



“The Truthful King” by Michael K. Primavera  
Illustration by Barbara Cox

Limitless as time itself, so was the truthful king.  
The king was ultra-powerful, he could do anything.  
His kingdom was magnificent, his wealth was more than great.  
Those he chose to share it with received a splendid fate.

The king had many children, too. He gave them all a quest.  
To share in his inheritance, they had to pass a test.  
The king had clever ways to see while hidden out of sight.  
He watched his children patiently, to see if they did right.

Consider something interesting, a measure that he took.  
Not one of them had seen the king; they only had a book.  
The book assured the king was real, it told them how to live.  
Promising, if they did well, so much the king would give.

The power of the book was great, it had a strong effect.  
Those who lived by what it said, they felt the book correct.  
The king was pleased with those who did. Many though, did not.  
Some only memorized the words, reciting them a lot.

Who deserves the king’s rewards, those who knew the book?  
The truthful king expected more. He took a broader look.  
When it was time, his men would come and fetch them one by one;  
To summon each before the king, where judgment would be done.

Try to be objective and imagine you're the king.  
You must choose and then decree the most important thing.  
Must they believe the king exists based strictly on the book?  
Should they assume the book is true, without a thorough look?

Before you choose, consider that the stakes are gravely deep.  
Your judgment will be permanent. Some, you will not keep.  
Besides the book, what other way could you decide their fate?  
The king was true and sensible, profoundly he would state:

“The book was good; it was a guide but not my only gauge.  
I offered much and wanted more than memory of page.  
My love and expectations were unyielding on one thing,  
How did you treat my other ones, the children of the king?”