

# Friends of Silence

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September 2021

"Is there enough Silence for the Word to be heard?"

Dear Friends ~ Summer brought a small respite from covid restrictions and many were able to visit family and friends, relishing once again seeing our loved ones in person. While planning a get-together with a group of long-cherished women friends, an idea percolated to invite a group of contemporary and historic women to share nuggets of women's wisdom with you, dear readers, male and female. All are welcome. Come in. Pour a cup of tea or glass of wine, put extra sugar in September lemonade just this once, extend your summer travels and welcome visitors old and new. Pour a libation and toast our inspiring sisters. ~ Mary Ann



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Learning to love differently is hard  
Love with the hands open, love  
With the doors banging on their hinges  
The cupboard unlocked, the wind  
Roaring and whimpering in the rooms  
Rustling the sheets and snapping the blinds  
That thwack like rubber bands  
In an open palm.

~ Marge Percy from "To Have Without Holding"  
in *THE MOON IS ALWAYS FEMALE*

I have learned over the years that when one's mind is made up, this diminishes fear; knowing what must be done does away with fear.

~ Rosa Parks with Gregory J. Reed in *QUIET STRENGTH*

**When sleeping women wake, mountains move.**

~ Chinese Proverb

When you get into a tight place, and everything goes against you till it seems as if you couldn't hold on a minute longer, never give up then, for that's just the place and time that the tide'll turn.

~ Harriet Beecher Stowe in *OLDTOWN FOLKS*

**See a time for inspiration.**

**See a time blessed in God's Love.**

**See a time given to the children of God.**

**While you pray see a time...**

**Never has a time been as this...**

**{The Holy One} blesses and comforts you and gives you inspiration.**

**Earth children, sing so sweetly.**

~ Janet Hurley with Matthew Fox in

*PSALMS FROM THE HILLS OF WEST VIRGINIA*

**O world, I cannot hold thee close enough!**

~ Edna St. Vincent Millay from "God's World" in  
*RENASCENCE AND OTHER POEMS*

From the time we are born there is a wildish urge within us that desires our souls lead our lives, for the ego can only understand just so much. Imagine the ego on a permanent and relatively short leash; it can only go so far into the mysteries of life and spirit.

~ Clarissa Pinkola Estés in *WOMEN WHO RUN WITH THE WOLVES*

**Find ecstasy in life; the mere sense of living is joy enough.**

~ Emily Dickinson in a letter to T.W. Higginson

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All day may | walk.  
 Through the returning seasons may | walk.  
 On the trail marked with pollen may | walk.  
 With grasshoppers about my feet may | walk.  
 With beauty may | walk.  
 With beauty before me, may | walk.  
 With beauty behind me, may | walk.  
 With beauty below me, may | walk.  
 With beauty all around me, may | walk.  
 In old age wandering on a trail of beauty, lively may | walk.  
 In old age wandering on a trail of beauty, living again, may | walk.  
 It is finished in beauty.  
 It is finished in beauty.

~ From "In beauty may | walk",  
*Traditional Navaho Blessing Way Prayer*



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People, even more than things,  
 have to be restored, renewed,  
 revived, reclaimed, and redeemed;  
 never throw out anyone.  
 ~ Audrey Hepburn

Life is short, and it is up to you  
 to make it sweet.  
 ~ Sarah Louise Delaney in *ON MY OWN AT*  
 107

**Eternal Listener, give heed to  
 Your people,  
 You, who dwell amidst the angels,  
 Shine forth into the heart of  
 All nations!  
 Enliven your people with compassion  
 That peace and justice  
 Might flourish.  
 Restore us, O Holy One;  
 Let your face shine upon us,  
 Teach us to love.**

~ Nan Merrill from "Psalm 80, Verse 1" in *PSALMS FOR PRAYING*

**How we spend our days is,  
 of course,  
 how we spend our lives.**

~ Annie Dillard in *THE WRITING LIFE*



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To get to you,  
 I traveled light years  
 Through cosmic storms and dust,

Only to find you sleeping  
 on your simple cot.

Stepping back,  
 I folded,  
 Quietly,

My gray ragged wings.

I could see why he chose you,  
 The glow of your pure breath...

I didn't mean to frighten you,  
 Just wanted to keep looking...

I wanted to breathe in your innocent air,  
 Look at your soft,  
 Surrendered hands...

Another second ...  
 Before I told you the news.

~ Claudia Serra from "The Moment Before Everything" in *ANNUNCIATION*

edited by Elizabeth Adams

For your prayer  
 your journey into God,  
 may you be given a small storm  
 a little hurricane  
 named after you, persistent enough  
 to get your attention  
 violent enough  
 to give you to new depths  
 strong enough  
 To shake you to the roots  
 majestic enough to remind you of your origin:  
 made of the earth  
 yet steeped in eternity  
 frail human dust  
 yet soaked with infinity.

~ Macrina Wiederkehr in  
*A TREE FULL OF ANGELS*

I am thinking, or trying to think, about all the  
 Imponderables for which we have  
 no answers, yet endless interest all the  
 Range of our lives...  
 Mystery, after all, is God's other name...

But, but---

excuse me now, please; it's morning, heavenly bright,  
 and my irrepressible heart begs me to hurry on  
 Into the next exquisite moment.

~ Mary Oliver from "Trying to Be Thoughtful in the First Brights of Dawn" in *SWAN*



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