



Margaret J. Wheatley

In Praise of Pelicans

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Melbourne Beach

Oh great pelican warrior
Let me be just like you!

Afloat in troubled waters
never doubting that God provides
and never forgetting that I have wings.

Wings to lift me high enough to see
my next meal, wings to lift
me high enough to plunge
confidently when nourishment appears.

Oh great pelican warrior, let me be just like you!
May people see where I have been by the
disturbances I cause, high plumes
spraying above the placid surface.

Let me learn your confidence
your patience, your show off cocky, crazy bravado
Teach me to fly high, to draw in my strong body
and plunge bravely,
to glide with grace above the
violent surf, to never be caught
off guard by a rogue wave.

Oh great pelican warrior
teach me to glide, to soar, to plunge,
to ride the tumult.

And like your beak, to love all that my
wrinkled, flabby, expanding self
can hold.



ABOUT MARGARET (MEG) WHEATLEY, Ed.D.

Margaret Wheatley writes, speaks, and teaches how we can accomplish our work, sustain our relationships, and willingly step forward to serve in this troubled time. She is co-founder and President emerita of The Berkana Institute, an organizational consultant since 1973, a global citizen since her youth, and a prolific writer. She has authored eight books. Her numerous articles may be downloaded free at her web site: margaretwheatley.com. For more biographical information, see margaretwheatley.com/bio