

SUZI TUCKER

## Brevities 8

Why is it that we ask advice from others, and then so rarely follow the advice? Even when the advisor is wise, and we believe it, what she or he has to tell us slips right out of reach, out of meaning. We listen, what is said makes sense, is even deemed right in the moment of listening. But advice, good or not, needs to feel aligned with our inner geography if it's going to be used to positive effect. If our stance is shut down to life-force, then the advice we receive, even if we attempt to apply it, will have little chance of success. Take the job, marry the man, move

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to where you are not, stand up, sit down, forgive, release, build up, break down ... none of the external modifications has a chance against a narrow inner landscape. Happiness is an aspect of language; being happy is a matter of fluency. Advice – perspectives on stuff from outside the Self – cannot be applied, really, or judged appropriately, without an inner stance that supports the basic flow of life.

When someone asks me for advice, I might wonder how she is looking at the given topic. Where is she standing? If the decision is supposed to shift life in any meaningful way, it needs to be attuned to an already

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established sense of shift and meaning. When we place something lively into a stagnant pond, there is little chance that it will thrive.

On the other hand, once we have returned to our original images and allowed the lens to widen to gather in more support, more context, more triumph, we allow the momentum of life to take over. Once life-force is a presumption, the great and simple gift from those who came before, replenishing that life-force becomes a more natural correspondence. And so the choices we make can be in accord with a movement toward more life, and we can allow ourselves

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really to know when the “yes” or “no” to something or someone adds or takes away from that movement.

Meaningful projects and goals are important – markers and milestones – but at the same time, it is essential to realize that everything isn’t contingent upon them working out in a certain way, according to a plan made at the beginning. The plan must shift along the way, be in tune with the shifting rhythms and waves of life, while at the same time upholding the original vision.

When I say “yes” to the job, for instance, because I see it as being in accord with the

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movement toward more life (which includes such mundane and unromantic aspects as being able to pay my rent), then I will enter the situation in a good way. I am open to accomplishment, to interest, to gratitude. I can be easy with the goodness and the challenge, celebrate what works, and allow what doesn't to be at a low ebb. This is the face I show to the environment – grateful and easy, hopeful, but not starving.

And if the job turns out to be wrong for me, I can allow myself to know that too, allow it to be simple knowledge, important, but not devastating. The job is not as I thought; it is not in accord with what for me is “toward

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more.” The fit is off, or it is downright horrible. Either way, I have an inner sense – resonant with the generations – of moving toward more, making something of the gift I have been given, and my knowledge can be acted upon in a good way, in accord with a stance already in place. When the past is “triggered” by the present situation, clarity, timing, and positive response go out the window. In accord with the present, I see with clarity that my “yes” was merely misplaced, or perfectly placed but impermanent, and I can begin to take steps to find the next “yes.” I can act efficaciously but not precipitously. Not the child, either pushing Mother away entirely or being too

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terrified to say what she needs, but rather the adult, who, having returned to receive more from the more, can be at greater ease with the continuous unfolding of life.

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