

I had to endure a very trying encounter with an adversary whose intent seemed to be to destroy my mission. She was supposed to be part of the team, but did everything she could to render the team ineffective. She twisted everything we told her so that it would make us look bad, and was able to convince some to draw away from us.

I remembered what the Great Teacher said about forgiveness – not just seven times, but many, many times¹. I had struggled with this often in my life, and this latest conflict made me think more deeply about it. My adversary had certainly made herself very difficult to love². I shared my thoughts with one of my co-workers.

I told him that I could not count myself to have practically accomplished real forgiveness until I could honestly wish that the person who had opposed me would be given a home in heaven³. I know that we will all be transformed there, and that once there we would not have a problem. So I said, “I do hope that she is saved and that I will see her in heaven.”

To this my friend added, “But not a moment before!”

I could not disagree.

1. see Matthew 18:21-23
2. we are told to love our enemies and those that persecute us, see Matthew 5:43-45 [this is so difficult, but Jesus says that we must do it to be like God]
3. see my story, “Forgiveness”