

July 31, 2020

Vulnerability

“Ultimately it is upon your vulnerability that you depend,” the poet Rilke writes. We are born and cared for by others, and we’ll die in the same way. For the time that we are here, we are dependent on the web of life. We eat from the farmers’ fields, we trust other drivers to obey traffic laws, we rely on the water department and the utility web and we lean on a whole host of people to sustain our lives: retail workers, engineers, custodians, highway workers, contractors, social workers, teachers, lawyers, bankers, medical staff, pastors, firefighters, police officers and so, so many more. Because of recent events, we are starting to ask, “Who can we trust with our well-being?”

Because we are vulnerable, it is a good thing to ask honest questions about how our interconnected lives are being treated and cared for in our society. Sonya Renee Taylor wrote this often-misattributed quote: “We will not go back to normal. Normal never was. Our pre-corona existence was not normal other than we normalized greed, inequity, exhaustion, depletion, extraction, disconnection, confusion, rage, hoarding, hate and lack. We should not long to return, my friends. We are being given the opportunity to stitch a new garment. One that fits all humanity and nature.”

And I would add that it’s a garment of vulnerability, because we cannot survive without each other . . . and by *other*, I mean all people.

Let’s get sewing!

Paula