

## Homage To Young Men

Nizlopi

I want to talk to all the young men out there  
It's for the women too, but especially the men,  
'cos it's tough to be a young man in this world  
You have to face so much heartbreak and loss  
In love and career and life  
It's easy to forget the meaning and give up  
To burn up or sell out to addictions, despair or greed  
Easy to forget that life's a journey  
with a beginning, a middle and an end  
It's about navigating the future, your future  
It's about learning to become a man who's real,  
and able to love

Are you waiting for me?  
Are your hands down in the dirt?  
We belong together  
I've been longing since my birth  
To be arms around you  
To be true to who we are  
To let all our pain out  
To be playing in your heart

So let's talk about the first stage of life  
The departure, when your boat is pushed out on the river  
Most of who you are is still your small self  
The you your family has made you,  
your schooling and your friends  
You've still not found your deep self, your Great Self,  
'cos that's what the journey's for  
So you set out, full of hope, but with a heavy load  
All the baggage of your upbringing  
All the love, yes, but the fuckedupness too  
Maybe the absent father, or the smothering mother,  
or the cold indifference of those around you  
It's no wonder you've a rough ride coming  
It's gonna get tough and it's got to  
So you can find yourself  
So you can become, a real man

And that's when you hit the second stage of life  
The initiation in the rapids and the storms  
That's when you find the pain of brokenheartedness  
Love affairs that fail, failures in career  
and all your hopes for what the world might have been  
Plenty young men founder grazed on such jagged rocks as these  
Bruised and angry in a storm of violence towards self and others  
But it doesn't have to stay like that  
No, my friends, not if you push on and open to the inner grace  
that will bring you courage  
The courage to face reality as it is,  
without lies  
The courage to know your wound but to outgrow it,  
and insist on beauty  
The courage to open your heart,  
to hold fast to truth,  
and to stand each step in dignity

And that's the courage that brings your boat to the third stage of life  
To see how your small self is held in a greater Self  
And that you're fit to be an elder in your community,  
able to share the gifts and the blessings  
Able to support and inspire what gives life among your people  
And to love your beloved,  
to love and be loved by the Beloved no less, my friends  
Because we're talking here of love in all its meanings  
And you can only love with a deepening heart  
And that is why you had to grow courage on this journey to the ocean  
That's what your battle wounds on the field of life were all about  
That, my dear friends,  
is what qualifies you  
to be a man in your community  
Capable of loving and able to be loved...  
Capable of loving  
and able to be loved...  
Capable of loving  
and able  
to be  
loved