

# The Invitation

Oriah Mountain Dreamer, Indian Elder

It doesn't interest me what you do for a living. I  
want to know what you ache for, and if you dare to  
dream of meeting

your heart's longing.

It doesn't interest me how old you are. I want to  
know if you will risk looking like a fool for love, for  
your dreams, for the

adventure of being alive.

It doesn't interest me what planets are squaring  
your moon....

I want to know if you have touched the center  
of your own sorrow, if you have been opened by life's betrayals or  
have become shriveled and closed from fear of further pain! I want  
to know if you can sit with pain, mine or your own, without moving to hide  
it, or fake it, or fix it. I want to know if you can be with JOY, mine or your own; if  
you can dance with wildness and let the ecstasy fill you to the tips of your fingers and  
toes without cautioning us to be careful, be realistic, or to remember the limitations of  
being a human.

It doesn't interest me if the story you are telling me is true. I want to know if you  
can disappoint another to be true to yourself; if you can bear the accusation of betrayal  
and not betray your own soul. I want to know if you can be faithful and therefore be  
trustworthy. I want to know if you can see beauty even when it is not pretty everyday,  
and if you can source your life from IT'S presence. I want to know if you can live with  
failure, yours and mine, and still stand

on the edge of a lake and shout to the silver of the full moon,

"YES!"

It doesn't interest me to know where you live or how much money you  
have. I want to know if you can get up after the night of grief and despair, weary and  
bruised to the bone, and do

what needs to be done for the children.

It doesn't interest me who you are or how you came to be here. I want to know if you  
will stand in the center of the fire with me and not shrink back.

It doesn't interest me where or what or with whom you have studied. I want to know  
what sustains you from the inside when all else falls away. I want to know if you can  
be alone with yourself and if you truly like the company you keep in the empty  
moments.