

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

~ With gratitude, I want to acknowledge the people who appear in the photographs. The presence they awaken in viewers of their images suggests what it might be like to have them meet one another and visit in the same room. They come from many countries and cultures: Dhaka, Bangladesh; Cincinnati, Ohio; Bangkok, Thailand; Jakarta, Indonesia; Calcutta, India; Vienna, Austria; The Navajo Reservation, Arizona; Dresden, Germany; Beijing, China; Bogota, Colombia; Canton, Mississippi; Dayton, Ohio; Chaing Mai, Thailand; Rochester, New York; Puebla, Mexico; Princeton, New Jersey; Xian, China.

~ This work reflects in its title and contents the insights of Martin Buber developed in his book "I and Thou" as well as the thoughts of Emmanuel Levinas in "The Face of the Other" from his book "Totality and Infinity."

~ The quotations accompanying the photographs are from the following sources: Chinese Proverb, p 15; Federico Garcia Lorca, p 17; Gerard Pottebaum, pp 19, 29, 63, 79; Maya Angelou, p 21; William Shakespeare, p 23; Mr. Robinson, p 25; Mohammed Omar Farooq, p 27; William James, p 31; G. K. Chesterton, p 33; Navajo Saying, p 35; Mark Twain, p 37, 61; Buddhist Saying, p 39; Rabindranath Tagore, pp 41, 77; Henry David Thoreau, p 43; Rabbi Abraham Heschel, pp 45, 67; Antoine de Saint-Exupery, p 47; Mahatma Gandhi, p 49; A Clown's Prayer, p 51; The Koran, p 53; Aldous Leonard Huxley, p 55; Hubert H. Humphrey, p 57; William Pottebaum, p 59; Chief Seattle, p 65; Carl Jung, p 69; Martin Luther King, Jr., p 71; Elie Wiesel, p 73; Erich Neumann, p 75; Emily Dickinson, p 81; Adlai E. Stevenson, p 83; Chinese Proverb, p 85; Anais Nin, p 87; Buddha, p 89.

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PROLOGUE ~ THE POWER OF PHOTOGRAPHS



THE POWER OF PHOTOGRAPHS

PHOTOGRAPHS POSSESS A STRANGE POWER.

Some people believe a photograph captures their spirit, so they avoid cameras. Others display portraits of loved one's at funerals to resurrect the life of the deceased. Today countless numbers of us saturate social media with pictures of ourselves.

Photographs of people stir a primitive awareness within us. More than capturing the mere image of someone, photographs have the power to reveal the very presence of a person.

This photo collection invites viewers to reflect on this reality: *the human face as a revelation.*

But of what? Of whom?

Photo images awaken in us not only the presence of another person but also *the presence of myself*. They invite us to wonder “Who are you?” as well as “Who am I?” And more: “Who are *we*?”

As our sense of self emerges, we find that there is more to me than me. There is you and you and you. Our interactions and intimacy with each other *inform* our sense of who we are. Our lives begin *formed* by an other in our mother’s womb.

Some spiritual writers consider life in utero our original experience of the Other. They point out that each person — like none other — reflects the presence of the Original Other. Each person is an invitation, as the Navajo people put it, “to walk in beauty” — in the unifying presence of the Original One.

The people in these photographs invite you, as they did me, to walk in their steps. They want to touch you and to be touched by you. They want to welcome you as kin dropping in without dressing up. They want to share with you the stories their faces reveal. They remind us that each person’s life adds still another original part to an all-embracing love story.

The quotations next to the photographs are randomly chosen, intended to tap into that expansive narrative and to invite you to connect your story to this unfolding dialogue that leaps over language barriers.

Long after meeting these people, I still feel enlarged by their presence. I hope you will find that the otherness of their presence enlarges your life, too.

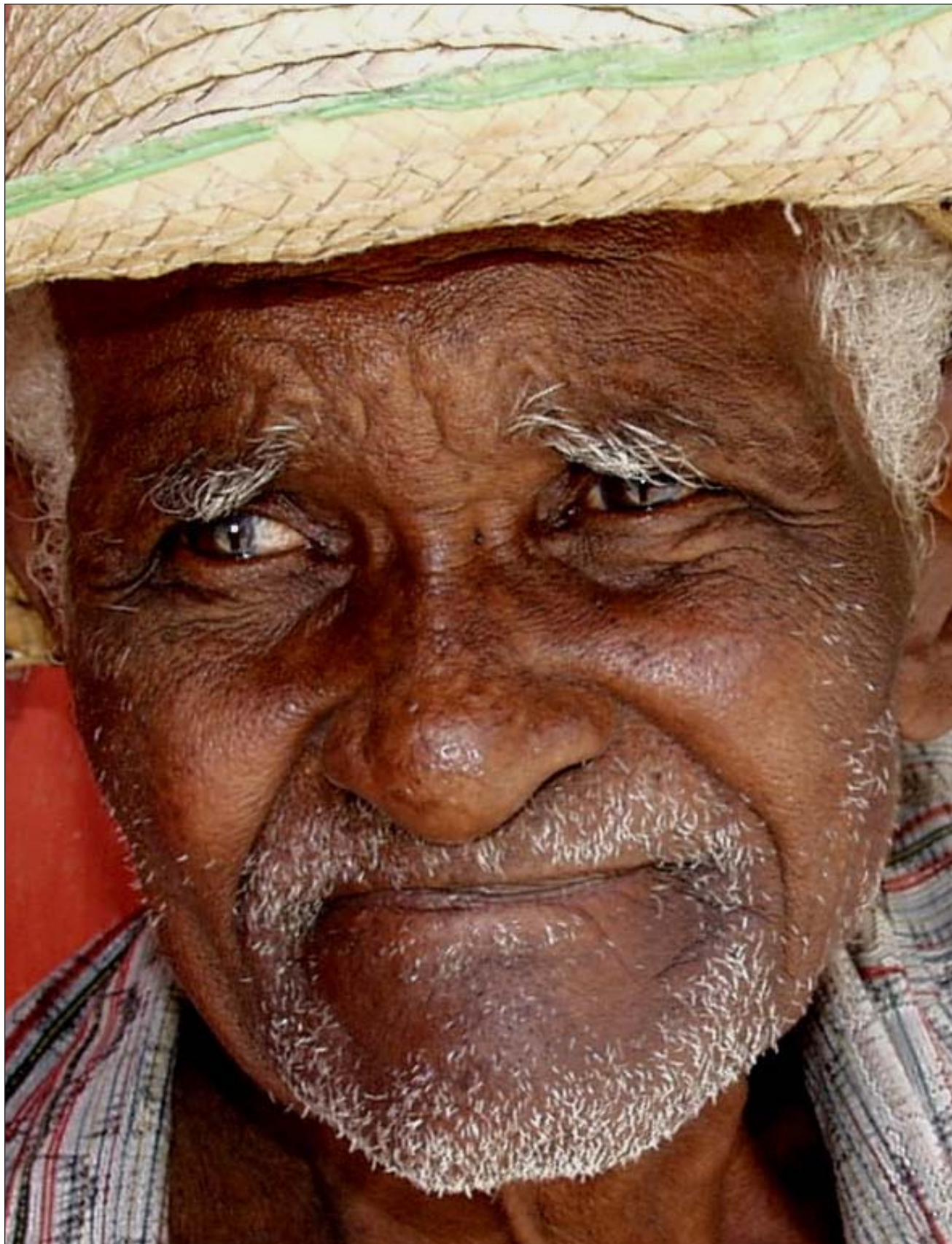
Gerard Pottebaum — Photographer

DIALOGUE ~ OUR UNFOLDING STORY



“Flowers leave
some of their fragrance
in the hand that
bestows them.”

CHINESE PROVERB



“The most terrible
of all feelings
is of one’s hope
having died.”

FEDERICO GARCÍA LORCA



“To believe is
to see more than
meets the eye.”

GERARD POTTEBAUM



“There is no greater agony
than bearing an untold story
inside you.”

MAYA ANGELOU



*Circa 1981, in Thailand near
Cambodian border. Thai farmers
seeing and hearing themselves in
video for first time.*

PHOTOGRAPHER

Gerard Pottebaum grew up on a farm in southern Illinois and studied Great Books and Journalism at the University of Notre Dame. He began work as a motion picture writer and director at a scientific research center in California.

As a father of four, he started to write children's books and created a learning environment for children in his basement, based on the way children arrange space when they play. It led to his participation in planning the 1970 White House Conference on Children.

He has travelled widely in the United States and abroad as a free-lance writer and photographer. He is an award-winning author of over 20 books for children and 7 for adults. As founder of *Treehaus Communications, Inc.*, an editorial and design center, he created multi-media learning programs distributed internationally by educational publishers.

He produced and directed television programs for non-profit agencies, including a documentary, "Proud Moments," broadcast nationally by PBS, featuring the Navajo people's care for their children with special needs. The broadcast marked the beginning of *Human Foundations Institute, Inc.* a non-profit corporation founded to support educational events and projects that nurture social consciousness. THE HUMAN FACE ~ A REVELATION resonates with the mission of *Human Foundations Institute, Inc.* and life work of Mr. Pottebaum.



*In Tiananmen Square
on recent trip to China.*