



Show, Don't Know

As I floated on my paddleboard past the murky lake shoreline, I was taken aback by the white flowers on the lily pads. They were an explosion of perfected beauty smack in the middle of the so-called weeds. There were also shy, “not quite open yet” smaller yellow flowers scattered around that I just never noticed before, and it got me thinking.

Most of these plants live far below the surface of our view, underwater. Yet when they're ready, there they are, in an unforgettable glory that is all their own. At first glance, it just looks like an ugly, algae-filled patch of weeds, but there they are, an occasional odd sprinkling of a beautiful flower that you'll never see anywhere else. You wonder why such a pleasant and peaceful thing would choose to hang out in the undesirable muck. Yet the beauty wouldn't necessarily be so visible somewhere else; the muck is exactly what allows it to stand out. Not just stand out, but to exist. It grows only in the muck!

As I slowly took my paddleboard right next to the flowers, I ran them over. They didn't care. They simply moved out of the way until I passed by and then sprang back over to where they wanted to be. I wondered if evolution naturally made the stems longer, more flexible, and perhaps thicker than earlier generations that were probably less-challenged (especially by human beings as we invade more and more of pristine nature)? Nature teaches us so much. Even if we're just the yellow flowers right now, we're still an amazing contribution to the world if we continue being our true selves, our true NATURE, regardless of anything or anyone else.

Am I saying we should be totally passive and just sit and wait for someone or something to run us over? Of course not. If you can allow yourself to believe that you are here, right where you are, so that you can learn and grow from whatever you are experiencing, you bounce right back to where you truly belong. Learn more about you. Learn more about others. Learn more about the priorities of your life from your heart-centered place, which is truly all that matters. Think, do, and say things more often that allow you to feel your soul's joy. This is your purpose. The more frequently and naturally you do this, the more clarity you will have—on everything—especially on what brings you fulfillment in your life.

Fear brings out a lot of new, unexpected behavior from people and it makes the muck extra thick. If we can remember that fear exists only where a person requires the healing of something within themselves, we can be a little more understanding sometimes. Their mind's survival plays a game with them to make up excuses to place the blame elsewhere. (Sigh.) It's especially then that we need to try to be the brilliant flower that takes the focus off the cloudiness or things we are not and remember who we are, deep inside, and let it pass by. You can be unaffected by it, if you choose. Some days, you will indeed feel like the single flower in the middle of it all, but you are not alone. Those other strong and beautiful beings are out there, closer than you think.

Also remember, a water lily doesn't try to be a rose or even a cattail; these things are ALL EQUAL, just as we are. And even surrounded what we label as “weeds,” a water lily cannot ever be a weed and it would never grow if it tried to be. If we feel like we're surrounded by “weeds” we should not wish to be like them to fit in. A water lily can shout out to the weeds, encouraging them to be more like the water lily, but the weeds

cannot possibly understand. They don't speak "water lily." Both the weeds and the water lilies are needed and necessary, if for nothing else to teach us who we are! Teach through example, they always say. It means that sometimes instead of trying to convince someone of something, you will have more of a positive impact on them just showing your beautiful colors instead. Be your true self, following the warmth in your heart as a guide. If you don't feel that soul-level joy most of the time, it's time you start allowing yourself to explore who you REALLY ARE, no matter what you think you are and no matter what anyone ever told you. If you are not feeling joy, you are just not being the real you. Your heart knows, so please stop denying it. Oh, beautiful water lily, we need you more than ever and more than you could ever know! So most of the time, it's best to SHOW, don't pretend to KNOW what or who other people should be. Only they can choose that. You certainly don't want them telling you what to be, do you? The respect must be mutual. They may notice your brilliance and ask you, and then you can share what you did to listen to your genuine self through your heart space.

Human Evolution is requiring that we really step up and into who we are, now more than ever! Also remember that Future Generations are watching our every move! The muck gives us the opportunity! Some will embrace the opportunities, some will run from them, and others will just sit and wallow in it. It's okay. No matter what, we can learn by observing and learning what does and what does not work for us. For me, 2020 has been the best year of my life, so far. Yes, you read that right. The human behavior and challenges (OPPORTUNITIES!) have nudged me beyond my fears and doubts to get my books into the hands that are brave and ready to move towards something better . . . something more who they are. And you, if you read this just now, it proves you are also something glorious. Something inside you is reminding you of your beautiful, perfectly-unique self and that the world is sincerely counting on you. Thank you for being you for all the world to see!

~Mary Anne

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