    | 23 See -thru Blouse        |
| 6 Crossroads             | 12 Circles under Eyes | 18 He's Beside Himself | 24 Just Between You and Me |

## Adopt a Key Largo Animal Shelter Pet

Meet a few of the animals who are currently available for adoption at the Key Largo Animal Shelter. If you are interested in taking one of these adorable furry friends home, stop by or call. The Shelter is located at mile marker 106 Oceanside; phone 305-451-0088.



Calvin



Tiny



Meghan



Cocoa



Loki



Amber



April



Luna



Iris



Delilah