

## **“Philosophical Ponderings” Series**

***“World peace must develop from inner peace. Peace is, I think, the manifestation of human compassion.”***

*“Dalai Lama XIV*

November of this year marks the twenty-second year in the house my bride and I built in Grapevine. When we bought the lot for our dream home, decisions had to be made on the layout of the house I had designed to ensure it fit among the trees on the property. We quickly realized the one-story Ranch Style vision did not include a 28-meter Southern Magnolia tree on the Northwest corner of the lot. It was huge then, and significantly larger now.

To build the house meant we had to remove a few Post Oak trees and the Magnolia. Quickly there was turmoil in our lives. There was no inner peace. We realized removing the trees hurt our souls. Sitting alone on the lot, we imagined our grandchildren playing under and climbing to the Magnolia’s top branches. It was that day all our plans changed dramatically. We mutually agreed, “Absolutely not! We will not cut down the Magnolia!” So, today we live in a two story house that sets just South of the most child friendly climbing tree I have ever known.

From our office, we look out a second story expanse of windows looking straight into the Magnolia. Gazing outside at this moment, I see the buds that will become large white and fragrant Southern Magnolia flowers. In the Live oak before me, I see more acorns than I recall seeing over the past years here. The increase in squirrel population is a clear indicator of the crop is also increased.

I pulled an acorn off the tree growing close to our second-floor patio. Just holding the acorn in my hand makes me awed by the creativity of God. I know the power within the shell is silently hidden. From the burst of small oaks popping up wherever the squirrels place them for the winter meal, I know what I hold in my hand could easily replicate the parent tree I touched to pluck the acorn. The power within it is hidden and silent, but when the sapling breaks the ground, a new oak tree begins to take shape. God’s creation is awesome!

Realization hit me that within me and you is the promise of new growth and personal potential. Through prayer and meditation, each of us connect with the peace and power within our physical, mental, and spiritual selves. Like the acorn, we spring forward to help human beings find peace in the world. We connect with the peace and power within us and day by day, season by season, we find inner peace.

Knowing that as we breathe in the breath of life, we connect with the peace that energizes us. We are more than we appear to be. Centered in peace, we are renewed. It feels good to know that world peace is connected to our inner peace and manifests itself into human compassion.”

My dream is that the world will one day internalize the words from the Dalai Lama noted at the introduction. I also dream we will instill the Psalmists words *I have calmed and quieted my soul* (Psalm 131:2) into our daily lives.

*Peace Always*

*Ted*