

Did You Get What You Wanted From This Life?

In August 2000 Julie Murray, my spiritual director for a one-week directed retreat, led me to **Pathwork** and to the **Sevenoaks Pathwork Center** in Madison, Virginia, 20 miles north of Charlottesville. Her insight had a most profound impact on my life. She announced Pathwork to me by observing, "Gary, you are obviously quite serious about your spiritual journey, but you need an incredible amount of help. The only help I know that is strong enough to give you what you need is Donovan Thesenga at the Sevenoaks Pathwork Center." With her words as encouragement, I enrolled in the **five-year Pathwork Transformation Program at Sevenoaks** in October 2000, and have pursued Pathwork tirelessly ever since. Pathwork nourishes me today as much or more than it did when I began nearly 16 years ago.

Before my time with Julie ended that week, she was moved to share a poem with me as a kind of "send-off." It turned out to be a poem, [Late Fragment](#), by [Raymond Carver](#) and goes like this...

*And did you get what
you wanted from this life, even so?
I did.
And what did you want?
To call myself beloved,
to feel myself beloved on the earth.*

I remember these words as if they were given to me yesterday! Thank you Julie Murray. And yes, I, too, have received what I want from this life: **To call myself beloved, to feel myself beloved on the earth.** It has been a long and challenging journey!

Gary Vollbracht

Links:

<http://allpoetry.com/Late-Fragment>

<http://allpoetry.com/Raymond-Carver>