

“Planning for the future is helpful, but living there is not.”

I am so guilty of planning for and living in the future, always have been, that it is far from funny. The ways that it has been less than helpful in my life are far greater than I can number, but the ones that I am being slapped upside the head by at this point in my life are; when I make a plan for the future and live therein that plan, in the sense of being attached to life working itself out in such a way as to fulfill upon MY plan not giving much thought to the fact that GOD may have a different plan, after all was it not God who gave me the plan in the first place. I end up setting myself up for disappointment, frustration and upset when it ends up that lo and behold God does indeed have another plan. And it not only takes me by surprise, but it sets me back, how could I have been so wrong as to think the plan I thought was God's was after all just mine, how stupid of me. So then it takes me some time, anywhere from a few hours to a few weeks to get on board with God's plan, because I had painted myself such a pretty picture of my plan.

“so, plan if we must, but come back home to the present moment.”

Sometimes things need planning out into the future, and that's okay. The key thing to remember then is to make the plan in such a way as to leave room for change, and then step back into the present moment, and let the Holy Spirit take over the plan and take it in the direction it needs to go in. It is important to remain unattached, to not take the plan back after surrendering to the Holy Spirit, I know I have been guilty of that as well. Trust that the Holy One knows what is best for you, and trust those who she has put over you and it is easier to surrender your plans and accept any changes that may come along. Ask yourself is my plan for the glory of me or for the glory of God, the answer will tell you if this is your plan or God's plan.

“The steps to the future all happen in the present moment, one at a time. Now is when the future is made.”

When I plan for the future, and live there rather than returning to the present moment, I rip myself off, I deprive myself of the fullness of the presence of God, because I am not fully in the present moment being mindful of the presence of The Holy One. I am trying to take the necessary steps while rebelling against the system (I am just getting this as I write) I had been doing my best to stay in the present moment, I thought I was doing a good job, doing what was expected of me, and then I saw the changes to the novice planner and I became aware of being attached to that idea. I had to give up my attachment which meant taking a trip back to present moment-ville and I had a shame attach around having to do so. When the train (I refused to take the bus) to present moment-ville arrived at its destination I started being able to see things clearly, which happens when one is able to be mindful. I realized this, along with most things on the

planet, was not about me. It was about being a part of a community that takes the formation of its members seriously , and is brave enough to make changes to assure they have the right people become members rather than just anybody. This makes me proud of CG and of myself for making it this far, and I believe that as long as I stay, to the best of my ability, in the present moment, taking the steps to the future one at a time with the hope to profess at some point in my life, I will make it further with them.

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