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## Carve Out Hope

Allyson Sawtell, 11/19

Have you ever seen those intricately fashioned pieces of jewelry,  
carved from the found antlers of moose, deer, elk?

From a living creature that followed its own internal signals for growth and change,  
shedding an exquisite piece of itself, which someone else transformed into beauty  
of another sort.

Carve out hope like that:

Find the pieces of life and beauty hidden in the undergrowth  
What was forgotten and left behind is re-remembered again, in a new way.

Carve out hope.

What does it look like?

Something precious and alive held in your hands, what it might become still unknown.

But it's the holding that counts.

Solid in your hands, not to slip between your fingers to shatter on the hard ground,  
or to be lost and trampled over in the undergrowth.

But real.

Held in your hands. Feel its texture, and dream of what it might become.

And then, offer it to another, half-made because you cannot form it all yourself,  
yet still real and of value.

Carve out hope from what you find around you.

A thing of beauty even in the hands of an amateur artisan – for aren't we all –  
but a thing of beauty precisely for its awkward angles, rough edges, and “interesting” design.

Carve out hope. Not alone.

What is real and true is what we discover or just stumble upon through hard work  
or simple surprise,  
and what we make of it together.

Carve out hope. And you are changed in the making.



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