

Breaking Apart with Love by Suzanna Yahya Nadler 7/8/17

Before purchasing our Oregon homestead, my husband and I were determinedly pursuing community. A group of friends and interested folk excitedly met to hash out our vision and that first meeting is as far as we got. Discouraged, we chose to individuate and buy our own acreage from which we both secretly hoped a community would evolve. More than 25 years later we still mostly live alone on our land, but the inherited experiment of four siblings owning a house and co-owning a larger parcel of land within an association continues to develop. Our Lake Michigan cottage is a physical representation of the current polarity between Capricorn (full moon) and Cancer (sun).



Picture a stout, hard-working, German grandmother armed with separate towels to dry silverware, ceramics and glass in our ancestral summer home harboring myriad feelings and memories. Structured, get-it-done order vs the watery, emotional realm of home. With foolhardy enthusiasm I am now the Treasurer of our co-owned land's association and the Trustee of our

mutually owned cottage. Amidst all of these responsibilities, I recognize that community happens because you invest yourself into it but that doesn't mean it's easy.

Over these past few days I crumbled the forces of an old structure; I fired our caretaker. After all, Pluto, the transformational planet is in alignment with the moon. The man who opened and closed the cottage came with loads of history. Not only did his father help us, but also his grandfather. Most of the family deferred to my judgment. A broken shower valve and a few other mishaps didn't help the caretaker's case, but my brother-in-law, Dan, being 81 years old and a die-hard fan of the past drove home a different point. He doesn't want a new way and in our short, heated exchange I recognized my selfish demand to be supported.

Getting stuck in the Plutonian-Capricorn energy of pushing ahead and blaming the ones that are dragging their feet, I forgot what communities are built upon: taking ownership. Not outward land-grabbing ownership, not backing down when change is needed, but the empathizing with another because that-is-what-I-want kind. Clearly there are many old structures in the world community that need to be destroyed and rebuilt, but the old story of separation will continue unless love informs the transformation.

I am sorry, Dan. I didn't slow down and appreciate your desire to stay safe, to keep time from marching on. Your own body in decline now, it is so hard to travel the steps to the ancestral home.