

Do What Love Does

This column is deeply personal and raw: no question and answer, just what is here and now. And since my deadline looms, I must trust these words will reach the eyes and hearts of those who might somehow benefit from them.

I come to you from the hospital. Not as a patient but as the only visitor allowed during these past 26 days. My beloved husband has been on a wildly unpredictable and intense journey of small strokes and a mysterious infection. Only yesterday did the source of both reveal itself in the new heart valve he received last year. As I write this, he is in surgery to replace it, again.

This is not my first time navigating significant health challenges with a mate. My first husband lost his eye and upper palate to sinus cancer before transitioning 18 months later. Ironically, that is how I met my current husband — he is my first husband's cousin who came to support him through surgery and became my closest friend for years before the tide shifted to something else. A long story indeed.

In my initial panic during this uncertainty, prayer eluded me. I asked others to pick up that mantle, and so many have. Although I question the purpose of suffering and the hardships we and the whole planet experience right now, my faith in the power of love and prayer has deepened. With so many strokes, is it pure luck he has no disability? And with coronavirus making my role completely solo, only the abundance of loving prayers received virtually is keeping me upright. Those are powerful revelations.

The past proves I can withstand this tempest. I can even survive the worst-case scenario. But I don't want to. I don't want to wonder if he'll survive and, if so, in what state. I don't want to watch him suffer, feeling helpless to change it. But I will do these things and anything else required of me because I want him to live, and I will support the total healing and restoration uttered for him in countless prayers.

I will do what love does. And so it is. ☘



STEF SWINK, RScP, has been a practitioner since 1999. As a protégé and assistant to Louise Hay, she was a frequent ghostwriter for the “Dear Louise” column. Through speaking, spiritual counseling and workshops, she inspires others to create fulfilling lives they love. Connect with her online at StefSwink.com/Ask-Stef-Submission.