

INSIDE MYSELF

Hello out there, world!
It's me in here.
Can you see me?
Can you see past the mask that I wear?

Look beyond what your eyes can see...
Look beyond the MASK to my HEART—
Beyond the laughter to all the hidden thoughts.
For God's sake, please don't let my mask fool you.

My outside shell is really thick;
I'm having trouble getting out.
Who am I? You say I don't look or sound like myself?
That's because you've never taken the time
To really SEE or HEAR me...
The REAL me inside that is.

And what about the mask and the wall?
Oh, they're just the SHELL I told you about.
You say you thought that's me?
No, I'm just somewhere inside here.
They're just MY PROTECTION.

PROTECTION FROM WHAT, you say?
From whatever, whomever...
People...from Christian people...just like you.
If I stay behind the mask, and I stay inside the shell
I CAN'T BE HURT IN HERE.
You see, my shell and my mask...
Keep people at a safe distance...
Even Christ-followers like you.

You...and all the other people in the world...
They're chances to be hurt.

I'm safe inside here...
Inside my shell and behind my mask...
I won't ever be laughed at in here...
Never be misunderstood...
Never be rejected.

Because behind the shell and the mask
I DON'T FEEL IT.
It doesn't matter what happens inside to me then.

Come to think of it,
I'm becoming pretty COMFORTABLE
Behind the mask and inside the shell.
The shell is getting STRONGER everyday
And my mask is getting LARGER ...
To cover more of my face.

WHY SHOULD I EVER CHANGE ANYTHING NOW?

Hello, World!
Is anybody still listening out there to me?

What's that? What did you just say?
I thought I heard you say something a minute ago...
The voice was kind of faint but...
I thought it was something about...
YOU REALLY CARING ABOUT ME...
REALLY CARING.

It sounded human, the voice...pretty real...I thought.
I thought it was a "REAL VOICE..."
Taking time to look past all the stuff on the outside
To talk to the "REAL ME."

But maybe not. Maybe not.
I can't HEAR too well inside this shell...
I can't SEE too well with this mask covering my eyes.
I can't hear you...
Please don't go away...!
Please...don't...don't go away.

Well, I'm beginning to feel kind of stupid...
Kind of funny and awkward and embarrassed...
EMBARRASSED that I've just said all this stuff to you.

So I'll close up the hole up in my shell again
I'LL PUT THE MASK BACK OVER MY FACE...
And I'll crawl back deep inside...
To be real honest,
I guess I'm more comfortable in here anyway...

By the way...You...Christian that was just listening...
Would you do me just one more favor, please?
Just one more favor...if you're even still listening...

WOULD YOU FORGET THE STUFF I JUST SAID.



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