The Art of Healing
or
The Courage of Forgiveness

The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong.

~Mahatma Gandhi

Following every man-made disaster, we wonder in the labyrinths of despair, bewilderment and stupor seeking an understanding of "why". Forced to live and re-live the events and the guilt of our own survival, we search within to find the comfort of explanations, we try to assign blame and responsibility, we harbor hate and wish for revenge. Without clear direction, lost in endless attempts to overcome grief, we spend our existence paralyzed by haunting memories of events that defy logic, and even the very essence of humanity.

A deep well of sorrow produces a never ending flow of memories and dreams, broken by the incessant rhythm of marching armies and machines of destructions, with their brutal denial of individual aspirations and mutual respect. Overcoming daily the great pain of injustice demands an act of even greater courage. As the wounds have changed us all for ever, only through a careful examination of our new reality we allow for, and invite, a slow process of healing to take place.

What can transform these wounds and the ripples of endless pain and suffering to a seed of hope and forgiveness?

In this slow and difficult process of survival and change, our consciousness guides us along the arduous practice of healing through forgiveness. Moving away from the horrors of this ever-
present past, Tacla's art is a catalyst of change and healing, documenting the destruction in a landscape of deep wounds, where scars protect the memory of the past, while quietly and slowly changing its meaning. Healing the wounds of torture and annihilation of all that is good, forgiveness offers the possibility of a new perspective, fresh and inspiring like the freedom of tolerance and gratitude. In time, with dedicated and courageous efforts, we become aware of human nature, imperfect and yet evolving, a potential to be realized. And forgiveness flows like water and reshapes our history, healing us deeply, from within, producing compassion. In each wound and each scar we are reminded of the hidden possibility of change, of transformation, of a new beginning and future reconciliation. After the wound, the slow process of healing produces a scar, sign and symbol of a physical and psychological reality that was changed forever: it exposes the roots of the individual and collective past, restoring the hope that was shattered, fulfilling the promise that could never be realized before.

In this courageous stare at the destruction of hatred and prevarication lies the belief of real healing, the unswerving faith in finding compassion for all, victims and perpetrators. Tacla's journey through horizons of devastation and mayhem helps us find a glimpse of the profound truth that alone can provide new meaning to our existence. Its message of deep sorrow is the starting point towards confronting the individual's desire to overpower, rather than love, our neighbor. Hidden Identities traces humanity's long voyage from broken to whole, from mechanical reaction to deliberate action, from violence to compassion. Destruction inspires creation, and like Jesus and Judas, locked in an embrace of opposing forces, perpetrators and victims act their part in this endless tragedy that exposes the harsh reality of being human.

All men are dead, except those who know.
All those who know are dead, except those who practice.
All those who practice are dead, except those who act.
All those who act are dead, except those who act with the righteous intent.
And those who act with righteous intent are all in grave danger.

Dzou\'l Noun, 12th Century Egyptian Sufi