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One

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One

Cassie Spangler

There is only one.
One single thread,
woven delicately in some places,
tangled stubbornly in others.
Its color ever-changing,
lighter in the lighter times,
and darker in the dark.
Its path, wild and *ad hoc*,
dancing through harmony,
drudging through dissonance,
but everywhere it moves,
it does so with purpose.
Abiding by reason.
Exploring the truth.
This single thread
knitted with your grandmother,
flew a kite with your child,
held together the stitches
of your father's favorite socks.
It has strolled through the local market,
skipped down the faded avenues,
inadvertently invaded your home,
flown over the great green oceans,
and glided gracefully
over snow-capped mountains.
This thread has seen it all.
Masqueraded with kings and queens of Spain,
shared taxis with New York's finest,
laced the shoes of schoolboys in France,
and marked the books of England's most excellent
scholars.

Likewise, it has held together tourniquets
of wounded soldiers from all sides of the wars
and wiped the tear-soaked faces
of starving families.

It has wrapped itself around the hands
of all peoples.

Regardless of trivialities,
nationality, gender, creed.

In spite of adversity,
fear, differences, hate.

In the face of all that is true,
life, reason, unity.

It lives.

It breathes.

It moves.

And consequently,
it will continue to do so.

Why? Because...

There is only one.