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Personal Notes "Such creation is all I have..."

Landon Brady Saunders

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PERSONAL NOTES CONT. 9/22/93

A note to myself: what will I really regret three to five months from now? I will regret it if my life is taken up eighty percent with fundraising and administration.

How do I control this? What is the "this is what I do?" I could be lost within three months to stewardship. I must have a plan where the financial stewardship does not rest exclusively with me.

Three things:

1. I must manage schedule, and it must include points of pause. Critical both mentally and medically.
2. I must operate out of the big picture and decisions must flow from that.
3. Somewhere I must find a head hunter capability--one who sees the talents needed matched to the strategies and can get them and manage it.

"The vision is the product." I must never confuse vision with informed vigorous discussion.

We must keep our work unfinished...and provisional.

We must guard against the thing that characterizes and threatens a "sphere"--namely, the need to get closure, to wrap it up, to finish.

Our workshop historically has been an invitation to be together, without being converted.

"Original sin" is regarded as the overthrow of inherent goodness/giving. Original sin discussions seem to me to always go to dehumanization, exploitation, etc.

My own life is a continual creation into what I am becoming as opposed to a predictable reflection of what is to come.

I keep shedding skins of former lives--

Yet I am not fickle in my essence--there is a deep solid silence at my center that gives coherence to my changes.

I am a continual creation because I am continually aware of and responsive to each new day. As a gift. The day is a container, more so a boundary against which I define myself. Unless my days become boring, routine, same like, I am not in danger of stale existence. And I cannot imagine a boring day, sad days yes, days of what appears to be motionless air, days into which I am allowed to sink down into depths, sometimes unexplored depths of existence. These days can hurt but the hurt is like the tree experiences when bark is peeled away, they hurt like a flower feels when petals fall--not the hurt that is motionless and dead but what is essential to newness and is therefore tolerable--even strangely, joyful deep down. Though I cannot always reach that depth in a given moment.

To rethink one's deepest loyalties, those points of condemnation that threaten legitimate participation in life, even one's view of the world--to do that without losing one's way or having to grow at the terrible expense of those who have given us the most, who have loved us the most--this is a great challenge, a great adventure.

Such creation is all I have...

To presume to know what is best for another life--that is the greatest crime.

Persuading another to be what our understanding dictates that person to be (even in the name of religion, this may be an even greater crime.)

To persuade one to be what one is intended to be--and to use the greatest tools available (including the sacred texts) to do that--that is teaching and training.

To train a child so that the child is free to leave you but does not, leaves the child's own integrity as a human being--that is the challenge before us all. "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it" is true... but the catch is in the words "in the way he should go."

How not to infringe on the integrity of another life--this is hard. Being with others in a way that encourages their freedom--what a risk--but even more perhaps, what a faith.