

PERSONAL MASTERY - REFLECTIONS IN VERSE

by
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Once upon a time, you see
There was a man, a lot like me;
Who in his lifelong quest to survive
Took a class numbered six twenty-five

This man was troubled and full of thought
For peace and happiness could not be bought;
and shackled and chained he seemed to be
to a big organization - the U. S. Navy

And in his dealings day to day
with various people and different ways;
he often wondered, but not aloud
If it was his destiny to fit in this crowd

He longed for freedom of thought and speech
for time to reflect and some time to teach;
the traits of leadership and value of man
instead of procedure and hate for Iran

His organization was led by a man
who was very different and lived by a plan;
of procedures and numbers - they were his goal
but the needs of his people he failed to console

This whole situation was troubling him so
and he often wondered either to stay or to go;
to another organization that uplifted man
and worked hard to value him again and again

It was at this time he enrolled in this class
another new subject with new tests to pass;
he studied the writings of Argyris and Short
and soon his bad feelings began to abort

For the goal of the class it was you see
to discover the ways of self-mastery;
and on the journey and a journey it was
he started to see there was light up above

The things he was learning were put to the test
in the venue he feared but soon liked the best;
the safe and reflective and oft double loop
he came to know it as Molly's Skills Group

He learned about listening, carefully I say
and to use "I" instead of "they";
He learned to inquire, to delve and to pry
Instead of living and believing a lie

But possibly the skill he valued the most
was one of courage not many could boast;
the skill that he learned, the one that is great
he began to self-differentiate

He looked into himself and made a decision
to work very hard on a personal vision;
one that would tie in his life and his goals
and hopefully guide him through rocky shoals

He vowed to devote his love and his time
to things that had value and lasting design;
a balance of family, career and himself
not always to things that could bring him wealth

By now you may realize, this man is me
someone now different, inspired and free;
to start on a journey away from the past
and focus on things that are meant to last.

I haven't decided the way I should go
to leave the Navy or still star in its show
But now I am confident and clearly see
the value and power of self-mastery.