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### The End of the Beginning

Over the course of this immensely long year, I have gone on a journey. My objective was to define the word poetic, but it didn't take long for me to realize how impossible that is. It is one of those words that isn't hard to use to describe something, but it is hard to define alone without using examples; therefore, the only way to really put any meaning to it is in fact by using examples and associating traits with the word. I have concluded that the word "poetic" can be associated with three main traits – traits and characteristics of genuinely good people, physically beautiful and visually attractive objects or landscapes, and profound, meaningful sightings that touch a person internally where they feel love – and these ideas are interpreted by one's mind, body, and soul in a concurrent manner that truly makes life worth living.

The first of these key aspects of the word poetic is the idea of genuinely good people having characteristics and traits that make them this way. Being the creators of the mysterious term poetic, humans have somehow evolved to think consciously and live more than a life of just eating, sleeping, and reproducing. We are creative, and we create beautiful things. We stand up for what is right, and take daring steps to make our world a better place. As humans, we all have good traits in us that can be termed "poetic." No matter our situation, we can all be generous, loving, caring, brave, courageous, wise, intelligent, creative, colorful, and beautiful at some point in our lives. Many of these traits are innate, but others are learned over time, and which of these traits we get all depend on our genetics, environment growing up, and personal experiences. All of these wonderful characteristics influence how our soul comprehends life and how we interpret

adversity. The soul represents our consciousness and our being, so it only makes sense that the majestic traits that affect our worldviews come from and affect our soul.

Our enlarged brains play a big role in making us human, and the mind controls thinking and interpreting all things poetic. In addition, we have eyes that can detect quite a range of color. This ability makes for some rather wonderfully beautiful scenes that we can recall daily and enjoy for the rest of our lives. When it comes to natural scenes and objects, a huge part of making something poetic is how visually attractive it is; however, everybody interprets beauty in a different manner. For instance, in the poem “A Valentine for Ernest Mann,” a man gives two skunks to his wife for Valentine’s Day because he believes they have beautiful eyes, but she doesn’t like them for obvious reasons. This man saw beauty in a part of something that is looked down upon by society, but he did not let society change how he saw the skunks. The skunk’s eyes were beady, beautiful, gleaming black eyes, and that in itself made them poetic. The man’s mind picked up those traits and interpreted them as beautiful, and that’s all that matters.

The final and most important of these three concepts defining poetic is truly unexplainable, but I will do my best. Everybody at some point or another has had a moment after watching a great movie, seeing a newborn family member for the first time, hearing an amazing song, or experiencing the thrill of their life where they were just absolutely speechless and the only thing they could think was “Wow.” One of the best examples of this feeling appears in the movie *Pay it Forward*, when Trevor’s teacher Eugene argues with Trevor’s mom Arlene about letting Trevor’s immature, alcoholic father return to the home. Eugene tells the very emotional story of how he got his burns from his father lighting him on fire, and Arlene says, “Ricky would never do that!” Eugene responds with “Oh, Jesus, Arlene! He doesn’t have to. All he has to do is not love him.” This excerpt from the movie presents a perfect example of one of those situations

that left me speechless, and I get goose bumps just thinking about it. It astonishes me that humans have been able to use language and words to describe just about everything, yet I cannot explain this feeling; however, spiritual matters are usually unexplainable, so could God be involved in creating this feeling? Absolutely. There is no other way one could feel such a way. This feeling comes from one's soul, and it is truly heartfelt.

Although the end of the Poetic Vision project has finally arrived, it is certainly not the last time I will envision something poetically. Poetic Vision is a lifelong journey, and it cannot just suddenly end. There will be more poems to discover and write, movies to see, songs to hear, plays to enjoy, and extraordinary people to interview throughout my lifetime, and everybody else will share similar experiences. What makes the word poetic so special is that every single person will have his or her own definition, and no two will be quite the same, but one thing everybody can share is the feeling that God instills into one when they have a poetic experience, placing in their mind, heart, and soul a desire to do something, to make change, to gain more of the poetic traits humans are capable of using for the greater good.