THE

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CALLING ANCESTORS

Poems by Diana Raab, PhD Artwork by Aslan Selçuk ARIK

hello all of you out there we need you to guide us show us the way.

I hear you're more alive now sweeping up wisdoms whispered in ears by angels as we wait for day light to pull us out of this darkness.

War where everyone hates and lifelines are pulled in more than four directions

we sit patiently awaiting your reply wondering if time will heal all that we lost or bring with it rainbows of confusion this many days before the beginning of a new year.

Amen.

OUR HISTORY

As I sit on my lonely terrace during this closing chapter of my life, I ponder all our shared memories which began on a balcony now destroyed: the one that held flames of everlasting love.

My mind slithers back through the soil of my memory to those sensations of new love and wonder about the magic to re-ignite their ambers without setting aflame to the rest.

I shiver through my optimism which hangs on the distal hooks of my mind twisted beneath some rock which I hesitate to lift in fear of those worms

which hide for cover like I do on my own balcony when the dark is brighter than the light and I want to be saved from all that lies ahead.

THE JEWELS OF MY CREATION

As I make a cup with my hands
I caress the small basket of people
who matter in my sextagenarian years
and all the memories
distill down to what I have created
in the womb of my heart
from the textures and medleys of the love
which caresses me and my soul mate
squeezing out the juices into
a new creation which we cannot
stop loving for the rest of our lives.

WHAT DEATH TEACHES US

Tonight I think of how death teaches us how to live— woven with images of distant names and accomplishments on illegible tombstones— a hint to enjoy life's simple pleasures.

Perhaps this is a reminder left behind by the dead, like Socrates who professed that death has no place in our lives.

By my bed sits a Buddhist book, earmarked pages saying there is no end, and praising the power of living.

It describes the power of living in the present moment: gears fixed in slow motion,

like time spent setting a dinner table, watering flowers, walking in gardens or engaged in quiet meditations.

I ache with melancholy as my favorite aunt is put to rest and leaves no legacy.

Life continues to remind me to stop and feel its joy over and over again, with no regrets but just...permission to live.

WISDOM 65

- 1. Remember that you are how you live
- 2. Do what you love, love what you do
- 3. Give unconditional love
- 4. Love others in order to be loved
- 5. Cherish each day
- 6. Maintain a positive spirit
- 7. Give love from your heart
- 8. Follow your bliss
- 9. Practice gratitude
- 10. Make kindness your spiritual practice
- 11. Focus on positive thoughts
- 12. Remember that today may be your last
- 13. See the light through the darkness
- 14. Smile at strangers
- 15. Go for a walk instead of watching TV
- 16. Take work breaks
- 17. Go to the gym
- 18. Make love not war
- 19. Nurture friends who make you feel good
- 20. Crush your inner self-critic
- 21. Be creative every day
- 22. Adopt a pet
- 23. Create an altar in your home
- 24. Be a seeker
- 25. Journal on a daily basis
- 26. Write letters to friends who are far away
- 27. Tell loved ones how you feel about them
- 28. Make regular wish lists
- 29. Nurture a passion
- 30. Engage in hobbies
- 31. Laugh like a child

- 32. Eat a clean diet
- 33. Indulge in an ounce of chocolate each day
- 34. Always use a strong reading light
- 35. Refrain from eating sugar
- 36. Smell the roses
- 37. Push the envelope
- 38. Travel to new places
- 39. Be lustful
- 40. Always dress nicely
- 41. Drink only after you eat
- 42. Take photos of special moments
- 43. Drink a glass of lemon water each morning
- 44. See a holistic physician
- 45. Always get three surgical opinions
- 46. Wash your hands before you eat
- 47. Travel with safety pins and a needle and thread
- 48. Practice loving kindness
- 49. Meditate daily
- 50. Be kind to your neighbors
- 51. Release toxic people from your life
- 52. Send thank-you cards
- 53. Say please and thank you
- 54. Pour sake for others and then yourself
- 55. Put the toilet seat down
- 56. Drink 8 to 12 glasses of water daily
- 57. Give to your favorite charity
- 58. Practice the Golden Rule
- 59. Spend time with your beloveds
- 60. Read everything you can
- 61. Visit your dentist regularly
- 62. Celebrate the good times
- 63. Do one scary thing each day
- 64. Honor yourself
- 65. Thank your parents for your life