

## The Shack by William P. Young<sup>1</sup>

Summary by Stacey Tuttle

### General Overview

The Shack is a fictional story (although presented as truth) about a man, Mack, whose daughter is abducted and presumably brutally murdered (though her death isn't confirmed for years). Four years after Missy's abduction, he receives a note from "Papa" (his wife's name for God) asking Mack to meet him at the shack where evidence of his daughter's murder was found. It is here where Mack has an encounter with the triune Godhead through which he is able to come to peace about some of the deeper questions that have plagued his life and faith, Missy's death and his own painful childhood of abuse.

### Background

This book was written for the author's family without any original thought of publishing. His wife and children would have known that Mack wasn't real and would have seen the resemblances between the characters and themselves. He originally intended to list himself and Mack as co-authors on the cover, but when a few copies got spread around to friends and he heard that people were wanting to fly to town just to discuss the events from the story with Mack and Willie, Willie decided to at least remove the co-authorship from the cover. There are deeply autobiographical elements in the story, but the story is itself fiction. Perhaps the best explanation for why he wrote the story is in the foreword where he states, "he wanted a narrative to help him express to [his family] not only the depth of his love, but also to help them understand what had been going on in his inside world." You can go to the author's webpage to learn more at <http://www.windrumors.com/>.

### Chapter Summaries

#### Foreword

The foreword explains the history of the main character, Mack, which is critical to the actual story. Mack and his family were horribly abused by his drunken, church-going, religious father. At the age of 13, he put poison in his father's beer bottles, a note under his mother's pillow asking her to forgive him, and ran away from home. He carries a lot of guilt for not helping protect his mother through the years of abuse and for killing his father, mixed with lingering anger, bitterness and resentment.

The foreword presents this as a true story. Mack and Willie (the author) are apparently close friends and Willie goes into great detail describing their history of friendship and the personality and character of Mack and his wife and kids. To further the impression that this is biographical, he states that Mack "asked if I would ghost write this story" and comments, "What you are about to read is something that

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<sup>1</sup> William P. Young, *The Shack* (Windblown Media, 2007).

Mack and I have struggled with for many months to put into words.” However, he also has some disclaimers hidden in there as well. “Whether some parts of [the story] are actually true or not, I [Willie] won’t be the judge...I confess to you that I desperately want everything ... to be true.”

## Chapter 1

Mack is home alone during an ice storm and goes to check the mail. He finds in it an envelope with his name on it, with no postage, no postmark, no return address. Inside the message simply said:

Mackenzie,  
It’s been a while. I’ve missed you.  
I’ll be at the shack next weekend if you want to get together.  
-Papa

Curious and angry about the mysterious letter, Mack was able to discover nothing of its origin but wondered if it was some cruel joke. Papa was his wife’s, Nan’s, favorite name for God. Mack falls asleep holding a picture of a little girl and hoping to avoid nightmares for once.

## Chapter 2

Nan and the children return home, but Mack says nothing to them of the mysterious note.

The back-story of *The Great Sadness* in Mack’s life, Missy’s disappearance, is revealed. Mack took the kids camping (Nan was unable to go) over Labor Day weekend. Missy, who was 6, begged for her Daddy to tell one of her favorite stories - the legend of the beautiful Indian maid who was a voluntary sacrifice for her people and the man she loved. It was through her willing death that the lives of her people and her true love were saved. Normally Missy loved this story of redemption, but this time it sparked deep questions and reflections. Missy made the connection between this story and the one of Jesus’ death and wanted to know why God was so mean as to ask his children to die. Mack pointed out that they (Jesus and the Indian princess) weren’t forced to die, but did so out of their love for their people. Missy also asked if God was ever going to ask her to die for someone else.

## Chapter 3

The back-story of the campout continues. Mack and his kids became friends with 2 other families they met camping: the Ducettes who have kids about the same ages, and the Madissons, a couple who really penetrate through Mack’s defenses and get him to share about his painful childhood and his beloved wife and her relationship with “Papa”.

The final morning, Kate and Josh took out the canoe. The canoe flipped and Josh’s lifejacket got pinned to the canoe trapping him underwater. Mack was eventually able to rescue his son from the canoe and after CPR, Josh revived .

## Chapter 4

As soon as Mack recovered from Josh's rescue, he realized that Missy was no longer at the table where she had been coloring a picture of the Indian princess when he left her to rescue Josh. The search for Missy quickly escalated. Evidence of a struggle, a witness who saw a man driving out of the campsite with Missy, and a ladybug pin left at the crime scene led to a strong suspicion that a serial killer known as the Little Ladykiller had abducted Missy. The ladybug had 5 dots on its back indicating this was abduction #5. He specialized in abducting little girls and none of the previous victims' bodies had ever been found.

Eventually a lead led Mack and the police to a little shack in the woods where Missy's red dress was found, torn and blood-soaked. Missy's body was never found. The trail on the killer turned cold; there were no other leads.

The story resumes with present day, nearly 4 years later. Mack muses why the God would, if the note was real, ask to meet him at the place of Mack's deepest pain – why not somewhere else?

## Chapter 5

As Mack had his reservations about telling Nan and the kids about the note from "Papa", he was relieved to find that Nan wanted to take the kids to visit her sister for a few days, which gave him the freedom to go to the shack undetected. The only person Mack did tell about the trip was his friend Willie, whom he had to tell in order to borrow Willie's four-wheel drive jeep for the trip.

Arriving at the shack, Mack found it unaltered. Missy's blood still staining the floor, and no one was there. After erupting in rage and despair, Mack collapsed on the floor and wept next to the bloodstains until he fell asleep.

As Mack awoke and started to leave, feeling stupid for even coming, the forest surrounding the shack behind him was suddenly enveloped in warmth and the winter unfurled into spring even as the run-down shack was transformed into a lovely log cabin. A large, radiant African American woman came from inside and wrapped Mack in a huge bear-hug, all the while calling out his full name with the feeling of a long-lost love suddenly reunited. Also in the cabin were an Asian woman who shimmered and whose hair blew about as if in the wind, though there was no wind inside, and a Hebrew man who appeared to be a laborer. The African American introduced herself as the cook and housekeeper whose name was Elousia, but said Mack could call her 'Papa'. The man, who appeared to be in his thirties introduced himself as Jesus and said he likes to keep things fixed up around the place. The Asian woman tended the gardens and said her name was Sarayu. All three said, in unison, that they were God.

## Chapter 6

Mack and Papa have a discussion in the kitchen, starting with the fact that Papa listens to funk among other kinds of music, and not just the music, but the heart behind it. She reminds Mack that she loves those musicians. They also discuss his problems with calling her Papa – it's too familiar, Papa appears as a woman and his own papa was such a horrible memory. Papa reminds Mack that she is neither male nor female and explains that she reveals herself to Mack as an African American woman in order to keep from encouraging his religious stereotypes. Papa wants Mack to get to know her as the being she is, which is better done without the religious boxes he has kept her in. She also realizes that Mack has never been able to embrace a father figure, nor could he now. They also discuss the matter of choice, or free will, the trinity and Jesus' humanity and divinity.

## Chapter 7

After dinner, Jesus calls for a time of devotion, during which he praises Papa and tells her how much he appreciates various things she had done that day. Afterward, Mack and Jesus go to the dock to watch the stars and talk about creation, the Trinity and the transcendence of being over appearance. Overall they share an evening of bonding, friendship and laughter.

## Chapter 8

Over breakfast, Mack discusses with Jesus, Sarayu and Papa the hierarchy of the Trinity, only to learn there isn't one. They are in a circle of relationship and choose to serve each other above themselves. In perfect unity there is no need for authority. This transitions to a discussion about how God works in the world in general – with the ultimate question in Mack's mind being how God could allow his daughter to die while He yet talks of love. Papa explained that the real problem for Mack was that he didn't really think God was good; because if he did, he would be able to trust God even when he didn't understand what God was doing. Also, Sarayu said that Mack couldn't trust God because he didn't really believe that God loved him – when he did, trust would result. Mack said he couldn't believe that any end result would justify losing his daughter, but Papa corrected him – justifying it isn't the point, redeeming it is.

## Chapter 9

Sarayu asked for Mack's help in the garden – a garden which was both beautiful and a mess. While they uprooted a lovely section of the garden, they discussed whether God created poisonous plants, and whether they should be considered good or bad. Sarayu pointed out that some of the most poisonous plants also have great healing properties. This led to a discussion of the garden of Eden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and mankind's judgments of good and evil in general. Ultimately, Sarayu challenged Mack to give up his independence and his "rights" which only serve to separate him from the God who is Life. At the end of this painful discussion, Sarayu revealed that the garden was Mack's soul and that they had been working together, uprooting with a purpose, in his heart.

## Chapter 10

Jesus invited Mack to come for a walk with him across the water to the other side of the lake. Mack's fear about stepping onto the water leads to a discussion about fear in general and how imagination can living in the future or past vs. living in the present can lead to fear. Jesus explained that fear is in opposition to the fact that God is good and he loves us – as Mack's belief that God is good and loves him increases, his fear will decrease. They also discussed creation and the relationship that God intended man and woman to share and how the fall affected that relationship. Jesus kept reminding Mack throughout all their conversations that he is not about performance, but about being – about who people really are, not what they do. Ultimately, Jesus doesn't want Mack to to 'be like Jesus' (in other words, changing how Mack behaves) so much as he wants Mack to let Jesus be in Mack (changing who Mack really is).

## Chapter 11

Jesus sent Mack into a dark cave where he met this beautiful woman who is the judge. As she and Mack talked, it surfaced that he didn't think that God truly loved all his kids, or Missy wouldn't have been murdered; in light of that, she asked Mack to take her place and be the judge. He says he isn't fit to judge, but she reminds him of a lifetime of judgments he has made based on very superficial criteria known to man. She started by asking if he would judge the man who murdered Missy – that was easy for Mack. So she asked about that man's father who twisted him from childhood into this sort of man – and yes, Mack wanted to judge him too. She pointed out that the legacy goes all the way back to Adam and the fall, and ultimately to God who created us with the ability to choose and who allowed sin to enter the world. So what was Mack's judgment on God, for wasn't it he, ultimately, who allowed Missy to be killed? Didn't God fail Mack and Missy both as a father? Surely if God loved Missy the way Mack loved Missy he would never have allowed this to happen? Mack conceded; he judged that God was to blame.

The judge pointed out that if Mack was able thus easily to judge God himself, surely judging mankind then would be no problem. She said he had to choose 2 of his children to go to heaven and the other 3 to go to hell – as that is how he believed God judged the world and chose who would go to heaven/hell. She pointed out that Mack's daughter Kate was particularly troublesome, treated him unkindly and was angry with him, so maybe she should be the first to go. But, Mack realized that even if one of kids committed some horrible crime, even still he loved them too much to condemn them to hell. So, Mack asked if he could go to hell instead of his children, if he could take their punishment. The judge said that finally Mack was sounding like Jesus, judging humanity worthy of love, even at great cost to himself.

Then Mack was allowed to see Missy through a waterfall acting as a one-way mirror. Missy couldn't see him, but knew he was there and was able to tell him she loved him and that she was OK. Mack confessed to the judge the guilt he had carried around for judging himself a failure to protect Missy and was finally freed from that burden, knowing that Missy had never blamed him.

## Chapter 12

As Jesus and Mack head back across the water, Mack confides that he has always been troubled by the idea of Missy all alone with her abductor. Jesus explains that she wasn't alone; he was with her the whole time and that as they talked she gained great peace and even prayed for her family during that time. Their talk then turned to the institutions of politics, religion and marriage. Jesus pointed out that he has never been fond of institutions, he is all about relationships. He doesn't want religious service, but people who love him and are in relationship with him. He also explained that not all religions are roads that lead to him, but that he would travel any road to find and redeem the lost.

## Chapter 13

Mack and Papa talked about his reunion with Missy through the waterfall and suddenly Mack thought of Missy's favorite legend of the Indian princess whose death over the waterfall saved her people – was it for him that Missy had to die? Papa said that his ability to work good out of Missy's death didn't mean he needed Missy's death to work good – so no, Missy didn't have to die for Mack's sake.

Mack confessed that he had always liked Jesus more – he felt Papa was the stern disciplinarian while Jesus was the loving, forgiving one. Therefore he had never enjoyed being in the presence of Papa. Papa explained that Jesus represented Papa's heart perfectly while he was on earth, so to know Jesus, to love Jesus, should also be to know and love Papa.

Papa also confronted Mack on the little lies he had been telling himself and others. Lies to “protect” others that were really only to protect himself and which, ultimately, hinder relationship. She also showed him how his choices caused his pain which ultimately drove him to her. She explained that love never forces anything or anyone into relationship, but love was why Jesus was willing to die on the cross, to open the way for that relationship to happen.

## Chapter 14

Sarayu helped Mack see that emotions are neither bad nor good in themselves, they just are. They add color to life but are generally a response to perception, so when based on right perceptions can be very good things and when based on wrong perceptions can be harmful. The point is to be living in truth in the first place. And truth is that knowing God isn't about following “rules” and knowing the right answer, but about knowing the Living Answer. The Ten Commandments were a mirror to show humanity how dirty it was and bring them in humility to God who saves from that filth, but instead became something which humans used to gain independence and control and the power to judge others. She explained how “responsibility” and “expectation” are words full of law, fear and judgment and have no place in God's relationship with mankind. Instead of responsibilities which would be duties to perform, God gave abilities to mankind, namely the ability to respond to in relationship to Papa. And instead of expectations for mankind, there is an expectancy with no concrete definitions – it's an excitement and hopefulness about what that relationship will bring. It's the difference between nouns

and verbs. Nouns are dead, verbs are alive and active. On a final note, Jesus pointed out that he didn't want to be at the top of the pyramid of values in Mack's life, rather he wanted to be the center of the mobile from which all aspects of Mack's life are connected.

## Chapter 15

Sarayu opened Mack's eyes so that he could, for one night, see what they (God) saw. He saw a beautiful spectacle of lights and color that emanated from living beings as they gathered together, each one full of colors unique to them. One particular being kept erupting in uncontrollable light and color – it was Mack's father who was so overjoyed to see Mack he couldn't contain himself. Mack embraced his father and apologized and said he loved him and noticed the darker colors of his father's being were changed to blood red. Jesus entered the throng of people who had been clearly waiting for him, told Mack he was "especially fond of him", and Sarayu and Mack were alone again as his sight was once more human.

## Chapter 16

The next morning Papa, now appearing as an older man with silver hair and a goatee, woke Mack, explaining that Mack was going to need a father for what they had to do. Papa took Mack on a hike out into the woods where he showed Mack a red arc that was painted on several rocks – signs the killer used to mark his trail. Papa led Mack to a cave that contained Missy's body so that Mack could bury her and have the closure he had so often asked for. But, before they reached her body, Papa asked Mack to forgive her killer. He explained that forgiveness does not necessarily mean he and the killer now enter into a relationship, but that Mack no longer holds on to his hate and unforgiveness. It's not to forget it happened, but to love him in the face of it. Papa reminded Mack that her killer was one of his creation too, one he also loved and hurt for and would like to redeem. So, as Mack carried Missy's body down the trail, he verbally declared over and over, "I forgive you".

## Chapter 17

Missy's body was buried in a casket that Jesus made for her, the details of her life carved into the outside of the box. Jesus said that Missy helped pick out the carvings, one of which was the ladybug pin the killer left behind. Sarayu told Mack they would bury Missy's body in the spot in the garden which he helped clear only the day before. Sarayu sang a song as they buried her, one that Missy wrote just for the occasion. Mack's tears watered the soil and a tree of life grew up at her gravesite, in the garden of Mack's heart.

Papa presented a choice to Mack, he could remain with them (and consequently get to see Missy) or return home to his family. Either way, Papa promised they would be with him always, though maybe not as tangibly as they were currently if he chose to return to his family. Mack asked if his choice mattered, if it made no difference, he would stay. But Papa said that everything mattered. So, Mack decided to return home in hopes of being able to make some difference to his family, to the world.

Besides, if he didn't return, he would be adding more pain and sorrow to his wife and children, and that he didn't want to do. Because he had chosen to return, Papa gave Mack a little insight into the pain and struggle going on in Kate – she thought it was her fault Missy died, because it was her actions which tipped the canoe and set the whole train of events in motion.

After dinner, Mack fell asleep and awoke to the cold dilapidated shack with Missy's blood stains that he had been in days before. He began the drive home, happily thinking how he would begin to tell Nan and the kids all about his time with Papa, Jesus and Sarayu, when a car ran a red light and plowed into his.

## Chapter 18

Four days later, Mack awoke in a hospital. The details about the shack were a bit fuzzy until Willie reminded him about the note and his purpose for going out there. Then his memory began to come back. He and Nan started to share their sides of the story. Nan told him that the accident happened on Friday night, the day he headed out to the shack, not on Sunday when he thought he was returning. But Mack assumed it must be one of those instances where God is out of time. Nan listened to his story and through time began to believe. The thing which sealed her believe was when Mack was able to finally put Kate at rest that nothing was her fault and unlock the pain and guilt she had been living in.

Mack decided to tell Tommy, the officer who had helped him in the search for Missy, about his experience with God and ask Tommy to help him go to the cave in search of her body – Mack suspected that her body might still be there, despite having buried it with Papa. Following the red arcs, Mack led Tommy right to the cave, and Missy's body. The police were able to locate the other bodies of girls whom the Little Ladykiller had killed, and the killer himself, based on the clues they found at Missy's cave.

## After Words

Mack is testifying at the Ladykiller trial, hoping to visit with the man accused. He is hoping for a revolution revolving around Jesus in the world, centered on love and service. Willie says his life has been changed by this story, and whether it's completely true or not, he wants it to be true.

## Characters

**Mackenzie Allen Phillips “Mack”** - At 13, he put poison in his abusive, alcoholic father's beer bottles and ran away from home. Years later one of his daughters is abducted and murdered. He has an encounter with God who helps him deal with all the pains of his past.

**William Paul Young “Willie”** – Author of The Shack. Is presented as a close friend of Mack's whom Mack asks to write the story.

**Nan Phillips** – Mack's wife

**Melissa “Missy” Phillips**– Daughter of Mack and Nan who was abducted and murdered.

**Jon, Tyler, Josh and Katherine “Kate” Phillips** – Mack and Nan’s living children, siblings of Missy

**Papa** – Nan’s affectionate name for God the Father (a nickname which Mack comes to adopt as well)

**Ducette Family** – met and became friends with the Phillips and Maddison families while camping.

**Emil & Vicky Ducette** – parents of Amber, Emmy and JJ. Helped Mack in time of crisis.

**Amber, Emmy & JJ Ducette** - Ducette children

**Jesse & Sarah Maddison** – met and became friends with the Phillips and Ducette families while camping. Were a help to Mack and his family in time of crisis.

**Jeremy Bellamy** – campground assistant manager who helped in search for Missy

**Virgil Thomas** – camper who saw Missy and her captor leaving the campsite

**Officer Tommy Dalton** – Helped with the search for Missy

**Agent Samantha “Sam” Wikowsky** – FBI special agent who has been trying to capture the Little Ladykiller and assisted in the search for Missy

**Elousia** or **Papa** –Initially an African American woman whom Mack meets at the shack. Elousia means Creator God who is truly real. Is the Father; is God.

**Sarayu** - Asian woman who shimmers, is hard to see clearly and whose hair blows about as if in the wind even when there is no wind. Mack meets her at the shack. Sarayu means wind and is the Holy Spirit; is God.

**Jesus** –Hebrew laborer man, in his thirties whom Mack meets at the shack. Is the Son; is God.

**Sophia** – The Judge – a beautiful Hispanic looking woman who is the personification of Papa’s wisdom (just as in Proverbs, wisdom is personified as a woman)

Quotes for Discussion:

“I guess part of me would like to believe that God would care enough about me to send a note.” – Mack

“Maybe what happened to Missy is God’s judgment for what I did to my own dad.” – Mack

“He usually makes uncomfortable sense in a world where most folks would rather just hear what they are used to hearing, which is often not much of anything.” – Willie

“I suppose that since most of our hurts come through relationships so will our healing, and I know that grace rarely makes sense for those looking in from the outside.” – Willie

“He wanted a narrative to help him express to [his family] not only the depth of his love, but also to help them understand what had been going on in his inside world. You know that place: where there is just you alone – and maybe God, if you believe in him. Of course, God might be there even if you don’t believe in him. That would be just like him. He hasn’t been called the Grand Interferer for nothing.” – Willie

“Suffice it to say that while some things may not be scientifically provable, they can still be true nonetheless.” – Willie

“Perhaps there is suprarationality: reason beyond the normal definitions of fact or data-based logic; something that only makes sense if you can see a bigger picture of reality. Maybe that is where faith fits in.”

“We routinely disqualify testimony that would plead for extenuation. That is, we are so persuaded of the rightness of our judgment as to invalidate evidence that does not confirm us in it. Nothing that deserves to be called truth could ever be arrived at by such means.” Marilynne Robinson, *The Death of Adam*

“So where are you? I thought you wanted to meet me here. Well, I’m here, God. And you? You’re nowhere to be found! You’ve never been around when I’ve needed you – not when I was a little boy, not when I lost Missy. Not now! Some ‘Papa’ you are!” – Mack

“No matter what God’s power may be, the first aspect of God is never that of the absolute Master; the Almighty. It is that of the God who puts himself on our human level and limits himself.” Jacques Ellul, *Anarchy and Christianity*

“Don’t go because you feel obligated. That won’t get you any points around here. Go because it’s what you *want* to do.” – Jesus

“He had always wanted a Papa he could trust, but he wasn’t sure he’d find it here, especially if this one couldn’t even protect his Missy.” – Mack

“I often find that getting head issues out of the way first makes the heart stuff easier to work on later... when you’re ready.” – Papa

“I am neither male nor female, even though both genders are derived from my nature. If I choose to *appear* to you as a man or a woman, it’s because I love you. For me to appear to you as a woman and suggest that you call me Papa is simply to mix metaphors, to help you keep from falling so easily back into your religious conditioning.... To reveal myself to you as a very large, white grandfather figure with flowing beard, like Gandalf, would simply reinforce your religious stereotypes, and this weekend is *not* about reinforcing your religious stereotypes.... Hasn’t it always been a problem for you to embrace me as your father? And after what you’ve been through, you couldn’t very well handle a father right now, could you?” – Papa

“The Truth shall set you free and the Truth has a name [Jesus].... Everything is a bout *him*. And freedom is a process that happens inside a relationship with him. Then all that stuff you feel churnin’ around *inside* you will start to work its way out.” – Papa

“Will you at least consider this: When all you can see is your pain, perhaps then you lose sight of me?” – Papa

“Most birds were created to fly. Being grounded for them is a limitation within their ability to fly, not the other way round.... You, on the other hand, were created to be loved. So for you to live as if you were unloved is a limitation, not the other way around.... Living unloved is like dipping a bird’s wings and removing its ability to fly.... Pain has a way of dipping our wings and keeping us from being able to fly.... And if left unresolved for very long, you can almost forget that you were ever created to fly in the first place.” – Papa

“The problem is that many folks try to grasp some sense of who I am by taking the best version of themselves, projecting that to the nth degree, factoring in all the goodness they can perceive, which often isn’t much, and then call *that* God. And while it may seem like a noble effort, the truth is that it falls pitifully short of who I really am. I’m not merely the best version of you that you can think of. I am far more than that, above and beyond all that you can ask or think.” – Papa

“You don’t play a game or color a picture with a child to show your superiority. Rather, you choose to limit yourself so as to facilitate and honor that relationship. You will even lose a competition to accomplish love. It is not about winning and losing, but about love and respect.” – Sarayu

“Relationships are never about power, and one way to avoid the will to power is to choose to limit oneself – to serve.” – Sarayu

“I don’t need to punish people for sin. Sin is its own punishment, devouring you from the inside. It’s not my purpose to punish it; it’s my joy to cure it.” – Papa

“The real underlying flaw in your life, Mackenzie, is that you don’t think that I am good. If you knew I was good and that everything – the means, the ends, and all the processes of individual lives – is all covered by my goodness, then while you might not always understand what I am doing, you would trust me.” – Papa

“You cannot produce trust just like you cannot ‘do’ humility. It either is or is not. Trust is the fruit of a relationship in which you know you are loved. Because you do not know that I love you, you *cannot* trust me.” – Sarayu

“Rumors of glory are often hidden inside of what many consider myths and tales.” – Sarayu

“Mack, do you realize that your imagination of the future, which is almost always dictated by fear of some kind, rarely, if ever, pictures me [God] there with you?” – Jesus

"[You have fear] because you don't believe. You don't know that we love you... To the degree that those fears have a place in your life, you neither believe that I am good nor know deep in your heart that I love you." – Jesus

"Being my follower is not trying to 'be like Jesus,' it means for your independence to be killed. I came to give you life, real life, my life. We will come and live our life inside of you, so that you begin to see with our eyes and hear with our ears, and touch with our hands, and think like we do." – Jesus

"You have [judged]. You have judged them worthy of love, even if it cost you everything. That is how Jesus loves." – The Judge

"Your world is severely broken. You demanded your independence, and now you are angry with the one who loved you enough to give it to you." – The Judge

"Give up being his judge and know Papa for who he is. Then you will be able to embrace his love in the midst of your pain, instead of pushing him away with your self-centered perception of how you think the universe should be." – The Judge

"The darkness hides the true size of fears and lies and regrets.... The truth is they are more shadow than reality, so they seem bigger in the dark. When the light shines into the places they live inside you, you start to see them for what they are." – Jesus

"Have you noticed that in your pain you assumed the worst of me?" – Jesus

"I have no desire to make them Christian, but I do want to join them in their transformation into sons and daughters of my Papa, into my brother and sisters, into my Beloved." – Jesus

"Most roads don't lead anywhere... [but] I will travel any road to find you." – Jesus

"Falsehood has an infinity of combinations, but truth has only one mode of being." – Jean Jacques Rousseau

"Just because I work incredible good out of unspeakable tragedies doesn't mean I orchestrate the tragedies. Don't ever assume that my using something means I caused it or that I need it to accomplish my purposes. That will only lead you to false notions about me." – Papa

"Grace doesn't depend on suffering to exist, but where there is suffering you will find grace in many facets and colors." – Papa

"It is not the nature of love to force a relationship but it is the Nature of love to open the way." – Papa

"Paradigms power perception and perceptions power emotions." – Sarayu

"The idea behind expectations requires that someone does not know the future or outcome and is trying to control behavior to get the desired result. Humans try to control behavior largely through expectations. I know you and everything about you. Why would I have an expectation other than what

I already know? That would be foolish. And because I have no expectations, you never disappoint me.”

– Papa

“I don’t just want a piece of you and a piece of your life. Even if you were able, which you are not, to give me the biggest piece, that is not what I want. I want all of you and all of every part of you and your day.” – Papa

“If anything matters, then everything matters.” – Sarayu