Thoughts for the Path Ahead

A Poem as Benediction

Dove that ventured outside,
    flying far from the dovecote:
housed and protected again,
    one with the day, the night,
knows what serenity is,
    for she has felt her wings
pass through all distance and fear
    in the course of her wanderings.

The doves that remained at home,
    never exposed to loss,
innocent and secure,
    cannot know tenderness;
only the won-back heart
    can ever be satisfied: free,
through all it has given up,
    to rejoice in its mastery.

Being arches itself
    over the vast abyss.

Ah the ball that we dared,
    that we hurled into infinite space,
doesn't it fill our hands
    differently with its return:
heavier by the weight
    of where it has been.

Rainer Maria Rilke

You are Not Alone

Many great humans surround you and have traveled these paths before you.

Some of the greatest people in your life may be the quietest, but they are waiting for you to reach out, to ask a good question, to see them, to hear them.

Some great people in the past took the time to write down what they wrestled with, wondered about, learned. Seek them out.

> *What you seek, seeks you.*
>
> *— Rumi*

Look, listen.

A Few Enriching Resources for Moments of Challenge

These may be paths back to wise balance. Each has served me well.

When the path ahead feels bleak - The Other Side of the Hedge, a short story by E. M. Forster

When you feel like an imposter - The Secret Sharer, a short story by Joseph Conrad

When you feel like saving the world - An Enemy of the People, a play by Henrik Ibsen

When you feel invincible - Defeat, a memoir by Philippe-Paul de Segur

When you feel tempted by cynicism - Heart of Darkness, a novella by Joseph Conrad

When you feel like the world is too much - Walden, a memoir by Henry David Thoreau

