

Our Greatest Fear

Nelson Mandela, 1994 Inaugural Speech



**Our greatest fear is not that we are inadequate,
but that we are powerful beyond measure.
It is our light, not our darkness, that frightens us.**

**We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant,
gorgeous, handsome, talented and fabulous?
Actually, who are you not to be?
You are a child of God.**

**Your playing small does not serve the world.
There is nothing enlightened about shrinking
so that other people won't feel insecure around you.**

**We were born to make manifest the glory of God within us.
It is not just in some; it is in everyone.
And, as we let our own light shine,
we consciously give other people permission to do the same.**

**As we are liberated from our fear,
our presence automatically liberates others.**