

# To Reimagine Life

I sat on the edge of a decision – a divorcee  
at twenty four, graduate school on hold –  
the weight of my heart declared it was time  
to move ahead with the rest of my life

That season I dared to be clear, imagining  
a bold path for my life's reconstruction,  
arranging conditions for the regeneration of hope,  
a daring sobriety, an unconditional commitment

I lit the funeral fire of my failures, piled high  
the dry wood of my innocence, the draft of hope  
drew me deeper into authorizing my life

No more binging on the cheap wine of possibilities,  
abstaining from empty promises and what-if threats  
too weak to build a city or carve a canyon

Fifty years have passed, each one a lesson  
pivoting from failure to joy, always relocating  
the sanctuary of the heart, to what satisfies

Learning to keep promises, daily workouts  
building the muscles of patience, and grit  
taking the longer way home, to risk

The tenderness of believing in myself, still  
to this hour, willing to sacrifice pride, or shame  
ignite a fire, and refine what is worthy of life



I thought it only fair that I come clean and tell you how I reimagined my own life 50 years ago, processes that I practice to this day. When the moment finds us, we find ourselves in that present moment. Our motivation for change comes from the larger vision of a life worth living. Yet, there are sacrifices to be made, and that becomes a way of life. Not keeping promises we make to our self is debilitating; no one can trust the promises we make to them if we do not sustain promises made to our own life. And last, we need to be tender toward our self. I choose that word “tender” as the best substitute for “love.” Sometimes we must be tough on ourselves; dig down to the grit of doing challenging things. But always we must take care to love our self as one might tenderly hold a child in our arms, encouraging, believing, and sending her back into life bold and determined. Mary Oliver’s *The Journey* is a good read for the same process of changing one’s life. Try taking time for yourself this week looking at one of two of these processes for change. How are you doing reimagining your life?