

THE COMMON

I have spent years searching for the shadows. I thought that if I could expose enough darkness... people would choose the light. I no longer believe that. Darkness has never needed our attention. Only our absence. The light has been here all along. Faith is not certainty. Faith is taking the next step...when certainty is absent. I cannot promise you that the future will be kind. I cannot promise you that justice will arrive on time. I cannot promise you that the towers will not continue to rise. But I have learned something. The garden is still here. The common is still here. The truth is still here. The choice is still here. I have seen the shadows. And I believe in the light.

Our priorities today make me think of a people who would be removed from Eden. We have confused possession and stewardship. We have forgotten that we are all in this together. We need the same things because we are the same things. Food, water, shelter, nature, clean air, the free expression of truth and knowledge. How to be in a world that seems increasingly super-natural and violent, boiling over with a venom and condescension of tone from a majority of voices. Think of how much technology is born of nature. Silicon from quartz, copper from ore, gold, silver, tin, tungsten, cobalt, lithium, nickel, graphite, glass from silica sand, and petroleum derived plastics. Technology does not liberate us from nature, it shows us how dependent we are upon nature. We also see that there is nothing sacred when it comes to the pull of profit and power. The line between good and evil is razor sharp, the edge honed by a financial incentive that draws people like plants growing towards the sun. Intention matters deeply in the garden. The earth is the periodic table. It is the ultimate workshop for people who would seek to solve problems, seek sustainability, seek the abundance of food and medicine and building materials it offers. The air, the energy, the creativity of human life, the balance of altruism and faith. The absence of anxiety in peace. When we do unto others, we must remember who the others are. The land, the animals, the water, the air, the earth and its soil. Everything is alive and everything is connected. If we find our place in balance with the garden, we will discover the technology from our wildest dreams.