



A FECUND CONGLOMERATION

THOUGHTS ON FEBRUARY...

by Richard Marx

One must learn to be open - to be open to the world around him, with all of its myriad situations, people, and things. Of course it is dreary and grey outside, but does that mean there must be dreariness and greyness inside one's self? As a gardener who has spent years of working outdoors in the rain, I cannot afford to allow the weather to determine my moods. In fact, I have found that once one becomes accustomed to the inclement weather, it actually can be a pleasant experience of its own. On truly stormy days of heavy rains and strong winds, there is a majestic wakefulness in the forces of nature at work. There is a calming effect on listening to heavy rain pattering on the roof. On partly cloudy days there is an interplay of colors in the whites and greys of clouds contrasted against vivid blue patches of sky.

There is the joy of seeing the oval-pointed buds of crocuses expand into small chalices of gold, purple, or white when the sun is shining. The white snowdrops and golden winter aconites are accentuated against the dark brown earth. Dandelions, even though regarded as weeds, start to peek through the lawns and roadsides with their sunny yellow blossoms to remind us of the promise of sunlight in the days ahead. A robin sings or a pair of pheasants are sighted on the outer limits of the property. Have you ever looked at the slim white trunk of a birch tree as it branches out against the brilliant blue of a clear winter sky?

Children have a sense of wonder. Have you ever really listened to them and noticed their curiosity in the things around them? There is the laughter of people as they share in the joys of friendship. True, there are those who are angry and sullen, but why should they ruin the day? To allow this is only to follow in their footsteps. Speak to those you meet, for you never know when you might uplift a really lonely person. Such openness requires courage for many, but it opens the door for communication with others. Communication is an art; thus, an expression of creativity.

Openness to one's surroundings and reaching out to it helps to relieve boredom and escapism. It is also the first step to creativity: for to be creative, one must be sensitive and aware. Awareness of the surrounding beauties and opportunities around us enables one to free one's mind of unnecessary mental garbage so that one may function more fully and so fulfill one's potentials.



Photo by Tara Powers

HAIKU - FRIGID TEMPERATURES
BRANCHES FALL TO THE GROUND
MOTHER NATURE...PRUNING

by Carol Soderberg-Pienovi

Weather Gram: Logs float down
the river...
Even in the dark.

by Carol Soderberg-Pienovi

