Earth Teacher

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF BURLINGTON



JOURNALING PROMPTS

Wisdom: What wisdom (caution or inspiration) does this Earth Teacher have to share with me? What do I need to do to be receptive?

Resilience: What does this Earth Teacher have to offer to help me deepen my personal resilience? My community's collective resilience?

QUOTES

Sunshine is delicious, rain is refreshing, wind braces us up, snow is exhilarating; there is really no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather. ~ John Ruskin

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Absence diminishes mediocre passions and increases great ones, as the wind extinguishes candles and fans fires. ~ Francois de La Rochefoucauld

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“I had the wind knocked out of me today after I picked myself back up I decided I would become the fucking hurricane instead.” ~ N.R.Hart

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“The Devil whispered in my ear: ‘You’re not strong enough to withstand the storm.’ I whispered back: ‘I am the storm.” ~ Adharanand Finn

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When I realized the storm was inevitable, I made it my medicine. ~ Andrea Gibson

POETRY

Breathe by Lynn Ungar

Breathe, said the wind

How can I breathe at a time like this,
when the air is full of the smoke
of burning tires, burning lives?

Just breathe, the wind insisted.

Easy for you to say, if the weight of
injustice is not wrapped around your throat,
cutting off all air.

I need you to breathe.

I need you to breathe.

Don't tell me to be calm
when there are so many reasons
to be angry, so much cause for despair!

I didn't say to be calm, said the wind,
I said to breathe.

We're going to need a lot of air
to make this hurricane together.

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Advice from a Raindrop by Kim Stafford

You think you're too small
to make a difference? Tell me
about it. You think you're
helpless, at the mercy of forces
beyond your control? Been there.

Think you're doomed to disappear,
just one small voice among millions?

That's no weakness, trust me. That's
your wild card, your trick, your
implement. They won't see you coming
until you're there, in their faces, shining,
festive, expendable, eternal. Sure you're
small, just one small part of a storm that
changes everything. That's how you win,
my friend, again and again and again.

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The Meaning of a Day by Nikita Gill

Each new dawn brings with it 15 new reasons for laughs,
100,000 new heartbeats in your chest,
your lifeblood voyages 168,000,000 miles.
And each new morning on this earth translates
7,200 earthquakes in the upcoming 24 hours.
More than 18,000 thunderstorms,
our planet is struck by lightning 8.6 million times.

And in space?

The passing of a day means
the wondrous birth of approximately 275 billion stars.

This is why every day is an opportunity for rebirth.

That is why no matter what they say,
you must never underestimate your own worth.

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blessing the boats by Lucille Clifton

may the tide
that is entering even now
the lip of our understanding
carry you out
beyond the face of fear
may you kiss
the wind then turn from it
certain that it will
love you back may you
open your eyes to water
water waving forever
and may you in your innocence
sail through this to that

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Let Rain Be Rain by Danusha Laméris

Let rain be rain.
        Let wind be wind.
Let the small stone
        be the small stone.
May the bird
        rest on its branch,
the beetle in its burrow.
May the pine tree
        lay down its needles.
The rockrose, its petals.
It's early. Or it's late.
        The answers
to our questions
        lie hidden
in acorn, oyster, the seagull's
        speckled egg.
We've come this far, already.
Why not let breath
        be breath. Salt be salt.
How faithful the tide
        that has carried us—
that carries us now—
        out to sea
        and back.

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Hawks by Lynn Ungar

Surely, you too have longed for this --
to pour yourself out
on the rising circles of the air
to ride, unthinking,
on the flesh of emptiness.

Can you claim, in your civilized life,
that you have never leaned toward
the headlong dive, the snap of bones,
the chance to be so terrible,
so free from evil, beyond choice?

The air that they are riding
is the same breath as your own.
How could you not remember?
That same swift stillness binds

your cells in balance, rushes
through the pulsing circles of your blood.

Each breath proclaims it --
the flash of feathers, the chance to rest
on such a muscled quietness,
to be in that fierce presence,
wholly wind, wholly wild.

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ripe conditions (excerpt) by adrienne maree brown

the power went out last night while I was in the shower. we're out in the woods this week, so the darkness was incredible, full of sounds. i finished washing by candle light, then listened to the wind. wind is one of my favorite elements, shaping everything, unseen yet undeniable. i love how it feels. wind makes me want to cleanse and change, bend into a new shape, and open up the windows.



"The Wind" by Cat Stevens

"Dust in the Wind" by Kansas

"Blowing in the Wind" by Bob Dylan

"Against the Wind" by Bob Seger

"Windsong" by John Denver

JOKES / PUNS

Wind in doubt, just breeze through it.

How do you compliment a strong wind? “You’re really “blowing” me away!”

Why do winds make terrible comedians? They’re always “air-ing” their grievances.

What do you call it when the wind doesn’t show up to work? A no-blow day.

IMAGES FOR CONTEMPLATION

















