

WAH-Chapter 5

The Battle for a Man's Heart

This chapter comes directly after 'the Wound' in Wild at Heart. Even though it does not get a specific video session in the DVD series, it is covered fully in the field book manual.

To give a man back his heart is the hardest mission on earth! What a statement. This must be worth our attention. The goal is to recognise the emasculation you've endured over the years, to uncover the famished craving you have for validation, and to reveal where you have taken that craving in hope of an answer. The assault on our masculine heart continues long after the 'wound' is given. We are wounded many times throughout life and nearly every blow falls in the same place: against a man's strength.

John talks about how his son Blaine was bullied at school and how it struck directly at the young boys heart.

1. What wounds did you receive at school? Were you taunted on the playground? Did they have a 'name' for you?

There is the tendency in our western society to detune boys. You cannot expect a boy to sit quietly all day. That's not how they are wired. This can be the start of emasculation if it is allowed and not corrected. Women are often attracted to the wilder side of a man, but once having caught him, they settle down to the task of domesticating him. Yet God made men the way they are because we *need* them to be the way they are.

2. Does your wife encourage you to be dangerous, to seek adventure, to take risks? In what ways does she affirm you as a man? Or how has she tried to tame you over the years?

Robert Bly said " We know that our society produces a plentiful *supply* of boys, but it seems to produce *fewer* and *fewer* men." There are two reasons for this occurring: a) We don't know how to initiate boys into manhood. b) We're not sure we really want to. Strength is essential to manhood. It is from a man's strength that gallantry, chivalry and heroes are made. To stand in the gap alone for truth is real manhood in action. We are now in the 'final battle' before Jesus returns. We are in the battle, like it or not, to defect is not an option. If you are a loner you will be taken out. You need a band of brothers around you.

3. Have you ever conceived life as a war? Do you write it off as associated to your culture, or upbringing or just bad luck? Do not confuse your mistakes, bad decisions you have made etc. as warfare. They're not! However, can you identify situations that may be directly attributable to the enemy at work in your life and your family over the last 12 months?

Do you know that IF you really got your heart back you would be a huge problem to the enemy? You and your band of brothers would cause him a lot of damage! But to get your heart back, you are going to have to FIGHT for it!

In search for the answer to our question '*Do I have what it takes?*' we have to know what we have done with our question. As a help ask yourself '*Where have I taken my question?*' The answer may be in where you spend most of your energy during the week? And, why are you spending it there? Or it could be related to 'belonging'. Where do you go for validation? Work? Sports? Money? But the deadliest place a man ever takes his search, the place every man seems to wind up, no matter what trail he's followed, is the woman.

4. So, where in your life are you looking for the answer to your question?

John tells his own story of his first school sweetheart and then how he went from woman to woman in the ongoing quest to 'find the woman who would make him feel like a real man.' Bly called it 'the search for the Golden haired woman.'

5. Did you eventually take your question to the woman? See pages 111-112 f.bk. List all the women in your life. Who pursued who? Who initiated the relationship? How did she make you feel as a man? Who broke it up? What were you looking for from her? Do you see a pattern emerging in your relationships? Is there a message about you as a man that has taken root?

When a man takes his question to the woman what happens is either addiction or emasculation. Usually both. A woman is a captivating thing. More captivating than anything else in all creation. If you have given her the power to validate you, you have also given her the power to invalidate you! That's the deadly catch. You must understand that your hunger for validation is deeper than legs, breasts and good sex. Eve is an absolute delight, there is no doubt about that but she is not everything you need, not even close!

6. Think about this thought 'I will never find what I am looking for in a woman!' What happens in your heart as you allow that to be true? Is it Sadness? Emptiness? Relief?

In our search for the answer to our question and our search for validation, we cannot hear the real answer until we see we've got the false one. So long as we chase the illusion, how can we face reality? John says, 'If we take our question to Eve, it will break our heart.' and 'You can't get your answer from any of the other things men chase after to find their sense of self worth.' And so no matter where you've taken your question, you've got to take it back. You have to walk away. That is the beginning of your journey.

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