

Rekindle the Flame

By Denise Bissonnette

*I see how you look at me -
searching for that picture of purpose and passion
that I was when I was new on the job.
I have not seen her for a while myself.
Yet, sometimes, deep inside, I can feel some stirring.
Something warm and glowing,
like a small, untended, barely flickering fire in my heart.
And I know, if we could rekindle that flame,
purpose, passion and possibility could be mine again!*

*But it's not about having a daytimer.
I know we have a new time management system -
complete with the daily calendar, priority stickers,
and varying colored in-boxes.
Those tools can be very helpful, I suppose.
But if you could remind me of the seeds we are sowing,
of the horizon we are heading for,
perhaps I would value my time as the precious resource it is.
Rekindle that flame and my hours will be spent in sacrament, not sacrifice.
The dance of my days will become deliberate again.
But it's not about having a daytimer.*

*I hate to say it, but it's not about technology either.
I appreciate all the new tools - I've got my pager, the cell phone -
I know that we have just upgraded our software.
Hey, we're networked, we're streamlined, we're happenin'!
But could you remind me how our work with these tools matters?
How our efforts are holy, or even wholesome?
Rekindle that flame and I will play
a simple blade of grass like a fine tuned instrument.
With a simple yellow pad and a No.2 pencil,
I will write you a report that will drop you to your knees.
But it's not about the tools.*

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*I want to thank you for the investment
you've made in me through training. You know,
Tactics for the Tired
Options for the Overwhelmed
Strategies for the Stressed
Five Steps to Fame and Fortune
Really, my bag is packed with info –
the walls of my office are lined with training manuals.
If only it were about information.
I am so thirsty for wisdom.
Perhaps if you could remind me
of the truth and testimony of my own experience,
you know, the knowing beneath the note-taking?
Rekindle that flame and I will be teachable again.
I will drink from your learning cup like a desert weary traveler.
But it's really not about information.*

*I am sure you are wondering,
"How can you help me tend that barely flickering fire in my heart?
Remind me of our collective passion, purpose and possibility!
In a day of valuing diversity,
focus less on what makes me different
and focus more on what makes me unique!
In the day of the contingent workforce,
notice what it is about my presence
that is unrepeatable, irreplaceable and worthy of respect.
Really, I just want to be one twig, one branch, in a greater bonfire.*

*And if all of us offered our work
as kindling for the fire in our hearts,
the collective sigh we would sound
at the end of a long day
would resonate like song
that would make the angels weep.
Let's rekindle that flame.*

Let's rekindle that flame!