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Midterm Self Evaluation

5 May 2017

Word Count: 532

“Do you really believe, Mother, that poetry classes are going to close down the slaughterhouses?

“No.”

“Then why do it? You said that you were tired of clever talk about animals, proving by syllogism that they do or do not have souls. But isn’t poetry just another kind of clever talk: admiring the muscles of the big cats in verse? Wasn’t your point about talk that it changes nothing?”

“John, I don’t know what I want to do. I just don’t want to sit silent.”

And what am I doing but figuring out the way in which I want to speak my life to the world… more often than not, without words.

**Recipe for working on a flower farm**

Coffee for early mornings

A good pair of boots

Patience

Open eyes

Alert mind

A good combination of tenderness and strength

Tools, as needed

Reflection

Wake up early. Make coffee. Make sure you have everything you will need for the day.

Everyday will be a little bit different. What you will do is dictated first and foremost by the weather. Mice will your plant starts. You will kill mice and you will sow the seeds again. You will watch the plants and learn how to speak with them, to see what they need. Be alert. Learn to think of many things at once.

Learn from those that know more than you. You are trading your time and your work for knowledge. Work, but pay attention. Ask why. Notice how things work. What works well? What would be more ideal?

Be captivated by the flowers. Sneak smells during harvest.

Be prepared to feel complicated feelings about growing and selling and marketability. It’s okay if uncertainties arise – they add necessary flavor. Reflect on what about flower cultivation excites you. Does it seem trivial? Does it seem fair? Could you change the faults you are finding? You don’t need to know the answers right now.

If you are lucky you may have a big realization. You may feel more confident in your own abilities to create and grow. You must not be afraid to learn through trial and error.

At the end of each day, dirt should be packed nicely beneath each fingernail. Expect callouses and muscles to increase with time. Your house will slowly fill with flowers - Ranunculus in the bedrooms and bathroom, Tulips and Narcissus in the kitchen.

**Recipe for falling behind**

Time (but not enough)

Tiredness

A dash of the unexpected

Commitments that are unrelated

Everyday will be busy. After working for 8-9 hours on the farm, you won’t want to spend a lot of time reading or writing.

Get sick.

Expect to be surprised by inconveniences.

Some days will be really hard. Be sure to take care of yourself.

It will suddenly always Monday. Where do the weeks go when they go away?

Realize that it is okay to change your plan.

**Recipe for catching up**

A list of what needs to be accomplished

Big chunks of time (set aside – the weekend works well for this)

Good music in the background

As much focus as you can find

A friend to work with (optional)

First, set aside some time to get things done. Set boundaries for yourself and respect them. Don’t commit to more than you can do.

Next, create a list of all the needs to be accomplished, noting the order and length of time each item will take.

Once you have your list, put on some music that will keep a steady momentum going.

Find some focus. Search high and low if you must, but this ingredient is key.

Work through your list until each item is checked off.

If you want, invite a friend over to share a space of productivity. This will only work if you hold each other accountable and do not distract. Small dance breaks are encouraged.