



Beautiful Dreamers
K. M. Ehrenfeldt

The Beautiful Dreamers Project

An old song resounds in the present moment, gathering together a bouquet of painted lilies, asking to be a gift for this point in time. During the initial Shelter-in-Place isolation, inspiration moved in the silence. . . The compelling draw towards photographing lilies and skies, and the rising of an old beloved tune came upon me without plan, only response, and now is to be shared. For in this moment there is a lot of difficulty, confusion, and suffering as the COVID-19 pandemic ravages the world. And I respond with an artist's gift, of this time, for this time.

It's a heartbreaking time during this pandemic; the contagion necessitates isolating the sick and the dying from their companions in life, and many are dying tragically. Experiencing the death of a loved one is hard enough in the best of circumstances, but recently, those who've died face their deaths in isolation from loved ones. In this, there is no space for the final exchange of words that arise in the moment when two steadfast hearts connect. Families grieve without proper closure — caregivers do their best to bridge, while suffering themselves as too many patients die. Overwhelming demands are making a relentless descent upon tired spirits, and we are all seeking relief.

Participating in the creative process is one of the ways in which I've been called upon to respond. This gift to all who've suffered is but one gesture, in hope that sharing a little beauty will help a few, while the world still needs so much. Though Beautiful Dreamer is an old song written in 1864 by Stephen Foster, whatever his intentions were have been lost to the mists of time. Artists are vessels for inspiration; their work may contain and express much more than the artist knows or intends. Though there are various interpretations to the verses in Beautiful Dreamer, it's apparent why it arose as a lyrical flow for this body of images, for this point in time. The lyrics of the Beautiful Dreamer serenade imply that the earthly life has been the dream and offer a perspective upon navigating the threshold of death itself, as if sung with love by the divine presence to the mortal being.

I offer this perspective, hoping that some beauty and impressions of crossing the threshold eases some grief or suffering about the thought of death and dying. Calla Lily, a flower of the divine feminine, is symbolic of death and rebirth. In this artwork, each is isolated, yet fills the space with its unique presence, its strength, grace and light, inviting embrace. Composed with sunlit skies, these lilies speak of transcendence. . . Beautiful Dreamers, may your souls rest in peace, remembering love, always.

Beautiful Dreamers – a Gift

These images of lilies set upon sunlit skies, linked to the lyrics of Beautiful Dreamer, have been created in honor of those who have passed during this pandemic, in compassionate stance for the loved ones who grieve, and in appreciative respect for those skillful and dedicated caregivers who are the bedside hearts and hands for us all. These images can be freely downloaded for your personal printing and enjoyment from: www.kmehrenfeldt.com.

I welcome hearing from those who know of COVID-19 units that would appreciate a set of images and a poster printed as a gift for their workers or families they interact with. I can be reached at kmehrenfeldt@icloud.com.

In case more clarity is needed regarding my intentions sharing this work, the following legalese is provided.

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