



A Dream of a Yellow Butterfly by Patrick Ka'ano'i

The following account regards an unusual personal experience of the author regarding the tragic and final event of the Space Shuttle Columbia on the morning of its return mission from space on Saturday, February 1, 2003.

In the morning hours of Las Vegas, at 6:45 AM my wife Heinke woke me up to tell me of a news alert regarding the space shuttle Columbia. She told me that the space shuttle had lost contact with its mission control and they might be lost in a tragic accident.

I then looked at my wife and told her of a dream I just had of her and a "Yellow Butterfly."

She smiled and I immediately got up to watch the news unfold on television. Tense and anxious moments held my heart and breath - hoping that the worst might not be realized. But, as we now know, all had perished in a meteoric descent, viewed by so many in the US and the World.

Family, friends and nations were waiting to celebrate and embrace their own, only to realize the numbing realization that they were lost and a message of, oh, how precious love and life means to us all. I immediately recalled my waking dream of the Yellow Butterfly and my wife and how it struck the same chord and symbolism of precious love and life.

I thought to make a point to recall the details of my dream, that I may share it with my wife later that day.

When she returned from work I told her the details of my dream: I remember being on the shore; in a breezy coastal resort and that I had lost sight of my wife. Very concerned and feeling a fear of loss I searched for her, only to see her lying in a sweatshirt and pants on the sand. She was lying still and I thought she might not be alive. Reaching her she awoke and said she was all right. I was so happy and filled with joy and yet so scared of the feelings that followed me to her side. Immediately a very large Yellow Butterfly appeared in my hands. I struggled to hold it; it was so full of life and I was so concerned and careful to hold its wings together in fear of hurting it in anyway. And then in flash I saw it mounted in a frame upon a wall. Then a gentle voice and hand woke me to the news of that day.

After telling this story to my wife we returned to watching the news and I remarked that all we'd need now is to hear a story about a butterfly. Then as fate would have it, at 5:30 PM on MSNBC, former astronaut Story Musgrave described in his interview that the space shuttle was like ". . . a beautiful butterfly".

The value of love and life has touched us all - thru the sight and flight of a Yellow Butterfly!

Your classmate from Kalihi . . . Patrick Ka'ano'i

