

Degrees of Life

By Sheila Johnson

Ladies and Gentlemen, I'd like to introduce to our next guest, Hope Everlasting. She was born and raised in a universe that has prepared her for today's life. She was born into a family of millions and millions of sisters and brothers. Her parents exist in a realm that fosters goodness, understanding, and forgiveness. Hope earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Hard Knocks where she majored in "Finding Peace Within." She pressed on in her education, and earned her Master's degree in "Coping Skills." After gaining crucial experience with diverse people from all walks of life, she completed her doctoral thesis entitled, "I Want to Live, Not Die".

Hope Everlasting is on a world tour leaving her footprint on parched ground that was previously unfit for growth, but is now fertile and yields tons and tons of patience, love, kindness, goodness, and charity. Hope always finds a way to offer herself in any situation, and she prays that others will take advantage of her gifts and offerings. Hope understands disappointment and despair. She embraces sadness and loneliness. She stands besides grief and darkness.

Hope Everlasting sails through the eye of the hurricanes of life cleaning up the debris whenever and wherever she is welcomed. She is in the midst of destructive tornadoes. She is the rainbow after the storms of life. She is often rejected, but never discouraged; often laughed at and ignored, but never offended; often dismissed and cursed, but never deflated.

Hope Everlasting is here with us today Ladies and Gentlemen, because she has a message that will open our eyes to see the souls in the midst of rage, sexism, racism, homophobia, human degradation, and all manner of evil. It is her calling, her passion, and her First Love.

We are honored and humbled to have you with us today. Let's put our hands together and welcome this Person of Distinction, Hope Everlasting. I believe she has something to say.