

once i was blind but now i see

"leave them; they are blind guides. if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit." matt 15:14

helen keller learned to type on a braille typewriter and wrote many books between 1903 and 1941, including:

the story of my life, 1903  
optimism, 1903  
the world i live in, 1908  
the song of the stone wall, 1910  
out of the dark, 1913  
my religion, 1927  
midstream, 1930  
let us have faith, 1941  
the open door, 1957.

helen keller stated:

"i thank God for my handicaps, for, through them, o have found myself, my work, and my God." in the film documentary of her life, the unconquered, helen keller responded to the question, "can you see the world?" "i can see, and that is why i can be so happy, in what you call the dark, but which to me is golden. i can see a God-made world, not a man-made world."

on june 26, 1955, regarding reading the bible, helen keller stated: "it gives me a deep comforting sense that 'things seen are temporal and things unseen are eternal.'"

cultural views of handicapped persons is strikingly

different.

the traditional islamic attitude is that a handicapped person is being punished or cursed of allah. "such are the men whom allah has cursed for he has made them deaf and blinded their sight." (qur'an 47:23)

hindu and buddhist attitudes is that a handicapped person is being punished for sins of a supposed past life by an impersonal "bad" karma.

the socialist attitude is that a handicapped person is a burden on the state, being worth less because of their limited capacity to contribute to society.

the jewish attitude of defending the handicapped is in Lev 19:14: "thou shalt not curse the deaf, nor put a stumbling block before the blind, but shalt fear thy God: I am the Lord" and Deut 27:18, "cursed be he that maketh the blind to wander out of the way. and all the people shall say, amen."

the christian attitude was expressed by Jesus, who said: "whatever you have done unto the least of these my brethren you have done unto me."

helen keller stated: "just as all things upon earth represent and image forth all the realities of another world, so the bible is one mighty representative of the whole spiritual life of humanity."

"picture yourself stumbling and groping at noonday as in the night; your work, your independence, gone. in that dark world wouldn't you be glad if a friend took

you by the hand and said, 'come with me and i will teach you how to do some of the things you used to do when you could see?' you have heard how through a little word dropped from the fingers of another, a ray of light from another soul touched the darkness of my mind and i found myself, found the world, found God. it is because my teacher learned about me and broke through the dark, silent imprisonment which held me that i am able to work for myself and for others ..."

on february 5, 1955, at the age of 74, helen keller typed a message on a conventional typewriter during an interview with newsmen just prior to her 40,000 mile world-wide journey, much of which was by airplane: "it's wonderful to climb the liquid mountains of the sky. behind me and before me is God and i have no fears."

on june 26, 1955, the day before her 75th birthday, helen keller stated: "self-pity is our worst enemy and if we yield to it, we can never do anything wise in the world."

many thanks to william j. federer for his inexhaustible research in this matter.

-----

i wonder if any of us can truly relate to the world of a blind person. it is a darkness that would block out all light. the thing is, we are all walking in that darkness until we let the light of God's love pierce it's cloak.