

Post cards from friends

[POST CARD] FROM MARY-ALICE ARTHUR, INFLIGHT FROM MINNEAPOLIS TO CHICAGO, 13 NOVEMBER 2011 (NEW ZEALAND)

I will keep the fire in my heart
With the bright face of the moon as my witness
Friends, I promise you
That I will keep the fire in my heart.
I will lean into that fire
Even if it melts the soles of my shoes
Even if it singes my hair and blackens my fingers
I will not stop
For our humanity is at stake.
There, in the centre of the fire, there where we have always met
Are the embers the wise ones have sheltered on our behalf.
What we have always known, long in the forgetting
Is rising through the flames again.
It takes those of us who are the firekeepers,
Who are the rocksitters, who have the circle in our blood and bone
To make the shape that calls the others home.
We have hidden the patterns in our stories, our poems, our songs
In the deepest parts of our being.
And we will speak, we will sing, we will dance our way
Back.
Even now the plazas beckon. Even now the squares call out
For life lived in its fullest expression.
You who have been solitary, you who have been alone
Remember this word:
Together.

[POST CARD] FROM HELLE SOLVANG, JOURNALIST, DR/P1 (DK)

My next practice is about simplicity and listening to the vibration of voices and earth. Honoring what can be seen and what can not be seen in harmony. Feet against soil, sung through the atmosphere.

We need space, time and listening abilities to move on to next practice – and funnily enough that is all something we have. It is available like the air and the soil. We just need to practice through song, dance and love. I will meet you there.

[POST CARD] FROM MARIANNE KNUT, KUFUNDA LEARNING VILLAGE,
WWW.KUFUNDA.ORG (AFRICA)

Fellowship is the Next Practice. It is time to begin to gather in Fellowships to deepen our practices of new ways, for new worlds. We can no longer walk or work alone. We need each other. We need to reach out to those others who wish to play, experiment, and engage in ways that can serve life, this moment and the future. Our strength lies in the interconnectedness of our roots. We are a forest – can we breathe like one?

Did you know that we are connected across the oceans – a place in Denmark called the Energy Academy with a place in Zimbabwe called Kufunda Learning Village. And there are many many more in this web of new life spinning and stretching across the world, seeking solutions, practices and ways of life that can truly serve.

Next Practice is Fellowship, Community, Collaboration – so that we may be strengthened in our practices for life, for sustainability, for the next generation.

[POST CARD] FROM MARTIN LIDEGAARD, DANISH MINISTER FOR
CLIMATE, ENERGY AND BUILDING (DK)

“In 1997 the project Samsø RE-island was kicked off, and the same year Samsø was named “Denmark’s renewable energy island” by the then government and the Danish Energy Agency. Today Samsø is 100% self-sufficient in electricity from renewable energy. This certainly helps en route to the island’s goal to be fossil free. Samsø’s ambitions are a showcase of Danish knowledge, and it shows how energy efficient solutions can be integrated into the Danish society.

With the Energy Agreement of 22 March 2012 it was decided to support the continued work to transform Samsø into a fossil independent island. The aid is included in the national government budget and there will be allocated 9.5 million Danish kroner in the years 2012-2015. The funds are targeted at energy projects that demonstrate solutions which can help to achieve Samsø’s goal of becoming an island without fossil fuels.”

[POST CARD] FROM AMORY B. LOWINS, COFOUNDER AND CHIEF
SCIENTIST, ROCKY MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE (US)

The early bioneer Bill McLarney was stirring a vat of algae in his Costa Rica research center when a brassy North American lady strode in. What, she demanded, was he doing stirring a vat of green goo when what the world really needs is love? “There’s theoretical love,” Bill replied, “and then there’s applied love” —and kept on stirring.

“Hope is a stance, not an assessment.”

—Frances Moore Lappé

When I give a talk, sometimes a questioner details the many bad things happening in the world, all the suffering in the universe, and asks how dare I propose solutions: isn’t resistance futile? The only response I’ve found is to ask, as gently as I can, ‘I can see why you feel that way. Does it make you more effective? In a recent college class, one young woman bemoaned so many global problems that she said she’d lost all hope and couldn’t imagine bringing a child into such a world. But discussion quickly revealed to us both that she hadn’t lost hope at all; she knew exactly where she’d left it.

“To be truly radical is to make hope possible, not despair convincing.”

—Raymond Williams

This mission is challenging. It requires you to combine sizzle in your brain, fire in your belly, perseverance rooted like a redwood, and soul as light as a butterfly. According to the Internet, one Michael C. Muhammad said: “Everything works out right in the end. If things are not working right, it isn’t the end yet. Don’t let it bother you—relax and keep on going.”

“Infinite gratitude toward all things past;

infinite service to all things present;

infinite responsibility to all things future.”

—Gōtō-roshi