



## **OPENINGS AND CLOSINGS FROM WHICH TO DRAW**

### **CIRCLE POEM**

People in a circle  
Share stories, values, dreams  
Create a unity  
Of life ongoing  
Universal wisdom  
Wedded with hope  
Of a world renewed  
And no one left out

### **THE WISE WOMAN'S STONE**

A wise woman who was traveling in the mountains found a precious stone  
in a stream.

The next day she met another traveler who was hungry, and the wise  
woman opened her bag to share her food.

The hungry traveler saw the precious stone and asked the woman to give it  
to him.

She did so without hesitation.

The traveler left, rejoicing in his good fortune.

He knew the stone was worth enough to give him security for a lifetime.

But a few days later he came back to return the stone to the wise woman.

“I’ve been thinking,” he said,

“I know how valuable the stone is, but I give it back in the hope that you can give me something even more precious.”

“Give me what you have within you that enabled you to give me the stone.”



Hearing is something that happens to us. Listening is something in which we choose to participate.



A friend asks, “Tell me one word which is significant in any kind of relationship (friendship).”

Another friend says, “LISTEN!”



### **BE SILENT AND LISTEN**

The inspiration you seek

Is already inside you,

Be silent and listen.



Never apologize for showing feeling,  
When you do so, you apologize for truth.



Out beyond ideas of wrong-doing and right-doing,  
There is a field. I’ll meet you there.



## **THE STORY MAKES YOU WHAT YOU ARE**

It's like everyone tells a story about themselves inside their own head.  
Always. All the time.

That story makes you what you are. We build ourselves out of that story.



## **STORIES GO IN CIRCLES**

Listen, stories go in circles. They don't go in straight lines. So, it helps if  
you listen in circles because there are stories inside and

stories between stories

And finding your way through them is as easy and as hard as finding your  
way home.

And part of the finding is the getting lost. And when you're lost, you really  
start to open up and listen.



## **KEEP KNOCKING**

Keep knocking, and the joy inside

Will eventually open a window

And look out to see who's there.



## **EVERYONE DOES WHAT THEY KNOW**

I believe everyone does the best they can. Everyone does what they know.

If people act in improper ways it is not because of a flaw in their spirit,

But due to lack of information and clarity of incentives. That is why I try  
hard not to judge others, or tell them what to do.

I understand that everyone sees a different piece of the puzzle.



## SELF DETERMINATION AND EMPOWERMENT

People don't resist change. They resist being changed.



That it's not about doing good for others,  
but learning how to be good with others.



### OUTWITTED

He drew a circle that shut me out  
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout  
But love and I had the wit to win  
We drew a circle that took him in.



### ANTI BULLYING

I realized that bullying never has to do with you.  
It's the bully who's insecure.



### DEALING WITH CONFLICTS, HURTS, & HARMS

Not everything that is faced can be changed,  
but nothing can be changed until it is faced.



### LOVE

If they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love  
No one is born hating another person because of the  
colour of his skin, or his

Background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can  
learn to hate,

They can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human  
heart than its opposite.



### **SUPPORT FOR ONE ANOTHER**

I always try to believe the best of everybody – it saves so much trouble.



People won't remember what you did.

People won't remember what you said.

But people will always remember the way you made them feel.



Few things can help an individual more than to place responsibility on him  
and let him know that you trust him.



We all take different paths in life, but no matter where we go, we take a  
little of each other everywhere.



### **WALK BESIDE ME**

Don't walk in front of me, I may not follow.

Don't walk behind me, I may not lead.

Just walk beside me and be my friend.



We will surely get to our destination if we join hands.



## **HAPPINESS**

We can be extremely happy just sitting and breathing in and out. We don't have to do or achieve anything. We enjoy the miracle of simply being here.



## **PERSEVERANCE**

Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new.