



I love bridges. They always seem to call to me and invite me to stop and get to know them. Sunday, I heeded the call and stopped to take a look around. I am in Cleburne County, near the Pink E. Burns Wilderness Trail Head. The light of day is fading as the evening begins to announcing his arrival. I walk below the bridge and hop across the rocks scattered in the waters of the stream. In the middle of the fast moving current these leaves are moving past me, being pulled by the silent influence of the creek.

My eyes are immediately drawn to the rainbow of colors floating before me. Reds, yellows, green, purple, orange, and browns all pause before me as if to say, "What are you waiting on? Go ahead, take our picture". So I do as I am told and you see the results of my obedience. Before they make their way down stream to brighten someone else's day, I wonder where they came from; As I look at the trees that line the banks, I see a single leaf fall into the waters. In my mind's eye I imagine all the trees I cannot see, each contributing to this colorful quilt so vibrant before me.

As I ponder the unseen trees, I realize that we are all likewise influential; affecting the people around us and even those we cannot see. I became conscious of the fact that the entire ocean is affected by a pebble; just like how one man's yawning will make another yawn. We all exert a silent influence, a gravitational pull upon our neighbors; and our influence is negative or positive, but never neutral.

Let us today, resolve to be a blessing to those who cross our path. Let us understand that our reach exceeds our grasp and that we do make a difference in the lives of the people we meet and those we will never meet. So, "What are you waiting on? Go ahead, be a blessing..."

**Something to think about:**

- ❖ Be around the people you want to be like, because you will be like the people you are around.
- ❖ A man leaves all kinds of footprints when he walks through life. Some you can see, like his children and his house. Others are invisible, like the prints he leaves across other people's lives: the help he gives them and what he has said—his jokes, gossip that has hurt others, encouragement. A man doesn't think about it, but everywhere he passes, he leaves some kind of mark.
- ❖ Our manner of life is not the main thing influencing others—it's the only thing.
- ❖ "You don't have to be a "person of influence" to be influential. In fact, the most influential people in my life are probably not even aware of the things they've taught me."
- ❖ This learned I from the shadow of a tree,  
That to and fro did sway against a wall,  
Our shadow selves, our influence, may fall  
Where we can never be.

Your friendship makes me a better man  
Rickey Moore