

Authentic HOPE

Gathering our community

- silence
- sharing our name, where do we call home, how do we come?

Reading & Reflection: *Poems & Thoughts on Authentic Hope*

In our culture most of us are well-insulated from the depth of our vulnerability. Yet, as we've collectively ricocheted from hurricane to flood to earthquake to random massacre to wildfires, it's now in undeniable view. As a survivor of the northern California fires sobbed, "Everything can change... in an instant!"

- What helps you live with that naked truth? Not just survive, but LIVE?
- When you accompany another struggling with this reality in your particular way of soul-tending, what is the invitation? What is the temptation?

Disaster literally means "without a star." Hope is a necessary 'star' that may seem faint and far away, but it can be a guiding light drawing us to take another step and another step into what we cannot see or know.



Poems & Thoughts on Authentic Hope

I have been summoned
to explore a desert area
of the heart
in which explanations
no longer suffice ...
an arid, rocky
dark land of the soul,
sometimes illuminated
by strange fires
which we fear
and peopled by spectres
which we studiously avoid
except in nightmares.
And in this area
I have learned
that one cannot truly know
hope
unless he has found out
how like despair
hope is!



Thomas Merton

To hope means
to be ready
at every moment
for that which is not yet born,
and yet
not become desperate
if there is no birth
in our lifetime.

Eric Fromm

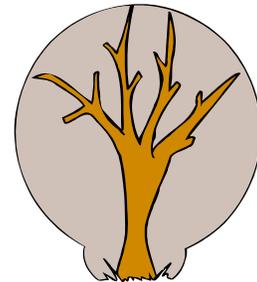


Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul
And sings the tune without the
words
And never stops at all.

Emily Dickinson

Hope imagines the real.

Martin Buber



Earthly hope must be killed;
only then can one be saved by
true hope.

Soren Kierkegaard