

Regenerative Cultures

Reminders / Intention

Statements

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Regenerative Cultures Reminders

This collection of intention statements / regenerative reminders can be helpful for the start or end of sessions. If you have a contribution, please contact the Rebel Toolkit team via their [Mattermost Reception](#) or email LGsupport@extinctionrebellion.uk

Choose an invitation: pause, breathe, close eyes/lower gaze and share:

The Vision Reminder (also known as the Solemn Intention Statement), is often read out at the end of an XR meeting/event.

“Let us take a moment to consider why we are here. Let’s recall our love for the whole of humanity, in all corners of the world. Let’s remember our love for this beautiful planet that feeds, nourishes and sustains all life. Let’s recollect our sincere desire to protect all this, for now, and for generations to come. As we act today/this week, may we find the courage to bring this sense of peace and appreciation to every being we encounter, to every word we speak, and to every action we make. In this emergency. Together. Rooted in love. We are all we need.”

1) Transitioning towards regenerative cultures

We are transitioning towards regenerative cultures. These are cultures of respect and listening, in which people deal with conflicts when they arise, using short feedback loops to talk about disagreements and issues without blaming and shaming. They are cultures in which we cultivate healthy boundaries by slowing down our yes’ and returning tasks when we are unable to follow through. They are healthy resilient cultures built on care and support, where people arrive on time for commitments. We are all crew.

2) Online sessions

Let us take a moment to be present with each other, despite the physical distance we have to maintain. Let's remember that we are transitioning to regenerative cultures. These are cultures of respect, understanding, inclusivity and listening where we arrive on time for commitments, slow down our yes, return tasks we cannot complete, where we do not blame and shame. We deal with issues and conflicts as they arise, using short feedback loops to talk about disagreements and issues without blaming and shaming. These are also cultures where we understand and celebrate that we are all deeply connected to the natural systems that sustain us, and that what affects us in one time and place will come to affect all of us. We are a part of nature, a part of each other, never apart. Let us embrace this time of isolation and reflection as an opportunity to revisit our principles and values. Let's use the time and space as a cocoon in which we transform, ready to continue our rebellion in new beautiful and creative ways when we reemerge. We are all crew.

3) You can't be neutral on a moving train

You can't be neutral on a moving train...

The world is already moving in certain directions – many of them are horrifying.

Children are going hungry, people are dying in wars.

To be neutral in such a situation is to collaborate with what is going on. We will not collaborate and choose instead to rebel.

Howard Zinn (1997)

4) Arundhati Roy

“Our strategy should be not only to confront empire, but to lay siege to it. To deprive it of oxygen. To shame it. To mock it. With our art, our music, our literature, our stubbornness, our joy, our brilliance, our sheer relentlessness – and our ability to tell our own stories. Stories that are different from the ones we're being brainwashed to believe.

The corporate revolution will collapse if we refuse to buy what they are selling – their ideas, their version of history, their wars, their weapons, their notion of inevitability.

Remember this: We are many, and they are few. They need us more than we need them.

Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing.” — Arundhati Roy

5) We come from a world which makes us weary

If you would like to close your eyes or lower your gaze..... We come from a world which makes us weary. And we have volunteered to be wearier. We know that by fighting for this planet we will be poorer, more tired, and more stressed than the versions of ourselves who did not do this. Thank you all. We have put ourselves at risk for others. But whilst we fight for a different world, let us each take a moment now to decide a way that we will enjoy a glimpse of that world. Decide now how you might take a day, or an afternoon, or even an hour. To enjoy the qualitative over the quantitative, the odd over the one-size-fits-all, the joyful over the productive, the community over

the individualist. In some small way which is meaningful to you, commit to it, to keep you going, through all the amazing work that you do.

6) XR Youth grounding

We have the right to self sooth, To take care of ourselves throughout the day,

We have the right to self care, To make our lives ones in which we can find enjoyment,

We have the right to community care, To be a part of networks who look after one another,

We have the right to structural change, To live lives in which we are not exploited and are not required to exploit others

We have the right to a planet all life is able to thrive on

Let us make this meeting one which is understanding of the need for each of these things,

That they look different to each to us,

That we don't always get it right,

And that we need each other to make it happen.

7) Think from the gut

Think from the gut

Follow from the heart

Act with the brain

Do what's right for the self

The planet will not thank you for worrying about it, unless the self is at peace.

XR is an intra capitalist organisation.

It needs warriors at peace within, not burnt out individuals. Nothing is worth that.

Especially not extinction.

It's not going away. Step back: take time to observe the self especially when quiet!

Now is all you have. Get peace now and the future will take care of itself.

And enjoy lots of clever, interesting books on how.

8) A poem by Becky Hemsley

"She sat at the back and they said she was shy.
She led from the front and they hated her pride.
They asked her advice and then questioned her guidance.
They branded her loud, then were shocked by her silence.

When she shared no ambition they said it was sad.
So she told them her dreams and they said she was mad.
They told her they'd listen, then covered their ears,
And gave her a hug while they laughed at her fears,

And she listened to all of it thinking she should,
Be the girl they told her to be best as she could,
But one day she asked what was best for herself,
Instead of trying to please everyone else.

So she walked to the forest and stood with the trees,
She heard the wind whisper and dance with the leaves.
She spoke to the willow, the elm and the pine,
And she told them what she'd been told time after time.

She told them she felt she was never enough,
She was either too little or far far too much,
Too loud or too quiet, too fierce or too weak,
Too wise or too foolish, too bold or too meek,

Then she found a small clearing surrounded by firs,
And she stopped...and she heard what the trees said to her.
And she sat there for hours not wanting to leave. For the forest said nothing, it just let her
breathe."

Becky Hemsley

9) Quick Quotes

"Go where the energy is." – Kate Rayworth

"Let this radicalise you, rather than lead you to despair" - Mariame Kaba

"In our struggle for freedom, truth is the only weapon we possess." – Dalai Lama

"Enthusiasm is common. Endurance is rare"- Angela Duckworth

"Turn your face to the sun and the shadows fall behind you". – Maori proverb

“Take into account that great love and great achievements involve great risk.” — Dalai Lama

“Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying 'I will try again tomorrow.'” - Mary Anne Radmacher

‘We need, in every community, a group of angelic troublemakers’ – Bayard Rustin

“Compassion is the radicalism of our time.” — Dalai Lama

“What surprises me most is “Man”, because he sacrifices his health in order to make money. Then he sacrifices money to recuperate his health. And then he is so anxious about the future that he doesn't enjoy the present; The result being he doesn't live in the present or the future; He lives as if he's never going to die, and then he dies having never really lived.” – Dalai Lama

“Whether one is rich or poor, educated or illiterate, religious or non-believing, man or woman, black, white, or brown, we are all the same. Physically, emotionally, and mentally, we are all equal. We all share basic needs for food, shelter, safety, and love. We all aspire to happiness and we all shun suffering. Each of us has hopes, worries, fears, and dreams. Each of us wants the best for our family and loved ones. We all experience pain when we suffer loss and joy when we achieve what we seek. On this fundamental level, religion, ethnicity, culture, and language make no difference.” – Dalai Lama

10) Rediscovering Our Belonging (Joanna Macy).

Being fully present to fear, to gratitude, to all that is, we rediscover that we belong. We can develop a practice of mutual belonging and find ways to remember, celebrate, and affirm this deep knowing of our inter-existence. We belong to each other.

We belong to the living body of Earth and nothing can ever separate us. We are already home. The practice of mutual belonging is the medicine for the sickness of the self-isolated ego and will accompany us through the hard times upon us.

The field of belonging is rooted in the living body of Earth, in the flows of time and relationship that form our bodies and communities, our land and climate.

11) We hear history calling

“We hear history calling to us from the future. We catch glimpses of a new world of love, respect and regeneration, where we have restored the intricate web of all life.

It's a future that's inside us all – located in the fierce love we carry for our children, in our urge to help a stranger in distress, in our wish to forgive, even when that seems too much to ask. And so we rebel for this, calling in joy, creativity and beauty.

We rise in the name of truth and withdraw our consent for ecocide, oppression and patriarchy.

We rise up for a world where power is shared for regeneration, repair and reconciliation.

We rise for love in its ultimate wisdom.

Our vision stretches beyond our own lifespan, to a horizon dedicated to future generations and the restoration of our planet's integrity."

12) Anti-Regen Reminder?

We refuse to wait any longer

We have been chosen by time

When we see injustice

We must speak out

There is no room for silence

When we feel defeated

We must stand tall

There is no time for despair

No place for self-pity

No time to grieve

No time to rest

When confronted

We must challenge

We must push as hard as they push

And then push harder

When we feel anger

ACT!

Act with audacity

Relentless audacity

We are a movement

An unstoppable movement

The need for protest will never end

Either we all live in a decent world or nobody does!

When the history of our time is written

We will be the heroes

13) From Joanna Macy

Out of this darkness, a new world can arise, not to be constructed by our minds so much as to emerge from our dreams. Even though we cannot see clearly how it's going to turn out, we are still called to let the future into our imagination. We will never be able to build what we have not first cherished in our hearts."

"The biggest gift you can give is to be absolutely present, and when you're worrying about whether you're hopeful or hopeless or pessimistic or optimistic, who cares? The main thing is that you're showing up, that you're here and that you're finding ever more capacity to love this world because it will not be healed without that. That is what is going to unleash our intelligence and our ingenuity and our solidarity for the healing of our world."

14) Active Hope is not wishful thinking

"Active Hope is not wishful thinking.

Active Hope is not waiting to be rescuedby some saviour.

Active Hope is waking up to the beauty of life on whose behalf we can act.

We belong to this world.

The web of life is calling us forth at this time.

We've come a long way and are here to play our part.

With Active Hope we realise that there are adventures in store, strengths to discover, and comrades to link arms with.

Active Hope is a readiness to discover the strengths in ourselves and in others; a readiness to discover the reasons for hope and the occasions for love.

A readiness to discover the size and strength of our hearts, our quickness of mind, our steadiness of purpose, our own authority, our love for life, the liveliness of our curiosity, the unsuspected deep well of patience and diligence, the keenness of our senses, and our capacity to lead.

None of these can be discovered in an armchair or without risk."

15) The Three Beings

The Three Beings

"We call first on the beings of the past: Be with us now, all you who have gone before. You, our ancestors and teachers, who walked and loved and faithfully tended this Earth, be present to us now so that we may carry on the legacy you bequeathed us. Aloud and silently in our hearts, we say your names and see your faces...

"We call also on the beings of the present: All you with whom we live and work on this endangered planet, all you with whom we share this brink of time, be with us now. Fellow humans and brothers and sisters of other species, help us open to our collective will and wisdom. Aloud and silently we say your names and picture your faces...

"Lastly we call on the beings of the future: All you who will come after us on this Earth, be with us now. All you who are waiting to be born in the ages to come, it is for your sakes too that we work to heal our world. We cannot picture your faces or say your names — you have none yet — but we feel the reality of your claim on life. It helps us to be faithful in the task that must be done, so that there will be for you, as there was for our ancestors: blue sky, fruitful land, clear waters."

— World as Lover, World as Self

16) Roots by Steve Turner

It's a quiet job being a root. No one hugs you, climbs you or praises your intricate ways. Roots work in the dark. And it's hard work tunnelling, travelling, finding nutrition. But when the storms come it's our fingers which cling. When the drought comes it's our lips that drink. Without us, the ground would crumble. Without us life would fall. Everyone needs roots.

17) Standing on a precipice

Facing the reality that we're standing on a precipice right now, as a species and as a whole planet, is sobering, to say the least. But facing what is real opens the heart to grief, which somehow opens the heart to love even more deeply... When you reconnect with the alive world in a more compassionate way, and when you realise that the whole world is a living system that can only thrive when death makes room for new life, you may feel a calm settle inside you. You may find yourself with the energy that comes from love to embrace the whole story including the necessary emptiness and loss... When we look toward what has been lost with the climate crisis or other ecological damage that our species has inflicted, we do still need to strive toward repair, but the cure is in our own mentality. The mentality that love really is as strong as death compels us to regard those of us who remain - forests, polar bears, wilderness, people - with fierce love, looking toward how we can all live our highest quality of life together as a beloved community, no matter what. We don't need to minimise or overlook the pain and tragedy we encounter as we live in this time of interwoven crises. Eventually, when we recognise that the pain is directly connected with our love, we can embrace it. We can move into actions of restoration that are firmly planted in love. From "Church of the Wild: How Nature invites Us into the Sacred" Broadleaf Books 2021

18) The Peace of Wild Things

By Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me and I wake in the night at the least sound in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be, I go and lie down where the wood drake rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds. I come into the peace of wild things who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief. I come into the presence of still water. And I feel above me the day-blind stars waiting with their light. For a time I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

19) The emancipation of the proletariat

"The emancipation of the proletariat is not a labour of small account and of little people; only they who can keep their heart strong and their will as sharp as a sword when the general disillusionment is at its worst can be regarded as fighters for the working class or called revolutionaries."

(Antonio Gramsci, Selections from Political Writings 1910-20, p.349)

20) Thankful to our Mother, the Earth

"We are thankful to our Mother, the Earth, for she gives us everything that we need for life. She supports our feet as we walk upon her. It gives us joy that she still continues to care for us, just as she has from the beginning of time. To our Mother, we send thanksgiving, love and respect.

20a) Now our minds are one

Intention Setting Statement.

At a foundational level, regeneration requires us to RESIST. We are in resistance.

We ARE the resistance.

Resistance against a failing government.

Resistance against corporate greed.

Resistance against a system that is killing us.

In resistance we need to reframe how to fully show up in our humanity, at this, the most critical point in human history.

We refuse to wait any longer.

We have been chosen by time.

And we must do what is necessary.

The task at hand, our great calling is to ACT.

When we feel anger,

ACT.

When we feel love,

ACT.

When we are alone,

ACT.

We cannot treat social injustices and ecological crises as separate. When we see injustice,
We must speak out,
There is no room for silence.

The need for protest will never end.
Either we all live in a decent world or nobody does!

When we feel defeated We must stand tall When confronted We must challenge We must push as
hard as they push And then push harder

There is no time to waste on projects that make us feel good but lack deeper impact.
There is no time for despair or distraction.
There is no time for infighting or division.
There is no time for navel gazing, self pity and ego.

There is no time...
There is. NO. TIME.
All we have is now!

21) The Seasons

May you all enjoy the beautiful colours of spring, the fragrant Summer breeze and glowing sun, the gold and crimson leaves of autumn, and the cool, beautiful light of winter. May you remember also that every being with whom we share this beautiful planet is also a precious gem. May you enjoy everyone around you and not wait until it is too late, until everything is nothing more than a dream. Sister Chân Không (Cao Ngọc Phương)

22) XR Intention

"If you would like to close your eyes or lower your gaze.
Let us take a moment to consider why we are here. We are all here out of a sincere love for the Earth, who is still sustaining us and nourishing us after all the hurt that has been inflicted on her. Even as she burns, she is still feeding us. Sometimes this feels like too much to bear. We are all here because something deep inside each of us compels us to action. Call it conscience or courage, maybe even fear, or just love. We are all propelled by the same wish to protect our Mother and all our fellow beings who she gives life. Today, let's take a little extra time to show love and compassion to ourselves and to each other as we walk this difficult path together. Choose the generous word over the snarky one, choose the act of self care over the act of self criticism. Remember that, different as we all are, we are all joined in the most important work that has ever been. Let's take a moment to cherish each other. We are XR, and you are us."

23) Blaming Never Helps

Blaming Never Helps (Thich Nhat Hanh) When you plant a lettuce, if it doesn't grow well, you don't blame the lettuce. You look into the reasons it is not doing well. It may need more nutrients, more

water or less sun. You never blame the lettuce. Yet if we have problems with our friends or our family, we blame the other person. But if we know how to take care of them, they will grow well, like the lettuce.

Blaming has no positive effect at all, nor does trying to persuade using reason and arguments. That is my experience. No blame, no reasoning, no arguments, just understanding. If you understand, and you show that you understand, you can love, and the situation will change.

One day in Paris, I had a lecture about not blaming the lettuce. After the talk, I was doing walking meditation by myself and when I turned the corner of the building, I overheard an eight year old girl telling her mother, "Mommy remember to water me. I am your lettuce." I was so pleased that she had understood my point completely. The I heard her mother reply, "Yes my daughter, and I am your lettuce also. So please don't forget to water me too." Mother and daughter practising together, it was very beautiful.

24) The Fragrance of the I am She

The Fragrance of the I am She

When the Fragrance of the I am She is upon the Wind
The Bee of the Heart Finds the Flower of it's
choice And nestles there, caring for no other thing

Kabir - 17th Century Sufi

25) Starhawk from The Earth Path

"We give thanks for all those who are moved, in their lives, to heal and protect the earth, in small ways and large. Blessings on the composters, the gardeners, the breeders of worms and mushrooms, the soil builders, those who cleanse the waters and purify the air, all those who clean up the messes others have made. "Blessings on those who defend trees and who plant trees, who guard the forests and who renew the forests. Blessings on those who heal the grasslands and renew the streams, on those who prevent erosion, who restore the salmon and the fisheries, who guard the healing herbs and who know the lore of the wild plants. "Blessings on those who heal the cities and bring them alive again with excitement and creativity and love. Gratitude and blessings to all who stand against greed, who risk themselves, to those who have bled and been wounded, and to those who have given their lives in service of the earth. "May all the healers of the earth find their own healing. May they be fueled by passionate love for the earth. May they know their fear but not be stopped by fear. May they feel their anger and yet not be ruled by rage. May they honor their grief but not be paralyzed by sorrow. May they transform fear, rage, and grief into compassion and the inspiration to act in service of what they love. "May they find the help, the resources, the courage, the luck, the strength, the love, the health, the joy that they need to do the work. May they all be on the right place, at the right time, in the right way. "May they bring alive a great awakening, open a listening ear to hear the earth's voice, transform imbalance to balance, hate and greed to love. Blessed be the healers of the earth."

~Starhawk from The Earth Path

26) Just show up, as you are

"Just show up, as you are. You don't have to look or feel great. You don't have to be prepared for each challenge or know all the hows of every situation. You don't have to be fearless, or have all the answers, or be 100% ready. Nobody is any of those things. Nobody ever was. It's not about being perfect, at all. You just have to show up, as you are, despite all the objections and insecurities in your mind, despite each and every fear that threatens to hold you back, despite the limitations and criticisms others will place in you. To hell with it all. This is your life, your journey, your adventure, and all it's asking is to show up for it, as you are. That's enough, That's more than enough. That's everything."

Unknown of Facebook

27) All we can do in a crisis is try

The human spirit is an unwavering force that shines brightest in the face of adversity.

When crisis strikes, it is our innate resilience that propels us forward.

Despite the overwhelming challenges that may surround us, we find the strength within ourselves to persevere and adapt.

It's in these moments that we discover the extent of our capabilities, fueled by an unyielding determination to overcome.

Though the road ahead may seem uncertain, the human spirit reminds us that all we can do is try. In the midst of chaos, we rise above, forging connections, offering support, and demonstrating the remarkable power of our collective will to endure and emerge stronger on the other side.

Ned Evans

28) Hold onto Hope

Amidst the challenges of the climate and ecological crisis, let's hold onto hope. Humanity has a remarkable history of overcoming adversity and finding solutions. By working together, embracing innovation, and fostering a deep connection with nature, we can forge a path toward a more harmonious and sustainable world. Every step we take today, no matter how small, brings us closer to a future where nature thrives and generations to come will be grateful for our unwavering determination.

Ned Evans

29) Gratitude

Looking into mental health and wellness this week, I found out more about Gratitude as a practice. I found out that by expressing Gratitude, it allows us to recognise something which we shouldn't take for granted. (It helps us build resilience and not feel bad when something is taken from us, as it wasn't ours by right.) I also found out that Gratitude is best done in detail, really saying what I'm grateful for, so not just "the flowers, my latest book, the sunset ...".

So here is what I'm grateful for today: I'm grateful for the space we make when we come together in XR communities. I'm grateful for the way we build and make bridges in our work, carrying out a

purpose, and strengthening our bonds. I'm grateful that working together helps me overcome "I might do this wrong, I'm afraid to start". I'm grateful for the love and respect I am encouraged to show, and that I receive.

Mariah Huff

30) Fear Nothing

You're a ghost driving a meat-coated skeleton made from stardust, riding a rock, hurtling through space.

Fear Nothing

Boaty Jim

31) Pessimistic or Optimistic

When asked if I am pessimistic or optimistic about the future, my answer is always the same: If you look at the science about what is happening on earth and aren't pessimistic, you don't understand data. But if you meet the people who are working to restore this earth and the lives of the poor, and you aren't optimistic, you haven't got a pulse. What I see everywhere in the world are ordinary people willing to confront despair, power, and incalculable odds in order to restore some semblance of grace, justice, and beauty to this world.

Paul Hawken

32) A love like that...lights the whole sky (poem by Hafiz)

Even after all this time
The sun never says to the earth,
"You owe Me."
Look what happens with
A love like that,
It lights the Whole Sky.

33) Why Rebel?

The human conscience needs to be corroborate with the natural world and aligned to it's ethic, furthering a politics of kindness. But a political stance that is the opposite to kindness is on the rise: libertarian fascism with it's triumphal brutality; it's racism and misogyny; the politics that loathes the living world.

Here then, the causes for rebellion: survival and awe; beauty and necessity; grace and grief. There is an uprising of life in rebellion for life, those who are grief struck and furious for the tawny ones, the creatures of feather and fur, demanding that media and governments tell the truth about the emergency we are in, fighting for life in this shared wild home. Only when it is dark enough can you see the stars, and they are lining up now to write rebellion across the skies. Why rebel? Because nature is not a hobby, it is the life on which we depend.

From the book Why Rebel by Jay Griffiths (that got Pickle into XR)

34) "Hope" is the thing with feathers

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

And sweetest -
in the Gale - is heard -
And sore must be the storm -
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm -

I've heard it in the chilliest land -
And on the strangest Sea -
Yet - never - in Extremity, It asked a crumb - of me.

By Emily Dickinson

35) Justice as a verb

Justice is:

- . . . the actions we take
- . . . the choices we make
- . . . the standards we hold ourselves to
- . . . the way we treat people
- . . . the things we care about
- . . . the difference we make for people.
- . . . the opportunities we accept (and turn down)
- . . . doing the right thing, right now.

By reclaiming justice as something that we do, instead of something done to us, it becomes a stronghold in the storm, a guiding light out of the dark. By committing to doing the right thing, here and now, we create for ourselves an internal compass that guides and directs us home.

Ryan Holiday

36) Never doubt...

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; it's the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead, anthropologist, 1901-78

37) Regroup

You lend your strength to justice.
You hold in tears.
You carry anxiety like an ember on your palm.
The hungry seas of human affairs churn beneath your boat.
Come ashore for a day.
Touch something green.
Let the whispering life in you speak to nature and find its voice renewed.

a poem by Jarod K Anderson

38) Rebellion

I incite this meeting to rebellion

Emmeline Pankhurst, 1912

39) BEANNACHT / BLESSING

On the day when the weight deadens on your shoulders and you stumble, may the clay dance to balance you. And when your eyes freeze behind the grey window and the ghost of loss gets into you, may a flock of colours, indigo, red, green and azure blue, come to awaken in you a meadow of delight. When the canvas frays in the currach of thought and a stain of ocean blackens beneath you, may there come across the waters a path of yellow moonlight to bring you safely home. May the nourishment of the earth be yours, may the clarity of light be yours, may the fluency of the ocean be yours, may the protection of the ancestors be yours. And so may a slow wind work these words of love around you, an invisible cloak to mind your life

By John O'Donohue

40) Anger

Keep my anger from becoming meanness.
Keep my sorrow from collapsing into self-pity.
Keep my heart soft enough to keep breaking.
Keep my anger turned towards justice, not cruelty.
Remind me that all of this, every bit of it, is for love.
Keep me fiercely kind.

~Laura Jean Truman

41) Hopeful in bad times

To be hopeful in bad times is not just foolishly romantic.
It is based on the fact that human history is a history not only of cruelty but also of compassion, sacrifice, courage, and kindness.
What we choose to emphasise in this complex history will determine our lives.

If we see only the worst, it destroys our capacity to do something.

If we remember those times and places – and there are so many – where people have behaved magnificently. This gives us the energy to act, and at least the possibility of sending this spinning top of a world in a different direction.

And if we do act, in however a small way, we don't have to wait for some grand utopian future. The future is an infinite succession of presents, and to live now as we think human beings should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us, is itself a marvellous victory.

Howard Zinn

42) It is an important and popular fact...

"It is an important and popular fact that things are not always what they seem. For instance, on the planet Earth, man had always assumed that he was more intelligent than dolphins because he had achieved so much, the wheel, New York, wars and so on - whilst all the dolphins had ever done was muck about in the water having a good time. But conversely, the dolphins had always believed that they were far more intelligent than man for precisely the same reasons."

Douglas Adams

43) Tomorrow

So, the bad news is, we have to keep going tomorrow. The good news is, we'll keep going with you.

Bored Panda

44) Sit for Climate

We sit in gratitude

For sudden rain on slate grey roofs
Beating a heavy refrain Clouds swollen like a purple bruise
Probing fingers bringing life

For ice-sheets, and oceans Maritime winds that sweep across continents
Bringing dew to the parched mountain
For the cloud in my teacup

For vast coral reefs
And swirling blooms of plankton Blue whales, barnacles And the ancient song of the orca

For rainforests and a million unnamed species
For the soil on my boots teeming with unseen life We sit in gratitude. For the whole damn lot

We sit to say, no more

To endless extraction To Seared landscapes and foul run-off
To the cost born by the young in far off places And at home

To the bloated consumption of the few That leaves a child too drawn and weak To flick away flies
From crusted cheeks

To the solitary farmer
Standing sentinel over threatened fields
Playing Canute
To the tendrils of an angry emboldened sea

To denial, delay and debate That challenges the inferno we all see
And feel and know in our bones The gathering storm

To the coloniser Whose boots still leave prints and shape the world With debt and dollars and cash
crops of coffee
We say, No more

And we sit in hope

Hope that change is coming, that there is still time That compassion, connection and reason will
prevail And humanity can grow and learn And maybe then nature can flower and with it her
children.

Carl XR Newark

45) Not - by Erin Hanson

You are not your age, nor the size of clothes you wear,
You are not a weight, or the color of your hair.
You are not your name, or the dimples in your cheeks.
You are all the books you read, and all the words you speak.
You are your croaky morning voice, and the smiles you try to hide.
You're the sweetness in your laughter, and every tear you've cried.
You're the songs you sing so loudly when you know you're all alone.
You're the places that you've been to, and the one that you call home.
You're the things that you believe in, and the people whom you love.
You're the photos in your bedroom, and the future you dream of.
You're made of so much beauty, but it seems that you forgot
When you decided that you were defined by all the things you're not.

46) It's not that life is short - it's that we waste a lot of it.

We watch our money.
We protect our property.

Yet we fritter away the most valuable of our resources, the most finite of them—the one thing we can never get back, that they aren't making any more of.
The time that passes, belongs to death.
It is gone forever, never to return.
Once a dawn happens, it is gone to you forever.
Once a day ends, it's done for you for all time.

Act accordingly.
Protect your calendar accordingly.
Say "No" accordingly.
Do it now...before it's too late.
Memento Mori

Seneca

47) Patience visited me

Patience visited me
And it reminded me
That good things take time to come to fruition
And grow slowly with stability

Peace visited me
And it reminded me
That I may remain calm through the storms of life
Regardless of the chaos surrounding me

Hope visited me
And it reminded me
That better times lay ahead
And it would always be there to guide and uplift me

Humility visited me
And it reminded me
That I may achieve it
Not by trying to shrink myself and make myself less
But by focusing on serving the world and uplifting those around me

Kindness visited me
And it reminded me
To be more gentle, forgiving and compassionate toward myself
And those surrounding me

Confidence visited me
And it reminded me
To not conceal or suppress my gifts and talents

In order to make others feel more comfortable
But to embrace what makes me me

Focus visited me
And it reminded me
That other people's insecurities and judgements about me
Are not my problem
And I should redirect my attention
From others back to me

Freedom visited me
And it reminded me
That no one has control over my mindset, thoughts and wellbeing
But me

And love visited me
And it reminded me
That I need not search for it in others
As it lies within me.

✍️ Tahlia Hunter

48) Girls

there is power in being a girl
but there's also sadness
struggle
anger
uncertainty
and most of the time it's hard to find strength in being a girl
except in knowing that the sisterhood is rising,
we're coming,
a force to be reckoned with
and nothing to stop us

there is power in being a girl
and there is also inevitability

✍️ Kimi Sanchez

49) Chris Packham on Trump's re-election



Chris Packham 
@ChrisGPackham

Follow

Things have just got a lot more difficult . Here's what I think . I had no control over what just happened . None . But I do have control over how I will react to it . And I am not going to give up on the beautiful and the good , the grip on my dreams just got tighter .



50) A quote from Thomas Merton

1915-1968 (American Trappist monk, writer, theologian, mystic, poet, social activist and scholar of comparative religion)

"There is a pervasive form of contemporary violence to which the idealist most easily succumbs: activism and overwork. The rush and pressure of modern life are a form, perhaps the most

common form, of its innate violence.

To allow oneself to be carried away by a multitude of conflicting concerns, to surrender to too many demands, to commit oneself to too many projects, to want to help everyone in everything, is to succumb to violence.

The frenzy of our activism neutralizes our work for peace. It destroys our own inner capacity for peace. It destroys the fruitfulness of our own work, because it kills the root of inner wisdom which makes work fruitful."

51) Keep Telling of Gaza

To love the land,
Even when its burnt.
To love freedom,
Even when it looks impossible.
To love justice,
Even when its far away.
To love the old house,
Even when its just rubble....
Such is to practice love.
In a loveless world, ...Daily.

From Poet Khawla Badwan

<https://sidhe-press.eu/books/keep-telling-of-gaza/>

52) Pessimism is for Lightweights

Think of those that marched this road before
And those that will march here in years to come
The road in shadow and the road in the sun
The road before us and the road all done
History is watching us and what will we become

This road is all flags and milestones
Immigrant blood and sweat and tears
Built this city, built this country
Made this road last all these years

This road is made of protest
And those not permitted to vote
And those that are still fighting to speak
With a boot stamping on their throat

There is power and strength in optimism
To have faith and to stay true to you
Because if you can look in the mirror

And have belief and promise you
Will share wonder in living things
Beauty, dreams, books and art
Love your neighbour and be kind
And have an open heart

Then you're already winning at living
You speak up, you show up and stand tall
It's silence that is complicit
It's apathy that hurts us all

Pessimism is for lightweights
There is no straight white line
It's the bumps and curves and obstacles
That make this road yours and mine

Pessimism is for lightweights
This road was never easy and straight
And living is all about living alive and lively
And love will conquer hate.

Salena Godden

53) Do it. Do what you can

It could fail. It could go badly. It could be harder than you expect. It could.

But how will you know? How will you know until you start?

That's the one thing all fools do, Seneca said. They delay to start. They put it off. They let their fear or their laziness win. This is where two essential Stoic virtues come in: Courage and Discipline. We have to be brave enough to push past our fears. We have to be strong enough to will ourselves to do what needs to be done.

And perhaps this is also where a third virtue comes in: Justice. What you're doing might be important. It could make a real difference. It could fail...but it could also help people. And here you are putting it off. Here you are taking counsel of your fears, letting the resistance win. This is not without cost...to yourself and to others.

Don't be afraid to start. Don't put it off any longer.

Do it. Do what you can. Do good.

54) Joy Chose You

Joy does not arrive with a fanfare on a red carpet strewn with the flowers of a perfect life

joy sneaks in as you pour a cup of coffee watching the sun hit your favourite tree just right

and you usher joy away because you are not ready for her,

your house is not as it should be for such a distinguished guest

But joy, you see, cares nothing for your messy home or your bank balance or your waistline

joy is supposed to slither through the cracks of your imperfect life

that's how joy works
you cannot truly invite her
you can only be ready when she appears
and hug her with meaning
because in this very moment joy chose you.

55) Des's Citizens' Assembly Vision

Let's take a moment to close our eyes and imagine something ... it's six months from now ... you're out and about ... but you're keen to get home to watch the news ... because today's the day that the recommendations of the UK-wide Citizens Assembly are being announced ... five hundred of your fellow citizens have taken part in the assembly which has run over the last eight weekends ... every TV station, every news channel, every media outlet is reporting on this ... the whole country ... indeed the entire world is watching ... because your fellow citizens are about to announce the most sweeping raft of changes to how we live our daily life in human history ... these social and environmental changes represent the profoundly powerful solutions that we need to overcome the ecological and climate emergency that we face ... they are fair, far reaching and embody justice, integrity and regeneration ... and there has been unanimous support for these changes amongst the participants in the assembly and the wider public ... the Government is now tasked with implementing these changes and they begin to do so with immediate effect ... that's one vision of how a Citizens Assembly might work ... help us make it happen.

56) Today is here

It's not that we're never going to do it.
It's not that we don't plan to do it.
It's not that we don't understand that time is passing.
It's that we say we're going to do it tomorrow.
It's that we think we still have many more tomorrows.

And you know what? We might! Most of the time, we're right.

One thing we can say for certain is that eventually, inevitably, some day we will not.
When will that be? We don't know.
It could be right now though.

We must act and prioritize accordingly.
We should not put important things off.
We should not take things for granted.
We should not presume a future, none of us are entitled to tomorrow.

Today though, is here. It is ours.
Will we use it?

57) On forgetting

I've learned that people will forget what you said,
people will forget what you did,
but people will never forget how you made them feel.

-Maya Angelou

58) On compassion

Whenever someone has done wrong by you, immediately consider what notion of good or evil they had in doing it. For when you see that, you'll feel compassion, instead of astonishment or rage. For you may yourself have the same notions of good and evil, or similar ones, in which case you'll make an allowance for what they've done. But if you no longer hold the same notions, you'll be more readily gracious for their error. —MARCUS AURELIUS, MEDITATIONS, 7.26

59) Stand very still

If you stand very still
In the heart of the woods
You will hear many
Wonderful things
The snap of a twig
And the wind in the trees
And the whir of invisible wings

If you stand very still
In the turmoil of life
And you wait for a voice from within
You will be led to the path
Of wisdom and peace
In a world of chaos and din

If you stand very still
And hold on to your faith
You will get all the help that you ask
And you will draw from the silence
The things that you need
Hope and Courage
And strength for your task.

Poem by Patience Strong

60) The bird that sings

The next time you refuse to sing because you'll never fill a stadium
or decline the joy of dance for fear of looking ridiculous
or you resist risking the new adventure because you're not entirely ready

or you dim your shine because you're not completely healed and whole
the next time you hold yourself suspect because you're not entirely qualified
just remember
a bird doesn't sing because it's talented a bird sings because it has a song
the moon doesn't only shine when it's whole
it can show up with a single sliver of itself and still light an entire night sky
show up. sing. shine.
the world needs you as you are

Words by Angi Sullins
