

Waynes Blast from the Past: Love, Spirituality and Carlos



A few days ago, wholly cow, it was 1975, I was working part time for a stereo store. Its owner(s) were also the local concert promoters for some of the biggest groups on tour at the time.

For those old enough to remember, there was the likes of David Bowie, Genesis, Kiss, Peter Frampton, Electric Light Orchestra, Led Zeppelin, The Turtles, Eric Clapton, Carol King, The Beach Boys, Rod Stewart, Neil Young, Joe Cocker, Crosby Stills Nash and Young, Supertramp and so on.

Wholly cow once again, most of these groups are still performing today..... That really makes me laugh out loud...

One group I neglected to mention in the above was Santana, as this is what and whom my blast from the past is all about. Carlos Santana is the head of this group which has taken on many transformations over the years but there has always been one constant: Carlos himself; probably one the top five greatest guitar players of all times. Please do not send me email on this as it is just my opinion *S*.

Okay, back to where I worked; when a group came to town, they all played at the same arena, and started at 8 pm. This was back in the day where there was no reserved seating. So, being an employee of the promoter for all the concerts, I had free concert seats to every group that came to town. As long as I was at the arena prior to 7pm, I just showed my employee ID and was let in to select any seat I desire in the area. After 7 pm, they let in the crowds. There was usually 10-15 of us employees that were regulars for most concerts.

Well on this one evening, Santana was scheduled to play. I arrived on time, selected my usual seat right up close and waited until concert time. After a while I realized that it was 7 pm and the crowd waiting outside had not been let into the arena. Hmm, something was up and when 7:30 rolled around the roadies were still checking out and testing the sound system. I guessed they had started late in setting up.

Out of the blue struts the man himself, coming front and center to the stage and he plugs into the sound system. He speaks to his sound people and plays a few notes and seems to be very content with how things are going in the test. Suddenly, I heard the words, Hey guys out there in the front row; can you do me a favor???? Now listen, one of the hottest groups in the world is about to play and he wants me/us to help out with a favor; you bet your butt I agreed. *S*

Carlos asked if we all could spread out to various locations through the arena and listen to his sound and report back when requested. A few minutes passed and the few of us were spread all over the arena listening to the finger picking of this awesome star. We



We reported back, actually yelled from the upper decks our results and he seemed once again very happy. As we returned to our front and center seats to enjoy the last bit of testing he was doing, it all suddenly stopped.

Carlos Santana once again looked out at the few of us seated, who had listened to his sound test and he brought his hands together as if going to pray and leaned forward and simply

said, I appreciate you guys for doing what you did, this is for you.

What a thrill it was to have a quick private concert from Carlos Santana. The rest of the evening was a blur.

Fast forward some 18 years, 1993, and I was in Atlantic City. I happened to be visiting friends down near there and we went to the boardwalk to gamble a little and see the sights.

There I was walking through one of the Casinos and I noticed a sign along a hallway announcing that Santana was playing at the casino that evening. Suddenly my heart skipped a beat and I fell right back all those years before when Carlos had played a song just for the few of us who helped him out. What a good feeling that stirred up inside of me.

I wandered around the casino a bit and decided to move on to the next casino. On my way out, you would never guess who I spotted and approached. You got it, it was Carlos Santana. I only took up a minute of his time and briefly mentioned the whole thing all those years ago. Of course he did not remember but I still felt his awesome love and appreciation that came from his heart as he spoke to me. I was invited to his show but I had to decline as I was leaving town very shortly. It was just cool to cross paths with Carlos and share his space of love once again.

By the way, I won a good pot of money at the casino right after meeting Carlos once again. Does feeling good and love have anything to do with it?

Lets fast forward once again to last week where I was reading an article written by Mike Ross for Sun Media where he was interviewing Carlos Santana before his show in Edmonton Canada.

Here is a section on what Carlos said about enlightenment:

'Spiritual enlightenment, "is not a destination," says Santana. "It's not necessary to take mescaline or LSD or climb Mount Everest or do like Jesus or Buddha and live 40 days in the desert eating crickets. That's too much work. What God gave you, you don't have to learn it or earn it. It was given to you when you were born. All you do is make the time to take a deep breath, close your eyes, imagine the centre of your heart, go in there, pull it right out, feel it, touch it, accept it, embrace it, express it. And that's good news, man.'

The article goes on to say "I [Carlos] try to stay in a state of perpetual wonderment, stay in love, stay happy and free from conflict, from feeling like a victim or a villain. I try my best to stay in this rhythm, where it's fun to be on this planet no matter what."

The same interview talks about the huge record sales that are a mere tool to spread the message to as many people as possible. Santana's great-grandchildren are probably set for life, and he says he gives 60% of his income to charity, so money is secondary to the message.

And that is?

"It's not my message," Santana says. "Bob Marley is not his message, John Lennon is not his message, Bob Dylan is not his message. All of us are the message. It's for the highest good of people on the planet. And I'm just the messenger - there's something bigger than me that will see a vision of unity, healing and harmony."

It sure was funny all those 33 years ago how I listened to a man with a message of love and today the message continues and expands on every note that radiates from his guitar.

Thank you Carlos Santana for being a part of my life and love.

Peace and Love

Wayne

[Email Wayne](#)