

Night Musings: Letting the Genius Out

By Carlotta Tyler

Have you ever cried in a dream? I just caught myself doing that.

In my dream an old friend sitting next to me in a circle of strangers, all women, said: "She never lets her genius out." "She's right!" I said to myself and then I cried.

All nice and safe. No one needs to know. You're in a dream, after all.
And then, I woke up.

"Who's voice was **that**?" I asked. "A familiar one." I answered.

(Have you noticed that when you ask yourself important questions, your Self answers?)

Say that and they'll all hate you. Let that thought out and it's all over. They'll know you're different, a radical free thinker. Keep that Genie in the bottle.

I know that voice. It lives deep inside. It's a voice brought to life through shame.

Who does she think she is, some kind of genius? She's only a kid. Where did she get those ideas? Imagine, students having a voting seat on the PTA! She should be ashamed of herself.

It's the voice of **The Big Put Down**, a voice used regularly on children, especially girl children. Not for every idea, like "Let's go to the mall." Just the radical ones, like "Let's take over the gym for first practice so we won't have to wait until after the boys work out." It's the ideas that make a move to take power that attract that voice. **Make her an example. She's getting out of hand with her big ideas. Soon she'll be giving the other girls Big Ideas.**

In fact, if I was to design a society and I wanted to keep a class of people down, I would teach them shame. Then they would keep themselves down.

Shame works. I shut The Genius down every time.