

#124 A Modern Visits an Ancient

You are the modern person. You are going to visit ancient times. Get ready. They do not have technology. You are visiting a woman, and for fun, let's pretend that you and she can speak the same language. You catch up with her as she's in the middle of tasting some fruit. It tastes so good to her that she is ecstatic. She is not ecstatic because the fruit is better than the fruit you have, in fact it's a pear - the same kind you eat. It's just that her sense of taste is much better than we moderns have, today. In fact, all of her senses are better. She can enjoy color and sunlight and feel warmth and cool water better than we can, because she has the ability to pay attention better. Right now, she is on her way to bathe and sit by a waterfall with her friend. You follow them, and as they arrive at the water, you start a conversation.

You: Is the waterfall fun?

She: Yes.

You: Would you like to record this fun and show it to social acquaintances?

She: What does that mean?

You: It is a way to share what you are doing with your friends and family.

She: Why?

You: So that they can see the fun you are having.

She: But then, while I do that, I will not be having the fun in the waterfall.

You: Oh, I see what you mean. Then would you like to write down what is happening for yourself?

She: No, I just want to be with the water and the rock and the air and the Sun.

You try another tact: Is there anything about this fun you are having that you would like to remember?

She: No.

You: Don't you want to try to capture a memory or a moment? Wouldn't you like to try to make your day go better?

She: I cannot imagine anything better. I am not trying to do anything. I like where I am, who I am, my friends, my family, and my time. Though I sit here, I am always connected to my people and to all of nature. I need no capturing of anything; I am already connected to everything.

You: But what about later; won't you want to remember this time?

She: I do not watch time. And I do not need to remember. When you say 're-member', do you mean to put back a part - or a member - of something that used to be whole? I am whole. My life is whole. I know what I need to know when I need to know it. The member parts of my life are all together. So, I do not need to write things down, record things, or capture things.

You begin speaking more to yourself, than to her: I'm beginning to see. Perhaps it is I who have a great deal of unlearning to do.

SOME THINGS REALLY WERE BETTER IN OLDEN TIMES