

Rankin '10/11

Sometimes I wonder, "Are people just a recipe for their own demise?"

I believe in people.

I believe that people are basically good. I believe that we are resilient, that we can overcome anything. I believe that we are all connected in a larger web of energies. I believe that we all have the potential to be successful, that we are all contributing to every individual around us at every moment in time.

Even though people frustrate me and sometimes I lose hope in the darkness, I feel the radiation of light that comes from every individual with whom I encounter. People make me laugh, they make me smile, even when I don't understand – I enjoy!

I hate the hate. I hate the spite and the conflict and the power struggle and the egocentric greed that binds the hate, that becomes the veil for the open mind – the filter of prejudice that stops many from enjoying everyone. Again, I wonder – why NOT enjoy? Why create conflict and contention? Where do we find the negativity in our hearts to knock others down? Why bother with a frown?

I believe in people of every time and place, though separated by space. I want to learn from others – they make me rich in knowledge and faith. I take from others – their insight and love make me strong and resilient. I laugh with others, or sometimes thinking of others, sometimes till my stomach aches and I cry...I give to others, as much as I can...because in the end, I believe in people. I believe that its bigger than me.

I wouldn't teach if I didn't believe in the essential value of every individual. I believe that through educating my students to be open-minded, to care, and to speak up for what they believe in, in an eloquent way, that they will change the world. I believe that they, you, are the seeds of hope for the future. I believe that if every individual commits to being accepting, positive, virtuous, and knowledgeable, that we can erase the hate, even in small ways...starting with those around us...

Like the dominoes fall, like the ripple effect, like the lingo that we pick up by being around friends, we all touch each other in some way. Look around at everyone...anyone...and now imagine the possibilities of each of these people...now imagine 6,807,619,760 other people in the world and the potential of each of these individuals - now envision how powerful we could be if we used that potential for good – appreciated each other and worked together towards a better tomorrow. Imagine that.

I believe that it begins with each of you, with the potential that YOU have – You are the future: I believe in you.