

## From Tidy Time to Tidal Time: Reflections for Winter / Transitions as the Wheel Turns - Presented by OLOC on Zoom, Wed., December 28, 2022



### Description of the event

During this time of hibernation, the Northern Hemisphere is dark and still. Ours bodies and breathing slow down. We rest and rejuvenate as we wait for the returning of the light.

Let's turn to our heart-center (not only our minds). As we plod through the patriarchal tidy time to the "new year," let's consider what it means to be in tidal time of Old Lesbian interconnections. What transitions have we experienced this year as we turn towards the light of the next season. What inspires us? What feeds our spirits and our hearts with the courage to continue in our aging?

This zoom will feature music, readings of poetry or stories, and other surprises.

---

We had some Zoom technical difficulties during the event, so the recording is not very good. But we do have many of the shared readings and music links from the event that we can share.



# From Tidy Time to Tidal Time: Reflections for Winter / Transitions as the Wheel Turns - Presented by OLOC on Zoom, Wed., December 28, 2022



## Opening & Welcome – presented by Mev Miller, curator of the event

This is the time of year when the world marks the turning to a New calendar Year. Many people will celebrate with parties, eat or drink extravagantly, or make new resolutions for how they will become better. – Some of us go to bed early – just like every other evening, and ignore the hoopla.

New Year's Eve/day also happen during a long string of other winter festivities – Advent, Bodhi Day (Buddhist), Gita Jayanti (Hindu), Chanukah, Los Posada, Winter Solstice, Soyal (Native American – Hopi, Zuni), Christmas, Boxing Day, Kwanzaa, Three Kings Day/Epiphany, Chinese New year – and perhaps others. Some of these holidays are designated by dates, others are determined by lunar or solar calendars. These winter months with all their holidays can simultaneously be exhilarating, exhausting, quiet/reflective, joyous, and/or dreadful.

At this time of year, I'm often reminded of Mary Daly and her thinking about **patriarchal tidy time**. I once heard her speak in person about these ideas that can be found in her books:

- *Pure Lust: Elemental Feminist Philosophy*, and
- *Websters' First New Intergalactic Wickedary of the English Language*

She describes "tidy time" as

"Archetypal deadtime" -- "Timeless Time, lacking genuine movement, having no real past, present, or future,"

"Tidy time" is defined as "fathered time; measurements/divisions that cut women's Lifetimes/Lifelines into tidy tid-bits; dismembered time..."

Examples include: 12-month calendar, 9-5 workday, weekends – and Christmas season!

In her book, *Websters' First New Intergalactic Wickedary of the English Language*, Mary Daly points out an alternative –namely, **Tidal Time**. This refers to,

- Tidal time is elemental movement not man-measured.
- Tidal Time displays the infinite interplay of unity and diversity – it reflects (as Daly quotes Rachel Carson) the tidal rhythms that vary from ocean to ocean – ebb and flow – night that follows day – high and low tide and lunar influences. In sea and on land (and air), each living thing is bound to its world by many threads weaving an intricate design in the fabric of life.

In the Wickedary, Daly explains Tidal time as...

*"Elemental Time, beyond the clocking/clacking of "clonedom; Tidal time is Wild Time; Time that cannot be grasped by the tidily man-dated world; Time of Wicked Inspiration/Genius."*

Tidal time, then, reflects the complexity of the tides – and suggests something Wild, yet harmonious in its complexity – in which biophilic women (whose values are critical to cosmic conversation) move towards Elemental Be-ing – a matrix of expressing diversity in unity – "created through successions of Original Creative Acts/Actions" (Wickedary, 97).

## **From Tidy Time to Tidal Time: Reflections for Winter / Transitions as the Wheel Turns - Presented by OLOC on Zoom, Wed., December 28, 2022**



So, inspired by Daly's words, I offer this OLOC Zoom as an opportunity, to both ignore and embrace the many winter holidays. Since we are in this Northern Hemisphere (a geographic reality) – it is a time of hibernation.

Our bodies and breathing slow down. We rest and rejuvenate as we anticipate the returning of the light. Let's turn to our heart-center (not only our minds). As we plod through patriarchal tidy time to the "new year," let's consider what it means to be in Tidal Time of Old Lesbian interconnections.

I've invited several OLOC members to share their own writing – as well as those of others – to encourage us to explore various transitions as we turn towards the light of the next season. Let's envision Tidal Time to feed our spirits and our hearts with the courage to continue making Creative Acts during our aging years.

### **Beth York: Song – "Journey" – performed with Barb Ester**

#### **Journey (Beth York, 2019)**

I walk alone inside the darkness.  
I feel the winds of time collide.  
No compass points a clear direction.  
The mists surround; my vision veiled.

I wander toward the edge of knowing.  
I grope along the thorny path.  
My footsteps mark the way in echo.  
My senses open wide at last.

What fate has tempted must I follow?  
Will passion guide the seeker home?  
The questions raise a thousand questions.  
The ancient guardians of my soul.

The muffled voices of the ages,  
A million secrets to be told,  
The never ending contemplation,  
The answers ready to unfold.

May guiding spirit ever lead me.  
May wonder overtake my heart  
To see the valley and the mountain,  
Trust the journey, fear depart.

### **Janet Stetser – Ear reflexology demonstration**

---

**From Tidy Time to Tidal Time: Reflections for Winter / Transitions as the Wheel Turns - Presented by OLOC on Zoom, Wed., December 28, 2022**



**Wyrd Sisters: Song - Solstice Carole**

---

Recording – Available on You Tube - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3T0i4akX5a8>

*Not all lyrics are available – these are some selections:*

...the fire is burning  
the long night draws near  
all who need comfort  
are welcome by here.....

...we'll dance 'neath the stars  
and toast the past year  
for the spirit of solstice  
is still living here.....

...we'll count all our blessings  
while the Mother lays down  
with snow as her blanket  
covering the ground.....

... come by the fire  
the harvest to share  
for the spirit of solstice  
is still living there

**Edie Daly: Reading selections from “Lesbian Salon in St. Petersburg”**

---

From her book: *Old Lesbian Memory Quilt: Stories Told by Edie Daly on her 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday*. Available from [www.modernmemoirs.com](http://www.modernmemoirs.com).

**Rand Hall: Poem – Lesbian**

---

lesbian - a woman  
a woman not defined by man  
or  
by her relationship to man, any man  
but by her  
her love of woman

lesbian goes against the grain

**From Tidy Time to Tidal Time: Reflections for Winter / Transitions as the  
Wheel Turns - Presented by OLOC on Zoom, Wed., December 28, 2022**



strong, defiant, female  
by birth  
not by feminine description  
or restriction

lesbian is outside the lines  
the girl definition that binds  
she is self-defined  
so fine

may be  
soft on the outside  
or hardly soft  
but always soft on the inside

may be high femme  
or drag butch  
or an androgyne  
or none of the above  
but she can love  
and when she does  
she loves  
a woman

she is  
a lesbian  
being

I am not gay, though I am queer  
(different from the norm),  
I am not unclear.  
I claim my birthright as a woman  
for there is nothing stronger  
or more powerful on this earth than a woman.

I claim lesbian, a womon-loving-woman.  
I give thanks every day

**From Tidy Time to Tidal Time: Reflections for Winter / Transitions as the  
Wheel Turns - Presented by OLOC on Zoom, Wed., December 28, 2022**



that I was not born a man,  
needing a dick to make me feel  
"bigger than, better than,"  
always aware of  
and needing to take care of  
my dick.  
Creator was kind and I was born a woman.

Woman - the essence and the word,  
still vilified in this man-centric civilization. Every strength, intelligence, ability,  
sense of self, sense of power,  
demand for freedom and independence — We are conditioned to believe  
must be a "masculine" trait.  
No wonder that young dykes  
and "butches" feel they can not be women, can not identify as "woman."  
Better to be "other"  
or anything but weak, useless women.

I am 77 years old  
and I am no boy,  
no matter how you spell it (boi), no insignificant, irresponsible, unthreatening  
child - no immature male child.  
Hell no! I am a woman.  
Fully grown and taking my own.  
I do not have to redefine  
or rename me  
because I do not fit  
their definition of woman.  
I am a woman,  
THIS is what woman is.  
Strong, capable, powerful and able  
- I am a woman.  
Tender, loving, alive - woman.  
Stand up in your face, take my full space, know its ALL my place - woman.  
I am a woman-loving-woman - I am lesbian.

**Sid Reger: Goddess Reflections**

---

Offered some short readings that turn our hearts toward connections with each other and with our inner lives: Words about goddesses, sacred myths, and earth mysteries from Patricia Monaghan, my friend and co-founder of the Assoc. for the Study of Women and Mythology (ASWM).

**Melanie DeMore: Ache Oh!**

---

Melanie spoke about African American history and tradition of Kwanzaa and presented this video of her song for Kwanzaa. <https://youtu.be/NVdqlcOOyN4>

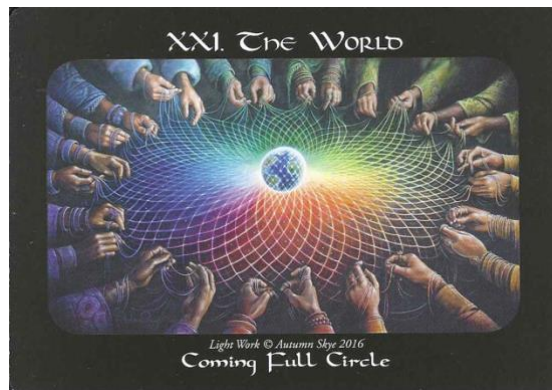
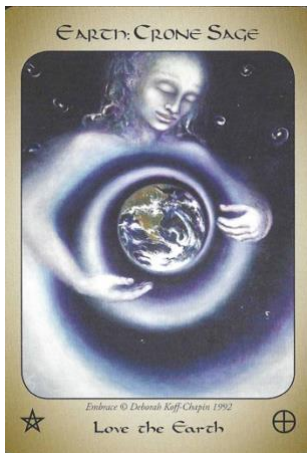
**Edie Daly: Poem – I Have Loved Women**

---

From her book: Old Lesbian Memory Quilt: Stories Told by Edie Daly on her 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Available from [www.modernmemoirs.com](http://www.modernmemoirs.com).

**Musawa: We'Moon Tarot Cards**

---



Musawa discussed two of the cards from the new We'Moon Tarot Deck that she thought reflected the themes of transition and next steps. You can learn more about the deck from the website: <https://wemoon.ws/products/tarot-card-deck>

**Delores Walters: Reading of Poem**

---

**“Somebody’s Mother”** by Mabel Down Northam Brine

<https://allpoetry.com/Somebody's-Mother>

The woman was old and ragged and gray  
And bent with the chill of the Winter's day.

## From Tidy Time to Tidal Time: Reflections for Winter / Transitions as the Wheel Turns - Presented by OLOC on Zoom, Wed., December 28, 2022



The street was wet with a recent snow  
And the woman's feet were aged and slow.

She stood at the crossing and waited long,  
Alone, uncared for, amid the throng

Of human beings who passed her by  
Nor heeded the glance of her anxious eyes.

Down the street, with laughter and shout,  
Glad in the freedom of "school let out,"

Came the boys like a flock of sheep,  
Hailing the snow piled white and deep.

Past the woman so old and gray  
Hastened the children on their way.

Nor offered a helping hand to her —  
So meek, so timid, afraid to stir

Lest the carriage wheels or the horses' feet  
Should crowd her down in the slippery street.

At last came one of the merry troop,  
The gayest laddie of all the group:

He paused beside her and whispered low,  
"I'll help you cross, if you wish to go."

Her aged hand on his strong young arm  
She placed, and so, without hurt or harm,

He guided the trembling feet along,  
Proud that his own were firm and strong.

Then back again to his friends he went,  
His young heart happy and well content.

"She's somebody's mother, boys, you know,  
For all she's aged and poor and slow.

"And I hope some fellow will lend a hand  
To help my mother, you understand,



## From Tidy Time to Tidal Time: Reflections for Winter / Transitions as the Wheel Turns - Presented by OLOC on Zoom, Wed., December 28, 2022



"If ever she's poor and old and gray,  
When her own dear boy is far away."

And "somebody's mother" bowed low her head  
In her home that night, and the prayer she said

Was "God be kind to the noble boy,  
Who is somebody's son, and pride and joy!"

### **Audre Lorde: Recorded Reading of "A Litany for Survival"**

---

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LjvA0Ju1i5s> - words scroll with the reading
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bsRPW-ES2Gk> - alternate version with a picture of Audre Lorde

For those of us who live at the shoreline  
standing upon the constant edges of decision  
crucial and alone  
for those of us who cannot indulge  
the passing dreams of choice  
who love in doorways coming and going  
in the hours between dawns  
looking inward and outward  
at once before and after  
seeking a now that can breed  
futures  
like bread in our children's mouths  
so their dreams will not reflect  
the death of ours;

For those of us  
who were imprinted with fear  
like a faint line in the center of our foreheads  
learning to be afraid with our mother's milk  
for by this weapon  
this illusion of some safety to be found  
the heavy-footed hoped to silence us  
For all of us  
this instant and this triumph  
We were never meant to survive.

And when the sun rises we are afraid  
it might not remain

## From Tidy Time to Tidal Time: Reflections for Winter / Transitions as the Wheel Turns - Presented by OLOC on Zoom, Wed., December 28, 2022



when the sun sets we are afraid  
it might not rise in the morning  
when our stomachs are full we are afraid  
of indigestion  
when our stomachs are empty we are afraid  
we may never eat again  
when we are loved we are afraid  
love will vanish  
when we are alone we are afraid  
love will never return  
and when we speak we are afraid  
our words will not be heard  
nor welcomed  
but when we are silent  
we are still afraid

So it is better to speak  
remembering  
we were never meant to survive.

*"A Litany for Survival." Copyright © 1978 by Audre Lorde, from The Collected Poems of Audre Lorde by Audre Lorde. Copyright © 1997 by the Audre Lorde Estate.*

### **Kiesa Kay:** Reading a statement by Elsa Gidlow

---

Selection from Elsa Gidlow from *Footprints in the Sands of the Sacred*. This reading can be found in *Sinister Wisdom* #10 from Summer, 1979, p. 25.

<http://sinisterwisdom.org/sites/default/files/Sinister%20Wisdom%2010.pdf>

### **ASL Class:** Interpreting "We Rise!"

---

For several years, OLOC has had a group of Lesbians who get together a couple times a month on Sunday evenings to practice sign language together. One of our members wanted to learn how to sign this song to use with her choir. We decided this would be a good option for this evening's program.

- "We Rise" by Batya Levine - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6tkmkwufRVw&list=RD6tkmkwufRVw&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6tkmkwufRVw&list=RD6tkmkwufRVw&start_radio=1)
- This is a video from a practice session: <https://youtu.be/fWi0TTI4IsM>
- Lyrics below

**From Tidy Time to Tidal Time: Reflections for Winter / Transitions as the Wheel Turns - Presented by OLOC on Zoom, Wed., December 28, 2022**



Verse 1        We rise, humbly hearted  
                  Rise, won't be divided  
                  Rise, with spirit to guide us Rise

**Chorus:**        In hope in prayer, we find ourselves here  
                  In hope, in prayer we're right here  
                  In hope in prayer, we find ourselves here  
                  In hope, in prayer we're right here

Verse 2        And we rise, all of the children  
                  Rise, elders with wisdom  
                  Rise, ancestors surround us Rise

**Repeat Chorus**

Verse 3        We rise, up from the wreckage  
                  Rise, with tears and with courage,  
                  Rise Fighting for life we rise

**Repeat Chorus**

Repeat Verse 1

**Blanche Jackson: Reading selections of "Earthseed" from Octavia Butler**

Selections from "Earthseed: The Book of the Living" by Lauren Oya Olamina – as presented in *The Parable of the Sower* by Octavia Butler. Because it is long, it has been placed at the bottom of this document.

**Mev Miller: Reading a selection by Gloria Anzaldúa**

Excerpt from "La conciencia de la mestiza: Towards a New Consciousness" by Gloria Anzaldúa in *Making Face, Making Soul/Haciendo Caras: Creative and Critical Perspectives by Feminists of Color* edited by Gloria Anzaldúa. Aunt Lute Books, 1990, p. 380. as found in *Sinister Wisdom* #78/79, p. 152 - <http://www.sinisterwisdom.org/sites/default/files/Sinister%20Wisdom%2078%2079.pdf>

**Barb Ester: Song – "Day to Day" performed with Beth York**

**DAY TO DAY / CYCLES by Barbara Ester        10/93**

I live in cycles, I know the seasons, earth's rhythms and my own  
I live in cycles, I'm knowing Luna, moon, and my body's tides  
I live with changes, I know the daylight, I sleep and dream at night

## From Tidy Time to Tidal Time: Reflections for Winter / Transitions as the Wheel Turns - Presented by OLOC on Zoom, Wed., December 28, 2022



I am spiraling and I am growing, and I am living, breathing, and singing my life  
Day to day to day to day, Day to day to day today  
The Earth gives me time, Air gives me breath  
Fire, my soul's inner flesh,  
Waters my bloods flow, Streaming my veins  
While my hearts pounding rhythm is constant with change  
I try to think of an answer, it remains the same  
Everything's movement like ocean waves  
Day to Day to day today  
High tide, low tide, high tide low tide  
Day to Day to day today!

---

### EARTHSEED: THE BOOKS OF THE LIVING – as written in *The Parable of the Sower*

**Earthseed** is a religion based on the idea that "God is Change". It is the creation of Octavia E. Butler, as revealed by her character Lauren Oya Olamina in the books: *Parable of the Sower* and *Parable of the Talents*. (A third book of the trilogy, *Parable of the Trickster*, was not completed before Butler's death.) (Wikipedia)

The word "Earthseed" comes from the idea that the seeds of all life on Earth can be transplanted, and through adaptation will grow, in many different types of situations or places. "The Books of the Living" is chosen in direct contrast to many other religions' use of the phrase "The Books of the Dead". Earthseed is a religion of the present and the future, of the living, not of the dead or the past.

Also see: [godischange.org/about/octavia-butler/](http://godischange.org/about/octavia-butler/) OR [godischange.org/the-book-of-the-living/](http://godischange.org/the-book-of-the-living/)  
*These are some selections.... (Blanche read the selections that are **in bold**.)*

**All that you touch**  
**You change.**  
**All that you Change**  
**Changes you.**  
**The only lasting truth**  
**Is Change.**  
**God Is Change.**

Prodigy is, at its essence,  
adaptability and persistent,  
positive obsession. Without  
persistence, what remains is an  
enthusiasm of the moment. Without  
adaptability, what remains may  
be channeled into destructive

# From Tidy Time to Tidal Time: Reflections for Winter / Transitions as the Wheel Turns - Presented by OLOC on Zoom, Wed., December 28, 2022



fanaticism. Without positive  
obsession, there is nothing at all.

A gift of God  
May sear unready fingers

**We do not worship God.  
We perceive and attend God.  
We learn from God.  
With forethought and work,  
We shape God.  
In the end, we yield to God.  
We adapt and endure,  
For we are Earthseed  
And God is Change.**

**God is Power—  
Infinite,  
Irresistible,  
Inexorable,  
Indifferent.  
And yet, God is Pliable—  
Trickster,  
Teacher,  
Chaos,  
Clay.  
God exists to be shaped.  
God is Change.**

Intelligence is ongoing, individual  
adaptability. Adaptations that an intelligent  
species may make  
in a single generation, other species  
make over  
many generations of selective  
breeding and  
selective dying. Yet intelligence is  
demanding.  
If it is misdirected by accident or by  
intent, it can  
foster its own orgies of breeding and  
dying.

A Victim of God may,  
Through learning adaption,  
Become a partner of God,  
A victim of God may,

# From Tidy Time to Tidal Time: Reflections for Winter / Transitions as the Wheel Turns - Presented by OLOC on Zoom, Wed., December 28, 2022



Through forethought and  
planning,  
Become a shaper of God.  
Or a victim of God may,  
Through shortsightedness and  
fear,  
Remain God's victim,  
God's plaything,  
God's prey

Belief  
Initiates and guides action-  
Or it does nothing.

Drowning people  
Sometimes die  
Fighting their rescuers.

**We are all Godseed,  
But no more or less so than any other aspect of the universe,  
Godseed is all there is-all that Changes.  
Earthseed is all that spreads Earthlife to new earths.  
The universe is Godseed.  
Only we are Earthseed.  
And the Destiny of Earthseed is to take root among the stars.**

**Why is the universe?  
To shape God.**

**Why is God?  
To shape the universe.**

**All that you touch,  
You Change.**

**All that you Change,  
Changes you.**

**The only lasting truth  
Is Change.**

**God  
Is Change**

A tree Cannot grow  
In its parents' shadows

The Destiny of Earthseed  
Is to take root among the stars.

## From Tidy Time to Tidal Time: Reflections for Winter / Transitions as the Wheel Turns - Presented by OLOC on Zoom, Wed., December 28, 2022



To get along with God,  
Consider the consequences of  
your behavior.

**All struggles  
Are essentially  
power struggles.  
Who will rule,  
Who will lead,  
Who will define,  
refine,  
confine,  
designed,  
Who will dominate?  
All struggles  
Are essentially power struggles,  
And most are no more  
intellectual  
than two rams  
knocking their heads together**

Civilization is to groups what intelligence is to individuals.

It is a means of combining the intelligence of many to achieve ongoing group adaption.

Civilization , like intelligence, may serve well, serve adequately, or fail to serve its adaptive function.

When civilization fails to serve, it musta sent it great unless it is acted upon by unifying internal or external forces.

When apparent stability  
disintegrates,  
As it must-  
God is Change-  
People tend to give in  
To fear and depression,  
To need and greed.  
When no influence is strong  
enough  
To Unify people  
They divide.  
They struggle,  
One against one,  
Group against group,  
For survival, position, power.  
They remember old hates and  
generate new ones,

# From Tidy Time to Tidal Time: Reflections for Winter / Transitions as the Wheel Turns - Presented by OLOC on Zoom, Wed., December 28, 2022



They create chaos and nurture it.  
They kill and kill and kill,  
Until they are exhausted and  
destroyed,  
Until they are conquered by  
outside forces,  
Or until one of the becomes  
A leader  
Most will follow,  
Or a tyrant  
Most fear.

Any Change may bear seeds of benefit.  
Seek them out.  
Any Change may bear seeds of harm.  
Beware.  
God is infinitely malleable.  
God is Change.

All successful life is  
Adaptable,  
Opportunistic,  
Tenacious,  
Interconnected, and  
Fecund.  
Understand this.  
Use it.  
Shape God.

**We are the Earthseed  
The life that perceives itself  
Changing.**

**There is no end  
To what a living world  
Will demand of you.**

WE ARE EARTHSEED. WE are flesh-self aware, questing, problem-solving  
flesh. We are that aspect of Earthlife best able to shape God knowingly.  
We are Earthlife maturing, Earthlife preparing to take root in a new  
ground, Earthlife fulfilling its purpose, its promise its Destiny.

In order to rise  
From its own ashes  
A phoenix  
First



**From Tidy Time to Tidal Time: Reflections for Winter / Transitions as the  
Wheel Turns - Presented by OLOC on Zoom, Wed., December 28, 2022**



Must  
Burn.

Kindness eases Changes

Earthseed  
Cast on new ground  
Must first perceive  
That it knows nothing

**Embrace diversity.  
Unite-  
Or be divided,  
robbed,  
ruled,  
killed  
By those who see you as prey.  
Embrace diversity  
Or be destroyed**

Once or twice  
Each week  
A Gathering of Earthseed  
is a good and necessary thing.  
It vents emotion, then  
quiets the mind.  
It focuses attention,  
strengthens purpose, and  
unifies people

Changes.  
The galaxies move through space.  
The stars ignite,  
burn,  
age,  
cool,  
Evolving.  
God is Change.  
God prevails.

**God is neither good  
nor evil,  
neither loving  
nor hating.  
God is Power.  
God is Change.  
We must find the rest of what we need**

**From Tidy Time to Tidal Time: Reflections for Winter / Transitions as the  
Wheel Turns - Presented by OLOC on Zoom, Wed., December 28, 2022**



**within ourselves,  
in one another,  
in our Destiny.**

**The Self must create  
Its own reasons for being.  
To shape God,  
Shape Self.**

**As wind,  
As water,  
As fire,  
As life,  
God  
Is both creative and destructive,  
Demanding and yielding,  
Sculptor and clay.  
God is Infinite Potential:  
God is Change.**

Your teachers  
Are all around you.  
All that you perceive,  
All that you experience,  
All that is given to you  
or taken from you,  
All that you love or hate,  
need or fear  
Will teach you-  
If you will learn.  
God is your first  
and your last teacher.  
God is your harshest teacher:  
subtle,  
demanding.  
Learn or die.

Respect God:  
Pray working.  
Pray learning,  
planning,  
doing.  
Pray creating,  
teaching,  
reaching.  
Pray working.

## From Tidy Time to Tidal Time: Reflections for Winter / Transitions as the Wheel Turns - Presented by OLOC on Zoom, Wed., December 28, 2022



Pray to focus your thoughts,  
still your fears,  
strengthen your purpose.  
respect God.  
Shape God.  
Pray working.

Create no images of God.  
Accept the images  
that God has provided.  
They are everywhere,  
in everything.  
God is Change-  
Seed to tree,  
tree to forest;  
Rain to river,  
river to sea;  
Grubs to bees,  
bees to swarm.  
From one, many;  
from many, one;  
Forever uniting, growing,  
dissolving-  
forever Changing.  
The universe  
is God's self-portrait.