

The Shriek

Once when the artist was working as a teacher, the townspeople sent her a female aide. This woman had a particular spirit that caused her to share her every thought in a loud and obnoxious manner. She was provided a little money for her “help”, because she needed it to take care of her family. The town had tried to find work for her in many other places, but eventually brought her to the artist because they did not know what to do with her.

The woman, known to some as the “Shriek”, followed the teacher around, shouting her thoughts. She kept this up for many days. Finally the teacher became so annoyed that she turned around and said to the aide, “Please Hush!” But the spirit never left the woman, and so it was shared among all those who were in the classroom.

The artist tried to find ways in which the aide could actually help the children, instead of shrieking at them and scaring them. It turns out that she was a bit useful with the handicapped children, and so the artist tried to get the most out of that for her kids.

The teacher’s coworkers understood the problem, but they knew that they simply could not work with the woman at all. They pushed the Shriek on the artist because she was the only one around who was “good” enough to stand the woman without totally exploding. As it was, the artist had to find a place (generally up on the mountain¹) to hide so that she could have a moment or two of peace. How wonderful it would have been if someone could have cast this spirit out!

The artist finally decided that this was just something that she was not going to be able to control. She would just have to wait it out, and prayerfully try to help the aide to become more productive and less troublesome. Personally, I wondered who would be the first to crack.

The artist would never complain about her situation, but a co-worker eventually understood how disruptive the aid was and got the message to the right people. The aide was finally reassigned, and the artist, much relieved, was able to teach again. The spirit was cast out, after all.

1. Jesus often went into the mountain to pray, see Matthew 14:23, for instance