

Wherever you are is home  
And the earth is paradise  
Wherever you set your feet is holy and ...  
You don't live off it like a parasite.  
You live in it, and it in you,  
Or you don't survive.  
~ *Wilfred Pelletier and Ted Poole*

Even though we sometimes feel powerless,  
indifferent, or troubled, even though we can  
sometimes be wasteful of our lives, we all have a  
persistent, deeply felt desire to make our lives  
count in helpful, enduring ways. We want to do  
something specific and concrete that will give  
our lives meaning and affect the future.  
~ *UUA, "Stewardship: The Joy of Giving"*

Helping out is not some special skill. It is not the  
domain of rare individuals. It is not confined to a  
single part or time of our lives. We simply heed  
the call of that natural caring impulse and follow  
where it leads. ~ *Ram Dass and Paul Gorman*

Small service is true service.  
~ *William Wordsworth*

Some water the Tree of life,  
Nurturing its enveloping branches, which  
cast a cool and welcoming shade when a  
blazing sun threatens to scorch and sere our  
souls.

Some gather the audacious blossoms of  
lavender and crimson, azure and vermilion  
To spread before the feet of the abject and  
abandoned whose bare soles have known  
nothing but thorns and stones.

Some glean the windfall fruit, abused and  
neglected,  
And by the alchemy of love bring us tarts  
and pies, fritters and puddings, jams and  
nectars beyond imagination.

Some take the inevitable autumn drop,  
melancholy ochre tumbling in foreboding  
gales,  
And do not smudge the sky with their funeral  
pyres, but turn mulch to humus and  
nourishment for another season.

Some tend the Tree of Life, and we are their  
grateful heirs. ~ *Patrick Murfin*

Remember those in your own life who shared the gift of their  
generosity with you and others around them. The room lit up  
when they walked in. Their quiet radiance was felt by all. Their  
easy manner calmed the confusion. Their gentle laughter  
reassured those around them. They were 'someone to whom  
you would go'! They were, simply, generous people ... That is  
the transformation required of all of us: to live our lives and put  
our faith in action as generous people. ~ *Kennon Callahan*

If we're not careful, it's easy to become resentful about all the  
responsibilities of daily living ... It's really difficult to become  
a contented person if you're keeping score of all you do ... It  
will bring you far more joy your life to know that you have  
done your part and someone else in your family [community]  
has one less thing to do, than it will to worry and fret over  
whose turn it is ... ~ *Richard Carlson*

Love cannot remain by itself — it has no meaning. Love has to  
be put into action and that action is service. Whatever form we  
are, able or disabled, rich or poor, it is not how much we do,  
but how much love we put in the doing; a lifelong sharing of  
love with others. ~ *Mother Teresa*

The whole is the sum of the parts, so be a good part.  
~ *Nate McConnell*

Givers can be divided into three types: the flint, the sponge and  
the honeycomb. Some givers are like a piece of flint - to get  
anything out of it you must hammer it, and even then you only  
get chips and sparks. Other are like a sponge — to get anything  
out of a sponge you must squeeze it and squeeze it hard,  
because the more you squeeze a sponge, the more you get. But  
others are like a honeycomb — which just overflows with its  
own sweetness. ~ *Anonymous*

Happy are those who dream dreams and are ready to pay  
the price to make them come true. ~ *L.J. Cardinal  
Suenens*

We may need to think about service in a completely new way if  
we are to find an opportunity to do something we love. Our  
first thought may be to use our most expert skill, the thing we  
do best in our daily work, such as repairing cars, massaging  
aching bodies, practicing civil rights law, or negotiating  
international peace. But sometimes we need to look at our other  
talents and skills. We often think of these as hobbies ... but  
these activities may be just what we need to perform truly  
effective service.

~ *Ram Dass and Mirabai Bush*

The service we render others is the rent we pay for our room on  
earth. ~ *Wilfred Grenfell*

