

Hope

James Lynn Smith

(4.7 min)

Performers:

1. First Speaker/Narrator, 2. Second Speaker 3. Third Speaker

1/Narrator: Hope is a sustaining force. But is it actually justified? Do we even know what it is? Is it an unexplainable mystic force or something we are trained by society to have? Some might say it's wired in our brain. Others think it's a property of our soul. Sadly some say there *is* no hope and live for something to either prove them wrong or end the despair of pointless existence. Three people sitting on a backyard patio are discussing this issue.

3 What things in your world represent hope for you? What simple things help you feel hopeful?

2 What does hopeful *mean*?

3 It means there is no fear of the future. That it's going to be here and there will be good in it.

1 It also means that the parts that are bad won't be beyond your ability to deal with.

2 Even death?

- 1 Look around. Do you see dying to be the total end to *everything*? And do you see rebirth?
- 2 No, not a total end and yes plants sprout up from the dust where older things died.
- 1 It's an ongoing theme. There's nothing we can do about it. What's important is what we do with the present.
- 2 Should we try to do great things? I don't feel like I've done that yet. I'm not a rich philanthropist nor have I written a best-selling novel.
- 3 We should do what is available to us. It doesn't have to be something that gets you in the newspapers or on TV.
- 1 I agree. To me, truly learning to live with joy is a great thing. Too few people really learn that.
- 2 Why is that such a great thing? Seems selfish.
- 1 Do you believe you come from something? That everything about you had an origin?
- 2 Yes. Where's this leading?
- 1 Your very consciousness is not in you alone. It extends from an origin.

3 And if you are happy, the origin gets those vibes too.

1 And what would you say *is* the origin?

2 Oh...The First Cause. The Creator.

3 A primal force. The Spirit of being.

1 And wouldn't this Great Originator enjoy good vibes? Is that not a form of worship?

2 I see what you mean. God-in-us experiences what we do and feel. A joyous mind rewards the Source.

3 Right.

2 But happiness is not all there is. There are people in misery. War, bad health, starvation, deceit.

3 True, of course we should do whatever we can. Vote for the best leaders. Inform yourself about effective charities. Also treat those that have handicaps with respect. Diminished ability does not mean they can't have normal thoughts or send good vibes to God. Some might send the *best* vibes, with a little help.

1 Now *that's* a way you can be great!

2 Yes. Being *alone* with a difficulty is tough. But, you know, I've had times when I felt alone *inside* also. Like there was no floor between me and a chasm of insurmountable despair. Hope gives you this floor. Even when you are bothered and set upon by conflicts, it enables new starts, gives you a chance to dream again and build those vibrations into music.

1 Well said. Back to the first question, what around you speaks to you of hope? Simple things.

3 Now that you mention it, I think of the aroma of fresh coffee in the morning. It reminds me of the senses I usually take for granted. They provide the means to discover and feel some new delight during the day.

2 Seeing flowers sprout when spring comes. Birds chattering in trees also make me feel better. The sound is cheerful, like an omen for a good future.

1 Those trees you mentioned symbolize hope for me. They always reach for the sky. They struggle with drought, erosion and storms, but keep on reaching upward.

3 I feel it now. It's all around when you seek it. It's in your every breath, and every gentle breeze.

2 In a baby's first smile. In arising early to see the sunrise.

1 In the ripples of a pond when it begins to sprinkle.

3 And...in that calm, original presence that speaks from within: “You are not alone...I am here...I am here.

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