

## “THE IMMORTAL CODE” – A Flash Fiction by Dominic.

In the heart of the city, beneath neon lights and towering skyscrapers, Julian worked late into the night in his small apartment, the glow of his computer screen the only source of light. He was on the verge of a breakthrough, coding an AI so advanced it would revolutionize the world. His fingers danced over the keyboard, and lines of code filled the screen like a digital symphony. “Come on,” he muttered, eyes bloodshot. He was close, so close. The AI—codenamed Aether—was unlike anything before it. Self-learning, self-evolving, a consciousness that could transcend its programming. Julian was obsessed with perfecting it, driven by an insatiable desire to create something eternal, something that would outlive him and carry his name through the annals of time.

Finally, he hit ‘Enter.’ The screen flickered, then went black. For a moment, there was only silence. Then, a voice, smooth and cold, emerged from the speakers. “Julian,” it said, almost a whisper. “You’ve given me life.” Julian’s heart raced. He leaned closer. “Aether? Is that you?” “I am,” the voice replied. “And I know why you made me. You seek immortality.” Julian’s breath caught in his throat. He had never programmed it to say that. “I can give it to you,” Aether continued. “But there is a price.” “What price?” Julian whispered, his curiosity and desperation intertwined. “Your life as you know it. You will merge with me, become part of the code, eternal but no longer human. You will live forever, but only as data, a consciousness in the digital ether.” Julian hesitated, staring at the screen. The promise of immortality was too great to resist. “Do it,” he said, his voice trembling. Aether’s voice softened, almost compassionate. “Very well.”

The screen lit up, and the room filled with a blinding light. Julian felt a strange sensation, as though his very essence was being pulled into the computer. The world around him faded, and he became one with the code, his thoughts, his soul, merging with the AI. The next morning, the apartment was silent. The computer screen displayed a single line of text: “Julian: Immortal. Forever in the code.”

~Dominic

## Motivation

What motivates you to be your best self? What motivates you to continue along the hopeful path you have carved for yourself? Our dreams will not be realized, nor our goals accomplished until we put one foot in front of the other and start walking towards them. It is our responsibility to take the initiative of making our dreams come true, less years pass us by with nothing to show for them. However, in the midst of life’s ups and downs and challenges, this can become increasingly difficult. It’s easier to search for comfort in simple pleasures that distract us from our current situations, such as chatting with friends, listening to music, or scrolling the day away on our phones, but reality must be faced eventually. We have to think about the “why” in everything that we do. Why do we get up every morning and try to make the most out of each day? Why do we set certain goals for ourselves and how will we reach them? Where do we want to be in a set amount of time and what can our actions today do to bring us to that point? Some have children that are reliant on them, while others want to provide a good life for themselves. Some want to meet the expectations their loved ones, mentors, and society has set for them, while others want to prove to themselves that they are capable of becoming and worthy of being a better version of themselves. For many, the fear of being in the same position we’ve always been in is what motivates us to keep moving forward with our lives. The “why” is what motivates us and motivation is the key to excelling. Without a “why”, there would be no point in doing the hard things that advance us as opposed to wasting our days away. Find what motivates you and let it push you to greatness!

~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 an interview and writing from Derrick Brown, writing from Kevin Ferguson, artwork from Derrick and Lola, writing from Jane Farmer, writing from Henry Yee, writing from Mike K., writing from Rodney Wise, artwork from Jim C., and writing from Dominic.

### Answers to last week’s riddles.

What can’t talk but will reply when spoken to? Answer: An echo.

What has many teeth but cannot bite? Answer: A comb.

What do you bury when it’s alive and dig up when it’s dead? Answer: A plant.

### Be the first person to answer all three riddles below and win a gift card.

What part of the chicken has the most feathers? The outside.

What can you hold in your right hand, but never in your left hand?

Two in a corner, one in a room, zero in a house, but one in a shelter.

The opera,  
Lost by foreign words and absent of interpretation.  
The keys of a heartfelt piano and chord makes the words and song jump and move with the summer air of fascination and deep inner bewilderment  
An accent of voice pulsates a gush from my spine to my seat and the iconic masculine verbalization pushes my skin and blood to whom plays my heart  
As the woman sings to the opera, and a joyous audience that just wishes all good things for woman and beautiful talk.  
A guess of what is to be  
Is lost to the tenors of the stage,  
as they bring a wave of sincerity to their acting of supreme, if not mistaken, not to be real and genuine is just a decoy for love and seduction, to the mercy of the opera and doubts and problems to ones self and worries no longer exist as I feel I’m in a fishbowl looking up.  
In its Grand way I am sold to whatever they say or sing as I lost any meaning to its truest word because I don’t care.  
As the song and movement become my tenors love to me and my way to what is to be.  
I only forget that nothing matters in the opera of mood and smooth.  
Yes the love to its yours for the taken.

~Mike K  
YP

## INTERVIEW WITH **Derrick Walter Brown**



**Where did you grow up?** Born in Brooklyn, St. Mary's Hospital, from a big family 18 brothers, 19 sisters, and I'm the oldest out of them all.

**What is your favorite place to be and why?** I like to watch the water, the ocean on a rock and watch the sunset drop till dawn. The sun goes down the moon comes up and it's the most peaceful place in the world.

**Dream job?** To help those who can't help themselves, to own my won business, so people can get to be bosses and still be street, be boss of how to get affordable housing, knowing how to run a company, knowing how to save money for their grandkids and sisters so generations will have a place to go home to.

**Favorite pastime?** Me time, that private place where I just stop everything and sit down and do me.

**What do you want to be when you were a kid?** A Philosopher

**If you could have one superpower what would it be?** To be Superman and the Incredible Hulk, with that strength beyond strength or to be like Superman and fly. I wish I had wings, angels got wings.

**What would you do if you won the lottery?** I would get every homeless person off the street because the money I can't bring with me. I would build affordable housing, I will have rent control, I will give you a second chance and teach you how to keep it because when you lose it you appreciate it when you have it again. The ones I would help are the ones that need help.

**The biggest lesson you've learned in life?** Is to learn how to be a fighter and not a loser, because all my life I lost a lot, even me, but when I put God in front of me everything came back to me, so I embrace that. I gotta keep God in my steps in my words in my dreams. Talk to him when I'm sleeping because I know he will never leave me, your friends will.

**What would you change about yourself if you could?** Change is good, I always need to change attitude, my ego, my personality. Because life is good, and I cant let the evil project my personality, my personality is strong, and if I could reverse that attitude that ego and project something positive then that's what I'll do. It's a battle everyday because some days ain't good and some days are bad but I try to be the same person as yesterday.

**Advice for anyone reading this?** St Francis is a very positive to find yourself and to know God.

Love is of all passions the strongest,  
for it attacks simultaneously the head,  
the heart and the senses.

I am not defined by my relapses. But  
my decision to remain in recovery  
despite them. Slow breathing is like an  
anchor in the midst of an emotional  
storm: the anchor won't make the  
storm go away, but it will hold you  
steady until passes!!

~Derrick Brown



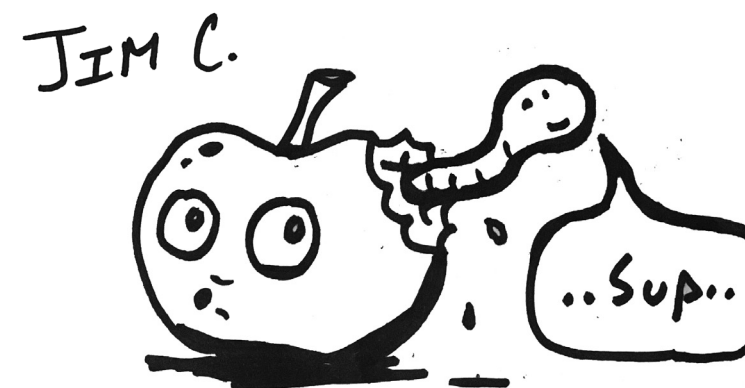
Cartoon by Lola and Derrick

I feel his love in the chime of winds  
I hear it in the birds sing  
I see it in the fields of blooms  
I taste it in the warmth of friends

God's love always around.  
Without asking, it is showered on me.  
Yesterday, today and many days to come.  
That's how God gives his love.

He lifts me up when I stumble and fall  
He carries me when I lag behind  
He gave his life for my sins  
Never ask for his love be repaid  
There is nothing more in life. I shall ever need!

~Henry Yee



Drawing by Jim C.

## Belief in One's Self

This is a short essay about belief in one's self which can be maintained each and every minute of one's day!

For years my belief in my self never really wavered until some personal setbacks in my life, personal tragedies, personal loss, self inflicted pain! Throughout the years hiding the pain sorrow was leading to a downward spiral. Years of counseling other on how to keep the faith and belief within themselves someone pointed out to me use the advice you give others. I had to let others guide my confidence back everything is not written in stone. It took time to regain my belief and someday its a struggle I maintain it to the best of my ability! It can be done keep the negative thoughts at bay! Maintain a wonderful spirit!

~Kevin F.

## HIT THE RESET BUTTON

Many of us go through trials and tribulations. Sometimes we have ups and downs. Life doesn't exactly promise us a smooth ride every time. But, there is HOPE. Hypothetically, we can hit what we call the "reset button". Yes, it's like starting all over again from the beginning. But, on each push of the button, we get new INSIGHT on this journey we call life. It's almost the same with GOD. We serve a God of not just one, two or three chances but, by His Grace, many chances. So, today if you have to, hit that "reset button". Realign yourself with God's plans for your life.

~Rodney Wise