

## Title: “The Phoenix’s Tear” — A Flash Fiction by Dominic

In the land of Etherea, where the skies were painted in hues of perpetual twilight and mountains floated on unseen currents, there was a legend of the Phoenix’s Tear. It was said to grant the power to rewrite destiny.

Aurelia, a young alchemist with fiery red hair and a spirit to match, had journeyed far to find it. Her homeland, a village named Solara, was under a curse that turned day into night and joy into sorrow. Only the Phoenix’s Tear could break it.

As she entered the enchanted forest of Lumira, a voice echoed through the trees. “Many have sought the Tear, but none have returned.”

Aurelia tightened her grip on her staff. “I am not like the others. I have a purpose.”

A shadowy figure materialized before her, a woman cloaked in darkness, eyes gleaming like shards of obsidian. “Purpose or not, the trials will test your very soul.”

“I am ready,” Aurelia declared, her voice unwavering.

The first trial was the Mirror of Truth. Aurelia stood before a reflective pool that shimmered with ethereal light. As she gazed into it, her reflection twisted into a monstrous form, a visage of all her fears and doubts. “You are not worthy,” it hissed.

Aurelia’s heart pounded, but she took a deep breath. “You are just a reflection. You do not define me.” The mirror shattered, its shards dissolving into the air.

Next, she faced the Fire of Memories. Flames danced around her, showing scenes from her past—failures, losses, moments of despair. But Aurelia stepped forward, embracing the heat. “These memories shaped me, but they do not bind me,” she whispered, pushing through the flames.

Finally, she reached the Chamber of Whispers, where voices of loved ones called out, pleading for her to turn back. “Stay with us, Aurelia,” they begged.

Tears streamed down her face, but she pressed on. “I must save you. I must save Solara.” At the heart of the chamber lay the Phoenix, a magnificent creature of flames and feathers. It shed a single tear, which glowed with unimaginable power.

Aurelia approached, her hand trembling as she reached for it. “Please, grant me the strength to save my home.”

The Phoenix’s Tear merged with her, filling her with radiant energy. With newfound power, Aurelia returned to Solara, her heart ablaze with hope.

As she poured the Phoenix’s Tear over the cursed village, the darkness lifted, and dawn broke over Etherea for the first time in years. The people of Solara rejoiced, their laughter ringing out like a symphony.

Aurelia stood at the village’s edge, looking toward the horizon. She had conquered her fears, faced her past, and rewritten her destiny. And in doing so, she had given Solara a new beginning. In the annals of Etherea, the legend of the Phoenix’s Tear was forever entwined with the tale of a brave alchemist who dared to defy fate and change the world.

~Dominic

With each passing day, we are presented with new challenges and obstacles. Each day also presents to us new opportunities to conquer those challenges and obstacles. While the days prior may have worn us down, we restart the game of life with every sunrise and are given a new chance to progress, laugh, love, and enjoy everything life has to offer. The transgressions of yesterday have passed and a new day with endless possibilities await. Look at the beaming sun rising and feel a sense of hope knowing you can change your course at any moment and begin anew. Remain hopeful, keep God at the forefront of everything you do, and always keep moving forward.

~Jane Farmer



St. Francis Breadline  
Franciscan Bread for the Poor  
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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If you have any content to share for our newsletter please see one of the breadline staff. **We are in need of content such as a poem, lyrics, writing, thoughts, questions, image of your artwork or anything uplifting or informative.** Anyone who contributes content for our newsletter will receive a \$10 gift card.

**The St. Francis Breadline and this publication is made possible by the Our Lady of Guadalupe.**

### FRANCISCAN 360 IS OPEN!

**WHAT:** Case Management, Computer Access, Mailing Address, Health Clinic

**WHERE:** 144 W. 32nd Street

**WHEN:** Monday - Thursday, 9am - 4pm

**WHO:** All are welcome!

**NEW:** Art and Guitar classes, Work space available Tuesday 9am -11am

*Located in the school house directly behind the breadline tables.*

**Good Morning!** This week we have writing from Dominic, writing from Henry Yee, art and a message from Ramona Pride, writing from Jane Farmer, writing and an interview from Cora Shaw, writing from Derrick Brown and artwork from Lola.

### Answers to last week’s riddles:

There are five sisters in a room. Anne is reading a book, Margaret is cooking, Kate is playing chess, and Marie is doing the laundry. What’s the fifth sister doing? Playing chess with Kate.

There are two ducks in front of a duck, two ducks behind a duck and a duck in the middle. How many ducks are there? There are three ducks.

If there are 12 fish and half of them drown, how many are left? 12 Fish don’t drown!

### Be the first to solve all three riddles and win a gift card.

What five-letter word has one left when two letters are removed?

What has a bottom at the top?

Forwards I am heavy, backward I am not. What am I?

Isaiah 43:18-19

*“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.*”

### God Love One And All

Love another as I have loved you. No other words have ever feel so true. Love your enemies, your friends, your neighbors, yourself. It all starts with you, before you can love someone else.

God makes no mistakes, and he made none in all creation. He created us all in his own image, in every city and every nation. So never judge yourself ,and do not think what you see as flawed. God see only his beautiful creation, he sees flawless beauty in us all.

~Henry Yee

## INTERVIEW WITH Cora Shaw

**Where did you grow up?** Johnston County, North Carolina

**What is your favorite place to be and why?** Hawaii

The multitude of questions explain its versatility in nature, an Island with beautiful surroundings, clear blue water, fresh air and sunshine for relaxation and enjoyment, it's healing.

**Dream job?** Mission, with Ministry, media, medical and law background, Public Speaking and Entertainment.

**Favorite pastime?** Traveling and being with privileges as before. Enjoying life, God's creation, nature and significant, meaningful relationships and social and Christian events, as well as Women's Support Groups involving Women's conferences, Seminars and elderly, etc, which I've been with privileges and opportunities as speaker and counselor.

**What do you want to be when you were a kid?** A promoter, producer, actress or lawyer and public speaker. Also, I possess special attributes and values relating Shepherd's care (medical and spiritual) in leadership capacity for elderly and children.

**If you could have one superpower what would it be?** Special abilities and spiritual giftedness with acute discernment, Angelic beings God imparts and empowers one with for survival.

**What would you do if you won the lottery?** I don't play the lottery however if good fortune happen financially, I'd spend it as a good steward for business, media, mission to further advance the mission and gospel, My love and benevolence to St. Francis and certain other ministries of good will and support though my crises and support for my daughter concerning college and other students and other ministers, ministers struggling who are devoted.

**The biggest lesson you've learned in life?** Being a good listener with direction at all times not 99 percent of the time, but sensitive to God's leading, each time his spirit guide you.

I've been at risk for my safety and wellbeing in New York, multiple times and encountered with dangerous occurrence's involving violence, being violated and repeated thefts causing serious injuries, and disabilities presently recovering. I learned the importance of not ignoring my heart with God's guidance in matters and direction in life at all times, but sensitively listening and following his guidance and that he guides around pitfalls and protect from harm, when we listen.

**What would you change about yourself if you could?** Complications as happened, Injuries affecting well-fitness. I'd be ready for the marathon today if it didn't happen, physically violated as happened. Advice for anyone reading this? Carefully consider your purpose, acquaintances, your direction, your destiny and your ability to deal and cope for survival, keeping focus on this significance arriving your destiny in time by making right choices, allowing God's help and guidance through life for your successful outcome.



Until I got honest about my addiction to drugs and alcohol, my codependency, my workaholicism, there was no hope that I would recover to under cover from any of these things. Honestly about the things that are harming us can come in fits and starts for some of us. I starts with self- honesty, the inner knowing sometimes accompanied by a sinking feeling that the jig is up coupled with the inner knowing that somethings got to give, go or change, Maybe you remember when that moment was for you. The moment that you got honest with yourself. Getting honest with ourselves and then getting honest with others are big steps.

~Derrick Brown

There is enlightenment in having no more than the bare necessities of life. One will find a unique sense of serenity once one lets go of their emotional attachment to material possessions and replaces it with a sense of tranquility. Worldly possessions give us a false and temporary sense of happiness and satisfaction. True happiness cannot be dissolved with the loss of physical objects, but instead, is found in a person's soul and is dictated by the traits that make up the spirit such as, kindness and generosity. Luke 12:15, "Take heed! Beware of all covetousness. For a man's life does not consist of the things he has." To have as little material objects as possible is to live in the same manner as our Lord and savior Jesus Christ and detaching ourselves from the objects of the material world we live in brings us closer to the spiritual world we descend from, just as He intended. Whether you have given away what you have or lost what you had, happiness comes from taking pleasure in the little things rather than our belongings. To those with both more and less: look at the sky, look at the trees, look at the ground, look at the grass; feel the wind and the rain and smile. Find comfort in all of the little blessings the Lord has put on this earth for us to enjoy and you will always be wealthy.

ACTS 18:6 AND when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them,

'YOUR blood be on your own heads, I am innocent. Romans 9:14. What shall we say then/. Is there injustice on God's part. By no means.

We make our vows for good conscience sakes with efforts and endeavors concerning positive incentive, yet at times challenged and opposed in our well meaning tendencies and accomplishments. There are obstacles with purposes of hindering your progress, distracting your focus, and denying your opportunities and accomplishments for succeeding in life. Jesus, encountered opposition and character assassination (slander and false accusation), constantly opposed by his opponents yet maintained his innocency and integrity against the odds. He controlled his negative circumstances instead by keeping focus of his meaningful purpose and direction determining his outcome from injustice. He appropriated wisdom in his knowledge of those in his circumstance by exercising good judgement and maintained his winning attitude that contributed to his successful outcome in each situation. He was confident and did not succumb his circumstances. Jesus was not defeated, likewise we must be encouraged through life's circumstances in the light of Jesus sufferings and challenge with the choices he exercised wisdom for overcoming obstacles and oppositions. Through faith you can leap over walls, run through troops, and climb mountains from valley experiences. I AM, Jesus is in every circumstance carefully observing with your concerns his desire to help you cope and survive and conquer your giants, your injustices, oppositions. You are not defeated, Trust him from pitfalls and obstacles (valleys) to your mountaintop, Jordons crossing (higher advancements) concerning your destiny.

~Minister Cora Shaw

### A Quest! for Sunshine



As a new day gives another reason to say: "today" is a good day! If that new day heavies, the heart + the mind, still say "it was a good day" for as the hours pass, so does time, and you too shall pass on those most famous words to rebuild self! Today was a good day; quote always!

~Ramona Pride



Cartoon by Lola