

# To Thine Own Self Be True

by Patty Summers



When animals make their transitions, or people for that matter, I find those who are close to them also make some kind of transition. With every “ending,” there is a new “beginning.”

Both of my household’s eldest female animals transitioned this spring, one cat and one dog. I have been sitting in reception of what I was to understand or grow into from this. What was my

new beginning? Both animals had very large presences in my family. The remaining cats handled the transition of the eldest cat with ease. However, the remaining dogs felt somewhat lost when Delphi, our eldest dog, transitioned. So I turned to our oldest dog to assume the role of the “Elder” dog in my family. I consider it an honorary role; however, my oldest dog was not taking on that role.

Since all of this occurred during my Level 2 animal communication workshop this spring, I decided to have one of the participants ask him about how I could help him in his new role as the “Elder”.

Her communication with him was as follows.

“Sorry Patty, but Sage doesn’t see himself as an Elder. What he enjoys is more of the grandfather role. Not as much pressure. He teaches by showing and working with those, instead of being the tribal elder. In the elder role, he finds himself more of a dictator and he doesn’t like that feeling. He enjoys physical action of doing and being an example. This is more who he is.”

I found myself thinking about Sage and how much the communication from the workshop participant resonated. When Sage’s original people asked if I was interested in adopting him, my first inclination was to decline. But as I observed the lanky, red Border collie, I began to sense his essence. Outwardly there was nothing extraordinary about his appearance, but inward was the essence of a being who truly was comfortable in his fur. He is someone who has nothing to prove and listens to his own inner wisdom. He embodies the essence of a “Sage,” or “grandfather wisdom energy.”

As I read what she received from my Sage, I knew I had received my answer as to what my new beginning was. I was clinging to the security of sameness, but in doing so I was pressuring another to conform into a role that they were not suited for or comfortable with. Instead of seeking security in having things stay the same; it was time to allow a complete, fresh new beginning. In so doing each individual can contribute from who they are, not who I wanted them to be or felt I needed them to be due to past experience.

New beginnings can be scary. You don’t know what to expect or how this will all work. Yet change brings growth and opportunities for expansion. Inner wisdom is available at any time from those who have gone before us. They are providing steady shoulders for us to stand upon, so that we can more clearly see the next step.

There is a small matted print in the consult room of my business office that says, “The challenge is to be yourself in a world that is trying to make you like everyone else.” I purchased that print because it is a personal reminder for me to be myself.

Today as I think on that quote, I stand in appreciation for the wonderful teacher in my life who accepted that “challenge” of being true to himself, regardless of the pressure he was receiving to conform to the roles of the animals before him.

In Kinship,  
Patty

