



Jean Guichard *La Jument et Nido*

***"SOMETIMES: YOU HAVE TO BE LIGHTHOUSE OF STABILITY
SO THAT OTHERS MAY SEE"***

WHEN POETRY BECOMES THERAPY
Using God's Gift By Mike Guinn

The worst sight I've ever experienced was when this so-called spoken word poet used his charisma, words and wilds to woo some unsuspecting female into a sexual frenzy.

It was the most misuse of a God given talent I'd ever seen.

Well that person was... ME!

I used to be one of those party poets. A spoken word snake charmer, A sensuous sex soldier who believed that the only way to get attention was to write and emote feelings of lust in such a way that panties literally melted on the floor. But not any more.

Because what I've discovered is that The MAIN THING any artist should ever strive for is that his/her art invokes change.

Now it does not matter if that change is social, political, cultural, spiritual or artistic.

But it should provide a format for another soul's creative self expression that does not inhibit their spirit.

Two very powerful vehicles for that kind of powerful self expression are the arts of creative writing and performance poetry. We call it SPOKEN WORD!

With Spoken Word we can address more than just grammar, reading, public speaking, entertainment or heartfelt messages from the soul. We can teach young and old the value of critical thinking and respect. When applied correctly, Spoken Word can be utilized as an alternative method of motivating others to communicate their feelings in a safe but meaningful manner.

It is this fusion of art and life that has become a tremendously successful way to get our peers, audiences and more importantly, our youth to put down their play stations and pay attention.

More importantly it enhances SELF AWARENESS, SELF RESPECT AND RESPECT FOR THE THOUGHTS OF OTHERS.

There will be no singing, no rap, no instruments, no profanity or obscenity with this craft.

IT IS PURE!. Nothing but heart and soul. Because ... that is the essence of poetry. It's a measure of your true self.

So if you are a writer and you are serious about this craft, you will begin to inspire others by helping to organize and coordinate events can personally assure a safe haven for vulnerability, public forum that molds from within.

We all have a professional and personal responsibility as well as an artistic obligation to use this gift" for what God gave it to us for to inspire to teach to save lives. And all we have to do is swallow our pride, put our ego to the side and share our hearts in an atmosphere that cultivates hope and inspiration.

Because there is absolutely nothing more priceless, more powerful or more endearing than to hear a brand new voice open up their heart and allow us a front row seat at the doorstep of their soul. Because that's when poetry becomes what it's suppose to be...THERAPY FOR THE SOUL!