

HOW HONEST IS HONEST?

*I want to be honest
I want to be thought of as an honest person
honestly honest as I know what it is to be honest
so that I can be as honest as I know how much of honesty is honest*

*I want to be honest so that I am loved for being honest
but when I am rejected for being hurtfully honest
then I am not loved for being honest but rejected for being hurtful
so I am afraid to be honest lest I hurt and be rejected
and being rejected I cannot honestly be any more loving
than I can be honestly loved*

*If I make you angry I am not loved
If I am honest I may make you angry
If I am not honest you are angry
and best of all if I am not honest I am angry with myself for making you
angry whether I am honest or not*

*I feel guilty for being angry for having been honest
I am angry for feeling guilty for having been angry
I am guilty of making you angry by being honest
I must not be honest in case I feel upset by you being angry with me
for feeling guilty for having been angry with you
for being angry with me for having been honest with you*

*Perhaps I don't want to be honest but I want to be hurtful?
Under the cloak of public honesty a little private cruelty?
A little private power, a spoonful of whitewash, a dash of manufactured reason,
a square of honest anger, a tumble of sympathy
and I can be loved for my private parts and admired for my public honesty
while I exercise my secret cruelty and am respected for being both powerful and honest
while I pretend to be listening attentively but really feel evasive and withdrawn
After all I may fall in love with you and you might laugh at me and I might be hurt
So I torture myself and turn my cruelty against myself
and indulge myself in my self pity
for being honest and dishonest and cruel and hurtful and uncompromising and poor me*

Hans Lobstein