

Treasure Hunt

TREES WHISPER. A BREEZE BLOWS. I AM SIX YEARS OLD. MY AUNT DEBY AND I ARE HAVING AN OUTDOOR TEA PARTY.

We wear floppy hats, sip tea, and imagine we are in England, at the palace with the queen. Her pretend British accent lilts and tickles my ears. It is the first memory I have of an accent, and right then and there, I am captivated.

As I grew, so did my curiosity and passion to surround myself with people from all around the world. I posted *National Geographic* pictures and world maps on my walls in my childhood bedroom. They hung from my ceiling and covered my door. These images were of distant lands and communities—of food, homes, and villages I'd not yet seen. I would go to sleep and wake up thinking about these people and places. Even then—in my early days of life—I dreamt that I would see, visit, eat with, and get to know these strangers in distant lands.

Years later, as a teenager, I was offered the extraordinary opportunity to go to India. I basked in the sounds of new languages and blaring horns I heard as I got off the plane in Calcutta, the wave of hot air that hit my skin as I exited the airport, the sensation of wearing saris, the mode of traveling around the city in rickshaws, the smells of aromatic spices coming from the street food vendors at every corner, and the *delIGHT* to my senses of steaming, sweet, spicy, and milky chai.

From the very start, I felt at home. Back then, it was a bit of a mystery. I found myself thinking, *How can it be, that a place so unfamiliar, so different, feels like home?* But, now, I know why. I understand. This bewildering familiarity and joy were clues pointing to my purpose.

I see how that passion was being sparked and stoked years earlier, in my first memory of an accent with Aunt Deby ... as I ripped out magazine pages and wallpapered my room with people and life from all over the world ... when I got on a plane bound for India as a teenager. Such simple, *EVERYday*, and important clues for the treasure hunt of my life.

Step by step,
year by year,
the sparks would be set more ablaze,
the distance would lessen,
and these faraway people and I
would connect
and
claim
one
another
as
family.

**This bewildering
familiarity and joy
were clues pointing
to my purpose.**

pop

be still (surrender)

The world is big.

The needs are great.

The treasure hunt is riveting.

But, here and now,

let it all go.

If a burden or worry comes to mind,

imagine exhaling it out.

Just for now.

One by one, exhale each and every thing that comes to mind.

Cultivate silence.

Quiet.

Stillness.

Be.

ponder (go deeper)

Listen to “Amazing Grace,” with Ladysmith Black Mambazo and Paul Simon. Let the beauty of these voices wash over you. *Ahh*. What bubbles up in you as you listen to this song?

My friend, what have you loved for a long time? What beckoned your attention as a kid that might be part of the treasure hunt of your life as you know it now ... a piece of what has always been a part of you? Imagine. Go back. What did you love to play, what did you love to do, what images, movies, and books captured your imagination? Be curious about those early years and explore what comes up.

Even here, as we're picking up the tempo, remember to go in a soulful, discerning, *bistari* way. The timing always ends up working out just right. Be fueled to move toward and accomplish mighty things, at a time that is just right for you. *Ponder* and write about what it's like to be in this place of exploring and investigation without forcing, pushing, or stressing. How is this tempo different from past ways of being and doing that you've experienced?

Engage (commit)

A nudge. Research a bit today and put in your calendar a time to go to a lecture, watch a movie, listen to a podcast, or start reading a book that will stoke the fire that is sparking in you. Have fun, explore, and go for it!

Now, it's your turn. What or who are you beckoned to *commit to*, *connect with*, or *create*—whether in small or big ways?

Share something from this PoP with someone you trust.

Your Word. Write a word that has captured your attention in this PoP.

BE BOLD. BE BRAVE. BE YOU.

