



November 25, 2024

Taking the Risk

You will no doubt find it odd that I am thinking about gardening as our days descend into greater and greater darkness, and Spring feels as elusive as a swim in Lake Michigan. None the less, I am.

My thoughts have been prompted by a quote I read, attributed to Anasis Nin, a French-born American diarist. She writes, *“And the day came when the risk to remain tight in the bud became greater than the risk that it took to bloom.”*

All gardeners have experienced the playing out of these words in the spring when flowers such as daffodils and hyacinths succumb to the warmth of the sun and burst into glorious blossom. I don't know about you, but it thrills my heart every time this happens.

I am very much struck, however, by how much this quote can also serve as an analogy for our own lives. It seems very tempting to “remain tight in the bud,” resisting the promptings of nature and God to *risk* escaping the comfortable, protective layers which surround us. After all, there are real and present dangers out there — germs, hostile words, angry people, perspectives born from experiences different than our own.

In her quote, however, Nin wisely says, *“the **risk** to remain tight in the bud became greater than the **risk** that it took to bloom.”* After all, buds which never blossom are doomed to death. We sadly witness

this play out when a late winter storm freezes the trees in our region's orchards, preventing them from producing fruit.

And so it is with our own lives. When we fail to answer nature and God's call to *bloom where we are planted*, we not only risk endangering ourselves, but we also prevent growth from occurring, We quench the fruit of the spirit described in Galatians 5, stopping the blossoms for these fruits — **Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control** — from ever bursting forth into bloom.

While the days may be dark and your gardens lay dormant, use this time wisely — I challenge you to take the risk to bloom in a way you've never tried before. Trust me, the result in yourself and others will be worth the risk.

~Written by Bonnie Garbrecht

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