

THE ART OF WRITING

III

J.B. Drori

In my two previous blogs on the Art of Writing I remark that works of art and writing result from the dynamic interplay of two major attributes of the human psyche – emotions and intellect. The more congruent these two forces are the more powerful and enduring are the products.

Sustaining the creative urge until the task is completed demands an uncommon will and an unwavering devotion. This may continue for months, even years. It's often stated that persistence is the single most important factor in seeing a book through to the publisher and the bookseller. Such a compulsion, common to all who reach their target notwithstanding obstacles, cost or adversities, stems from a deep well in our psyche. Once the goal is attained, multiple subliminal issues get resolved and self-esteem is restored.

I've observed an interesting contrast between writing a novel and composing blogs. It's been almost six years since I've begun work on my novel, *Ancient Stones*, and have rewritten it untold times. It's about a man who is driven to discover his origins and to find his place in this world. By the end of the book, the reader learns that despite a dysfunctional family, the absence of a model in his life, and insecure ties to his past, the protagonist ultimately understands who he is and where he belongs.

While writing the book I was living two lives simultaneously: one in the here and now and another concurrent alter life in my head with my characters and their activities.

It's quite different with a blog. It's not unusual to engage in internal dialogue. We all converse with ourselves. A passing thought, a news headline, some comment overheard in a market, or a joke in the gym, is sufficient to trigger a variety of ideas and reflections. Some of them make it to my blogs.