

Self-Assessment

"How are things with you, Mark? Did you stop fantasizing?"

"Yes ma'am. My... my name is not Mark, it's Federico Gustavo Merino Chavez. I was born in Mexico in the summer of 1961. I am professor of English Literature at UNAM, in Mexico. I enjoy stories and fantasizing. I got lost one day in the desert of Albuquerque looking for a friend, in December of 2015. Last year I was declared officially insane. Do you remember that, Doctor Crosby?"

"Yes, I do, Mark. I mean, Federico. Do you want to go home now?"

"Yes, ma'am. But I feel at home here, too. I have friends who care for me; I also care for them. Now, I know I will never stop fantasizing, and I enjoy creating stories. Four months ago I started writing a book, Voices in the Desert. It will be published this winter."

"I'm glad, Federico"

"Please call me Mark"

"Very well, Mark. You are free to go now."

"Thanks, Doctor. I guess it's time to find a new adventure, perhaps in England."

"Get lost again! We learn when we get lost. Just a question: who were those visitors?"

"The young man was my son; the young woman, my daughter; and the elderly man, an Indian friend I met in a religious ceremony in Albuquerque two years ago. They all cured me telling me things about my past. I guess the key was to remember, to remember and to face reality."

"What did the elderly man say to you?"

"His exact words were: "accept the love of the universe TO ALL YOUR RELATIONSHPS"

"I'm glad. Good luck Mark! You are a good man and were a good friend for many of us."

"Good bye, Doctor Crosby!"

