

WALK YOUR TALK

Unity on Maui • April 26, 2026

“I’m Much More Enlightened Than You”

A Talk on Spiritual Humility, Sacred Humor & the Ego’s Last Disguise • Rev. Blaine Tinsley

THE BIG IDEA

The spiritual ego is the ego in its finest disguise — wearing the language of awakening while quietly keeping score. Today’s teaching: the moment we are absolutely certain we’ve figured it out, life hands us a mirror. The joke is always the beginning of the teaching.

KEY TEACHINGS

- Thomas Merton spent 17 years as a Trappist monk before realizing, on a Louisville street corner, that his path had quietly convinced him he was a different kind of being. “This sense of liberation from an illusory difference was such a relief... I almost laughed out loud.”
- Spiritual bypassing (John Welwood, 1984): using spiritual practices to sidestep unresolved emotional wounds.
- C.S. Lewis: Pride is “the utmost evil.” You are never proud of having something — only of having more of it than someone else.
- The ego doesn’t die on the path — it upgrades. Pride in status becomes pride in consciousness levels, chakra alignment, and years of practice.
- Charles Fillmore: The Christ is not a level you reach. It is the ground every soul already stands on — without exception.
- Suzuki Roshi: “In the beginner’s mind, there are many possibilities. In the expert’s mind, there are few.”
- Real wisdom comes packaged in intellectual humility — the lowest need to appear wise.

FROM THE TALK: BOOKS THAT PROVE YOU’VE ARRIVED

Sitting With What Is — and Being Slightly Smug About It

Holding Space: How to Be Physically Present While Remaining Spiritually Elsewhere

Your Aura Called. It’s disappointing.

I Read Rumi, So You Don’t Have To — But You Really Should

Raise Your Vibration or Don’t — I Can’t Want It For You

Twenty Minutes a Day: How My Morning Meditation Makes Me Better Than My Entire Office

RUMI SAYS...

“Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing, there is a field. I’ll meet you there.”

Not: I’ll be there because I arrived first. Just: I’ll meet you there.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- When have you noticed the spiritual scorecard quietly running in the background?
- What comparison are you most tempted to make — and what fear might be underneath it?
- Is there someone whose path looks different from yours who might carry a truth you need?
- What would it feel like to enter a conversation this week with a genuine beginner’s mind?

**I release the need to measure my soul against another.
I stand in the truth of my own divine wholeness —
and I joyfully recognize that wholeness in every beloved face I meet.**

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

The thread running through all four practices is the same: turn the lens inward, gently and without shame.

1. THE COMPARISON CATCH

Notice, without judgment, every time the comparing mind activates this week. When you feel spiritually ahead of someone, or behind them, don’t shame the thought. Just name it: “There’s the scorecard again.” Then ask: What am I afraid of right now, that needs me to be better than someone else? Most spiritual comparison is anxiety in a robe. The practice is not to eliminate the thought but to see through it.

2. BEGINNER’S MIND FOR ONE CONVERSATION

Once this week, choose a conversation and enter it with a single genuine question: What might this person know that I don’t? Not as a technique — as a real inquiry. Resist the urge to teach, redirect, or one-up. Listen to discover. Notice what opens in you when you stop being the one who already knows.

3. THE EQUALITY PAUSE

Once each day, look at someone — a stranger, a family member, a person who challenges you — and silently affirm: The Christ in me recognizes and honors the Christ in you. No hierarchy. No ranking. Just the quiet recognition that the ground beneath both of you is equally holy.

4. STAY IN YOUR CELL

When you feel the pull toward comparison or spiritual one-upmanship, return to your own interior work. Ask: What is mine to tend right now? The comparison stops not by willpower but by genuine engagement with your own beautiful unfinished work. A person deeply absorbed in their own growth simply doesn’t have bandwidth for the ranking system anymore.

CLOSING BLESSING

May you leave here a little lighter than when you came in —
having laughed, perhaps, at your own magnificent absurdity.

May you find, this week, one moment to stop keeping score
and simply stand in the astonishing fact of your own being.

May the Christ within you — ancient, unhurried, unimpressed by credentials —
remind you gently that it was never a prize to be won,
only a presence to be recognized, in yourself and in every face you meet.

Go lightly. Love freely. Stay curious.
And when the scorecard appears — and it will —
may you greet it with a smile, set it down, and walk back into the field.

And so it is.