

## Day 30

To bring this accretion to a close, make yourself a list of questions. Let your list be expansive and open-ended. Ask questions about what you are writing, about how you write, about what you are and who you are when you write. Ask questions of and about figures inside your writing, about events and unfoldings in its story. Ask what-ifs and whys. Ask whens and hows. Ask about knowledge, about history, about impulse. Ask about language, about pattern, about mood. Ask about patron saints and tutelary geniuses, about allies and friends. Ask empathetic questions that can turn straw men into real boys. Ask demanding questions that elicit honest responses. Ask about this project and the next, about the last, about the ones you'll never undertake or the ones you'll undertake but never finish but that mean something to you nonetheless.

Record these questions so that this list is there for you to carry forward. Surrounding yourself with questions when you write allows you to walk your mind right up to the edge of the lit space in what you know or imagine, to call out a question into the unlit part that's as yet unseen, that hasn't yet answered, to send a signal out beyond the vague edge of the thing you are fabricating. This, for me, is how I access a fund of energy and ongoingness that's deeper than the part of me that gets anxious or defeated, that tries too hard, that moves only by habit, that second-guesses or over-thinks, that gets stuck, that wants to take a break—I call her my pissy little shithead but you can call yours something more kind. You can call out a question and your imagination will send up an answer. It's a kind of magic we have access to because we live in this huge common fund of language and memory and story, and there's no clear place where it ends and each of us begins. Writing is one way to participate in this expanse, to swim out into it, to accept the incursions of its surprises and offerings, to seed that common fund with new combinations, new images.

Put your questions all around you. Make them into wallpaper or placemats or mousepads, hang them anywhere your eyes will rest when you're writing. Then find the question that will take you to your ending place, and write. Wrap up what you've written these past thirty days with care, with energy, with love.