

NESEA BuildingEnergy 2008

“Pecha Kucha”

20 Slides...12 Poems...Some Silence

Robert J. Leaver

new commons

Think | Link | Do

Living

Today, like every other day, we wake up empty and frightened. Don't open the door to the study and begin reading. Take down the dulcimer.

Let the beauty we love be what we do.

There are hundreds of ways to kneel and kiss the ground.

Rumi

My Parents' Lodging Place

...And he lays the palms of his wide-open hands on my head with the Yom Kippur blessing: Honor, love, that thy days may be long upon this earth. And the voice of my father – white as his hair. Then he turned his face to me one last time, as on the day he died in my arms, and said, I would like to add two more commandments:

the Eleventh Commandment, “Thou shalt not change,” and the Twelfth Commandment, “Thou shalt change. You will change.”

Thus spoke my father, and he turned and walked away and disappeared into his strange distances.

Yehuda Amichai

Learning

Advice

Someone dancing inside us
learned only a few steps:
the “Do-Your-Work” in 4/4 time,
the “What-Do-You-Expect” waltz.
He hasn’t noticed yet the woman
standing away from the lamp,
the one with black eyes
who knows the rumba,
and strange steps in jumpy rhythms
from the mountains in Bulgaria.
If they dance together,
something unexpected will happen.
If they don’t, the next world
will be a lot like this one.

Bill Holm

If each day falls
inside each night,
there exists a well
where clarity is imprisoned.

We need to sit on the rim
of the well of darkness
and fish for fallen light
with patience.

Pablo Neruda

Loving

Breath

Are you looking for me? I am in the next seat.

My shoulder is against yours.

You will not find me in stupas, not in Indian shrine rooms.

nor in synagogues, nor in cathedrals;

not in masses, nor kirtans, not in legs winding around your
own neck, nor in eating nothing but vegetables.

When you really look for me, you will see me instantly –
you will find me in the tiniest house of time.

Kabir says: Student, tell me, what is God?

He is the breath inside the breath.

Kabir

Last night, as I was sleeping,
I dreamt – marvelous error!—
that I had a beehive
here inside my heart.
And the golden bees
were making white combs
and sweet honey
from my old failures...

Last night, as I was sleeping,
I dreamt – marvelous error! –
that it was God I had
here inside my heart.

Antonio Machado

Leaving

Sometimes a man stands up during supper
and walks outdoors, and keeps on walking,
because of a church that stands somewhere in the East.

And his children say blessings on him as if he were dead.

And another man, who remains inside his own house,
dies there, inside the dishes and glasses,
so that his children have to go far out into the world
toward that same church, which he forgot.

Rainer Marie Rilke

Vacillation

My fiftieth year had come and gone,
I sat, a solitary man,
In a crowded London shop,
An open book and empty cup
On the marble table-top.

While on the shop and street I gazed
My body of a sudden blazed;
And twenty minutes more or less
It seemed, so great my happiness,
That I was blessed and could bless.

William Butler Yeats

Laughing

Who makes these changes?
I shoot an arrow right.
It lands left.
I ride after a deer and find myself
chased by a hog.
I plot to get what I want
and end up in prison.
I dig pits to trap others
and fall in.

I should be suspicious
of what I want.

Rumi

Ten Thousand Idiots

It is always a danger

To aspirants

On the

Path

When they begin

To believe and

Act

As if the ten thousand idiots

Who so long ruled

And lived

Inside

Have all packed their bags

And skipped town

Or

Died.

Hafiz

More From Rumi

When I am with you, we stay up all night.
When you're not here, I can't go to sleep.

Praise God for these two insomnias!
And the difference between them.

Rumi

Break the Mirror

If you have time to chatter

Read books

If you have time to read

Walk into mountain, desert and ocean

If you have time to walk

Sing songs and dance

If you have time to dance

Sit quietly, you Happy Lucky Idiot

Nanao Sakaki