

# THE MAGIC OF FORGIVING

By Sylvia M. Foy

There is a beautiful magic in forgiving.  
And it's ours each and every time we forgive,  
Each time we give the gift of love  
To someone we initially found guilty of doing something wrong.

I once thought that forgiving was what I did if I was good.  
But I always forgave with a "but don't do it again."  
And when I forgave, I was slightly better than the one forgiven.  
I also thought I was supposed to forgive because God had forgiven me -  
And if I didn't forgive others, God would stop forgiving me.

Then I started understanding more about forgiveness -  
First forgiveness only works when I want to forgive,  
Rather than because I should or ought to.  
I started learning that in order to forgive  
I must first judge someone guilty.

I started to understand that to judge is an ego trip.  
"See how smart I am to know that you are guilty."  
And I started wondering "on what bases do I judge?"  
Do I judge with my "superior knowledge", my "superior learning,  
Interpretation, understanding, perception?"  
Maybe - just maybe - what really needs forgiving is my judging.

What does forgiving really mean?  
Maybe forgiving means giving up my judgement.  
My limited judgement is based only on what I've learned and  
My limited view of what's really going on.

When I forgive others, I must first forgive myself and  
When I forgive myself, I automatically forgive others.  
For I only judge others guilty of what  
I would consider myself guilty of doing.  
And when I forgive myself - I stop judging others guilty.  
If I believe God forgives me,  
What good does it do unless I accept God's forgiveness  
And start thinking of myself and others as forgiven.

When I really forgive,  
I reach the point of knowing that there was  
Nothing to forgive in the first place  
And I am free of the pain, guilt, anger, burden, and worry  
That I was carrying with me.  
I am free to be happy anytime, any place.  
I am free to be at peace.  
I am free to think of other things -  
And those I forgive are free to change or free to stay the same.

The magic of forgiveness is that it heals my pain!  
It allows Unconditional Love to grow in my world  
Until all guilt is gone, all fear is gone, all pain is gone,  
And only Love remains.