

Nano Nagle and Everyday Leadership



Meet a Woman



Meet a woman whose love was stronger than the viciousness, greed, and violence that swamped her city and nation.

She was a woman of unbounded compassion, deep contemplation, indomitable courage, radical creativity, native shrewdness, and indefatigable zeal for her faith.

Challenging the brutal power of her people's oppression, she spent her life on the "razor's edge of danger"



A Leader is anyone who takes responsibility for finding the potential in people and processes, and who has the courage to develop that potential.

Brene Brown



*What made Nano's Leadership
so remarkable?*

*What can Nano offer for Leadership
in a very different and complex world?*



Nano's Leadership focused on:

authenticity,
service of others,
transformational impact.



*How can we find
a perspective in life,
which enables us to attend
to our leadership calling
in the context of
our responsibility
to co-create a better world?*

A vibrant, abstract painting featuring a central figure holding a lantern. The figure has a faceless, pinkish-red head and is wearing a dark, patterned garment. They are holding a lantern with a black frame and yellow-orange light. The background is a dynamic composition of warm colors (red, orange, yellow) and cool colors (blue, purple), with large, stylized spiral patterns in yellow and brown. The overall style is expressive and symbolic.

Presence, Heart, Wisdom and Creativity

Post hierarchical

Transformational leadership - makes connections with others to transform a situation of common concern.

Servant leadership – focuses on leaders who aim to serve their organisations with a view to enabling all in the organisation to become healthier, wiser, freer, more autonomous and more likely to become servants themselves.



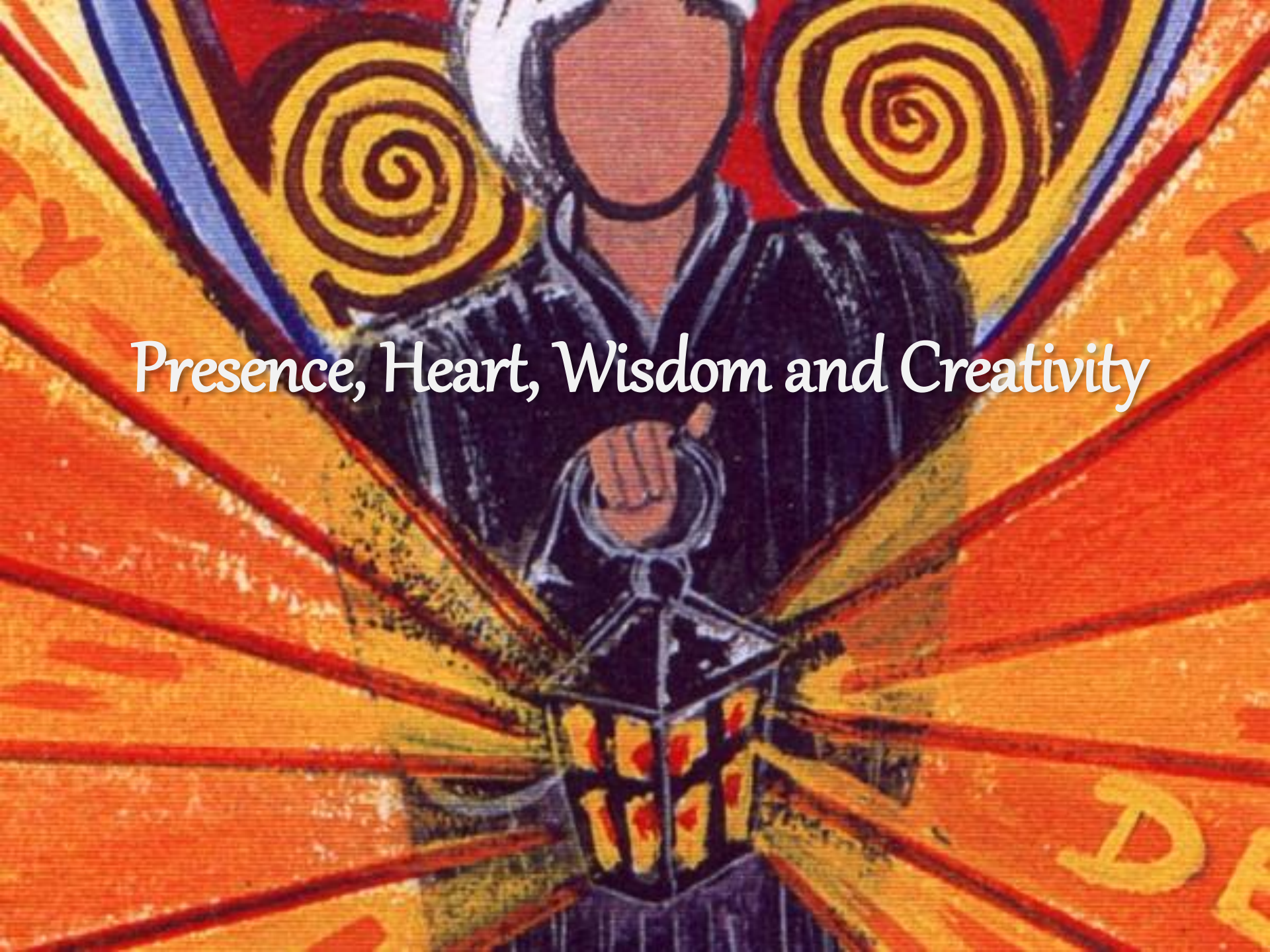


Post-hierarchical model of leadership

a focus on the core of the person
who is exercising leadership.

'contemplative leadership'

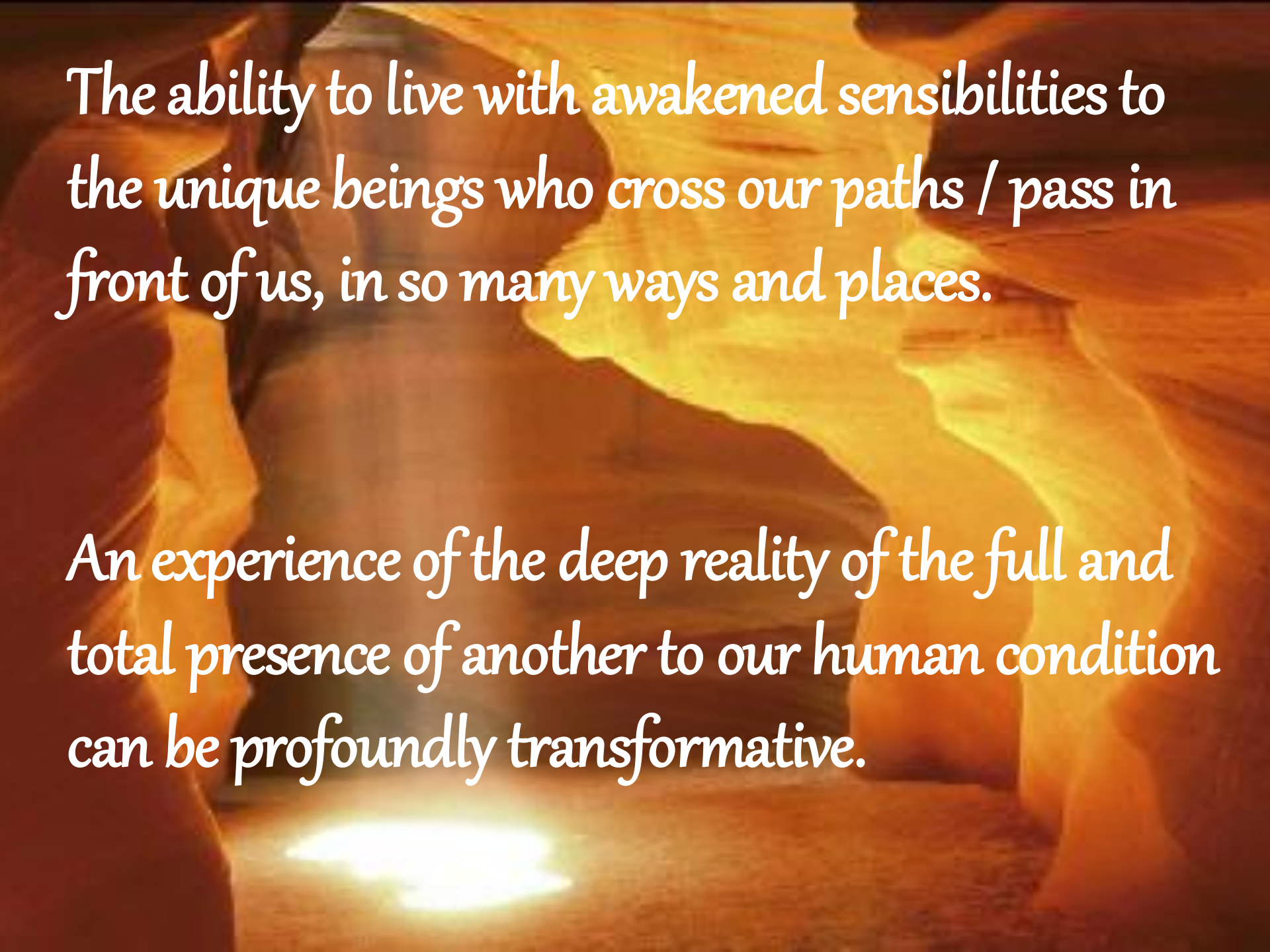
Who we are is how we lead. (Brene Brown)



Presence, Heart, Wisdom and Creativity



Presence



The ability to live with awakened sensibilities to the unique beings who cross our paths / pass in front of us, in so many ways and places.

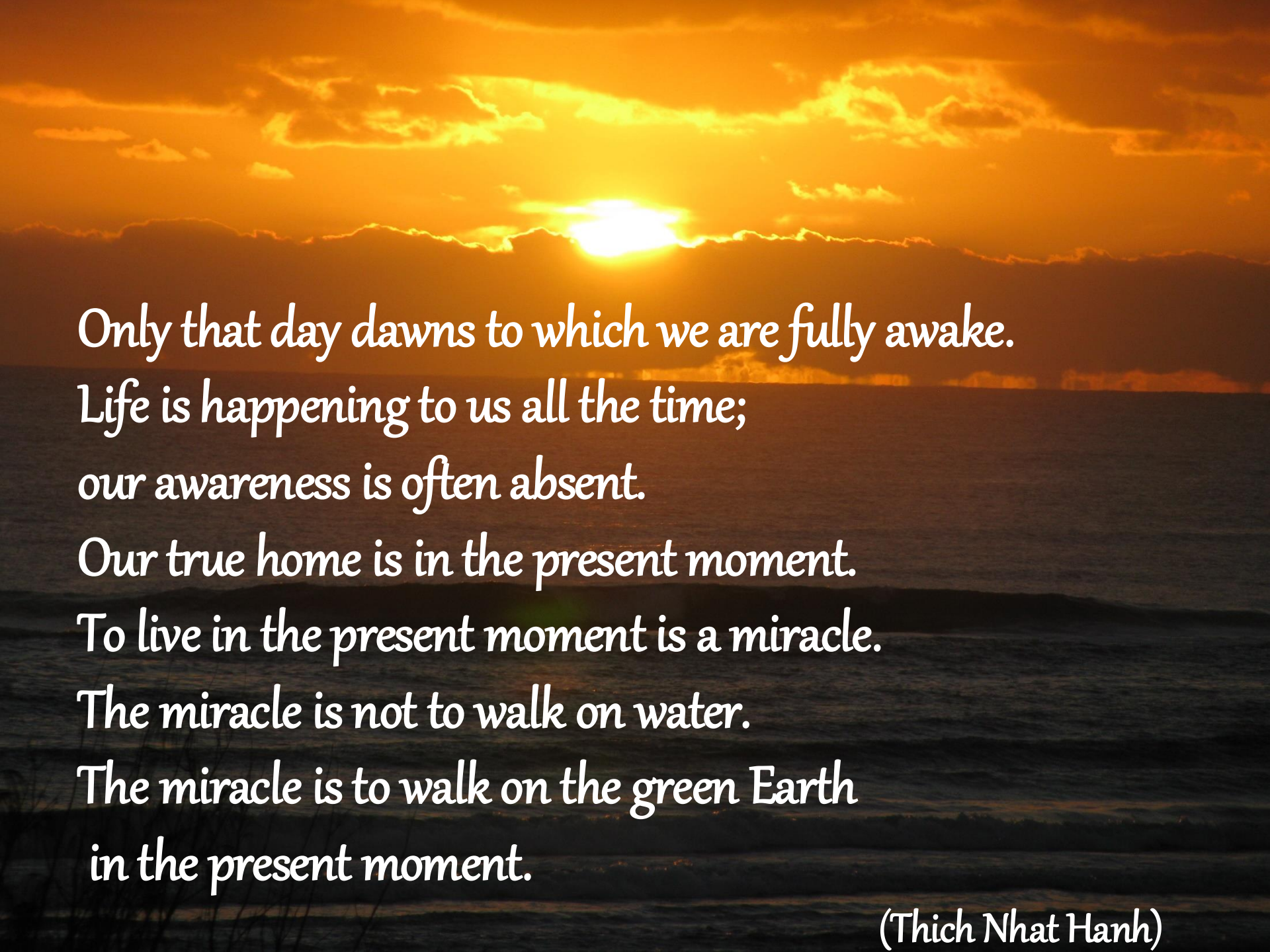
An experience of the deep reality of the full and total presence of another to our human condition can be profoundly transformative.



Too often
we are not present
to the beauty,
love and grace
that brims within
the ordinary moments
of our lives.

Our lives
come laden with riches,
but we are not sufficiently
present to what is there.

Ronald Rolheiser



Only that day dawns to which we are fully awake.
Life is happening to us all the time;
our awareness is often absent.
Our true home is in the present moment.
To live in the present moment is a miracle.
The miracle is not to walk on water.
The miracle is to walk on the green Earth
in the present moment.

(Thich Nhat Hanh)

What was Nano attentive to?

The experiences of the hopelessness and despair of the people who were poor and pushed to the margin;

The need for education and faith development;

The political and social realities of the penal laws that created extreme poverty and dispossession;

The practical everyday necessities of keeping her schools;

The call of God's spirit in the ordinary everyday realities of life.

Reflection

Think of/describe a time when your presence made a difference to another

Do those I encounter in a day feel received by me, listened to, attended to in a respectful manner?

Name some barriers to a ministry of presence in your Leadership.

Who is calling out for your presence at this time?

How can I/we strengthen the practice of presence and the power of relationship in our ministry of Leadership?



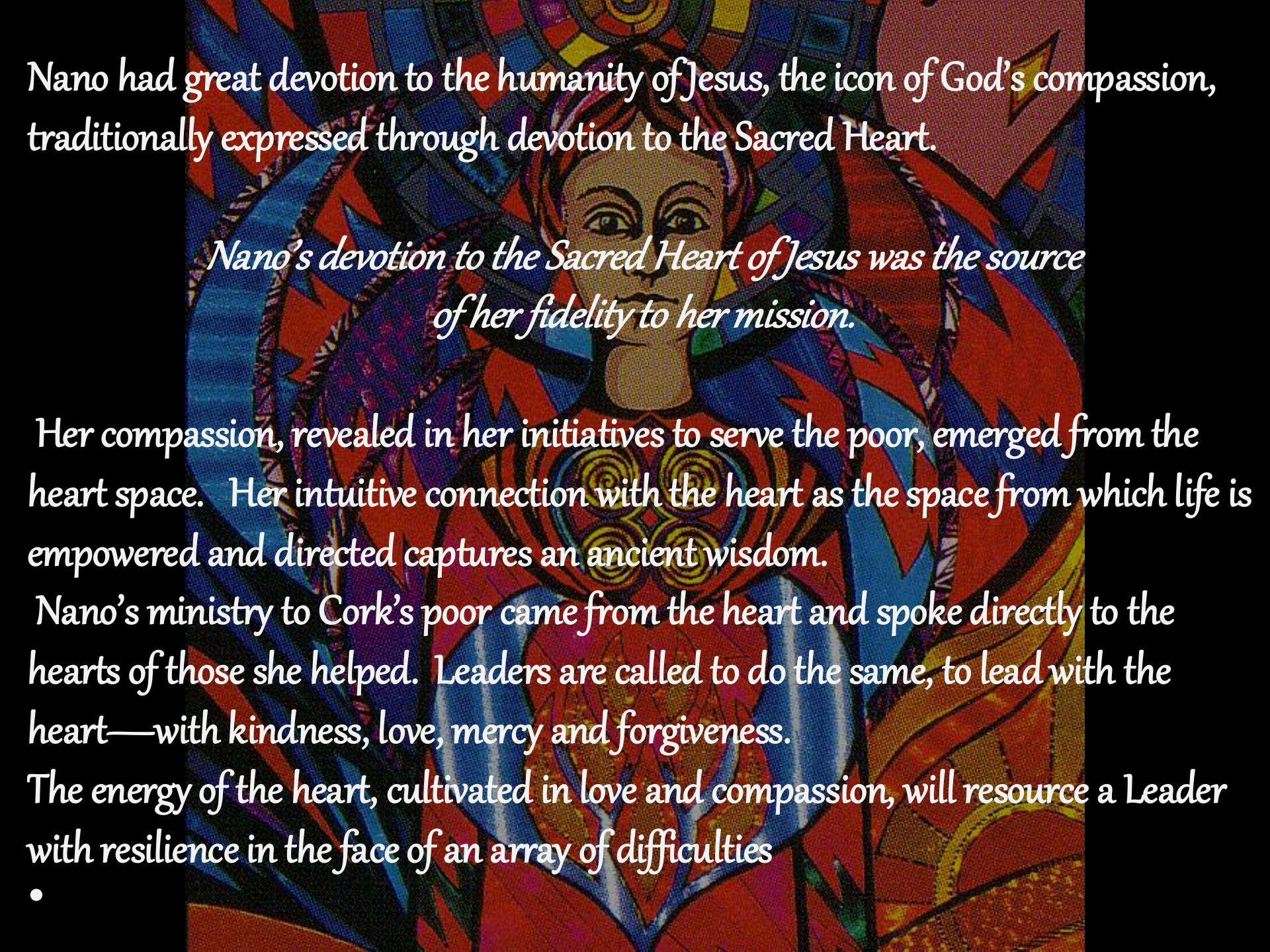


Heart - Compassion



*Heart Leadership places us
at the centre of relational life.*

*We are born to love.
We are born to be loved.*



Nano had great devotion to the humanity of Jesus, the icon of God's compassion, traditionally expressed through devotion to the Sacred Heart.

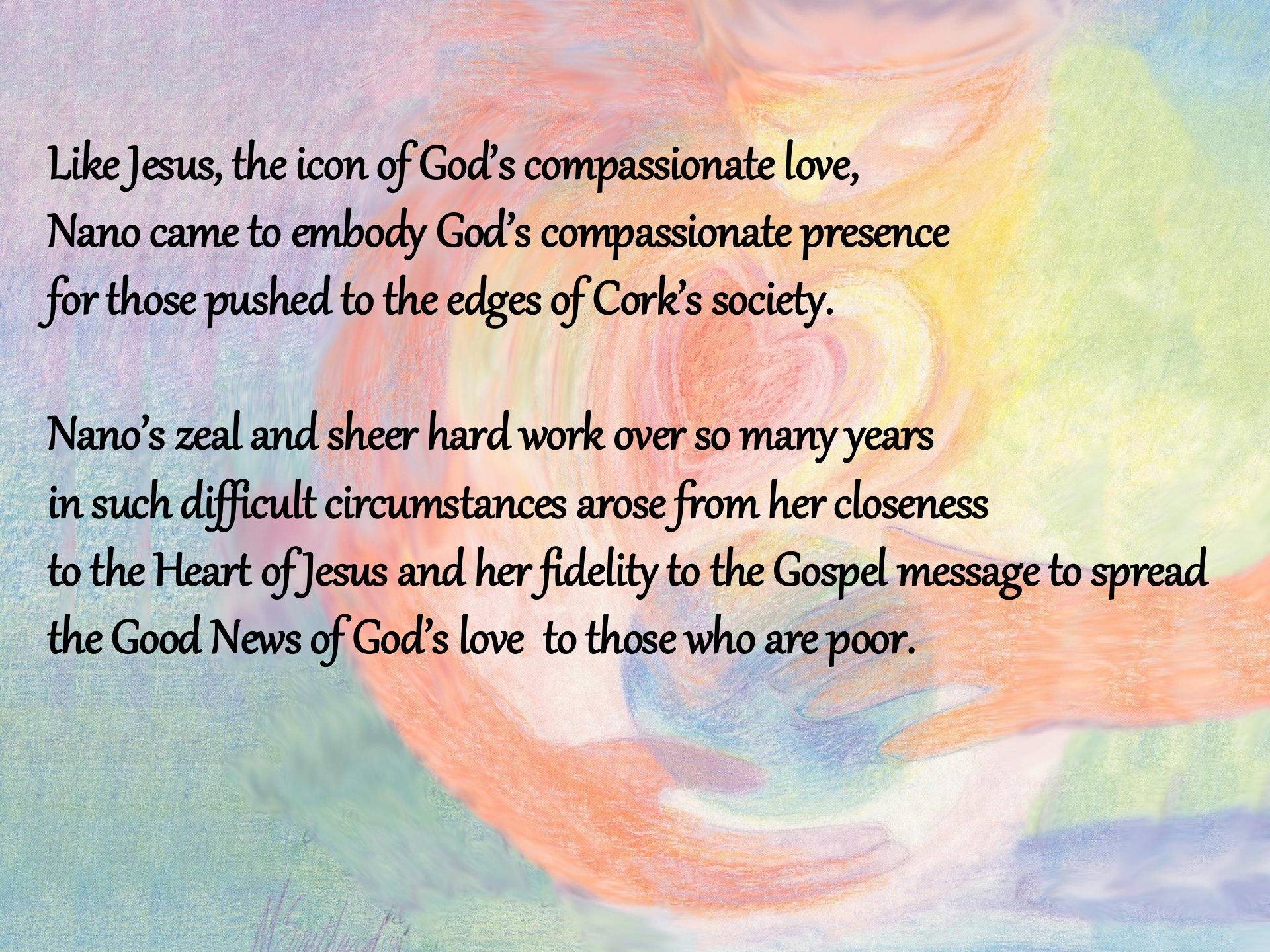
Nano's devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus was the source of her fidelity to her mission.

Her compassion, revealed in her initiatives to serve the poor, emerged from the heart space. Her intuitive connection with the heart as the space from which life is empowered and directed captures an ancient wisdom.

Nano's ministry to Cork's poor came from the heart and spoke directly to the hearts of those she helped. Leaders are called to do the same, to lead with the heart—with kindness, love, mercy and forgiveness.

The energy of the heart, cultivated in love and compassion, will resource a Leader with resilience in the face of an array of difficulties





Like Jesus, the icon of God's compassionate love,
Nano came to embody God's compassionate presence
for those pushed to the edges of Cork's society.

Nano's zeal and sheer hard work over so many years
in such difficult circumstances arose from her closeness
to the Heart of Jesus and her fidelity to the Gospel message to spread
the Good News of God's love to those who are poor.

Reflection

Reflect on the experience of love in your life which opened your heart and called you to become more generous.

Who we are in Leadership, that is, the spirit we bring to what we do, is an expression of how we have been touched by God's love.

How is heart-compassion at the centre of your leadership practice?

How can you strengthen the practice of heart-compassion in your leadership?

Nourishing a Heart Leadership

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Learn to companion your spirit as a friend, not a critic -

Love never grows in the midst of criticism.

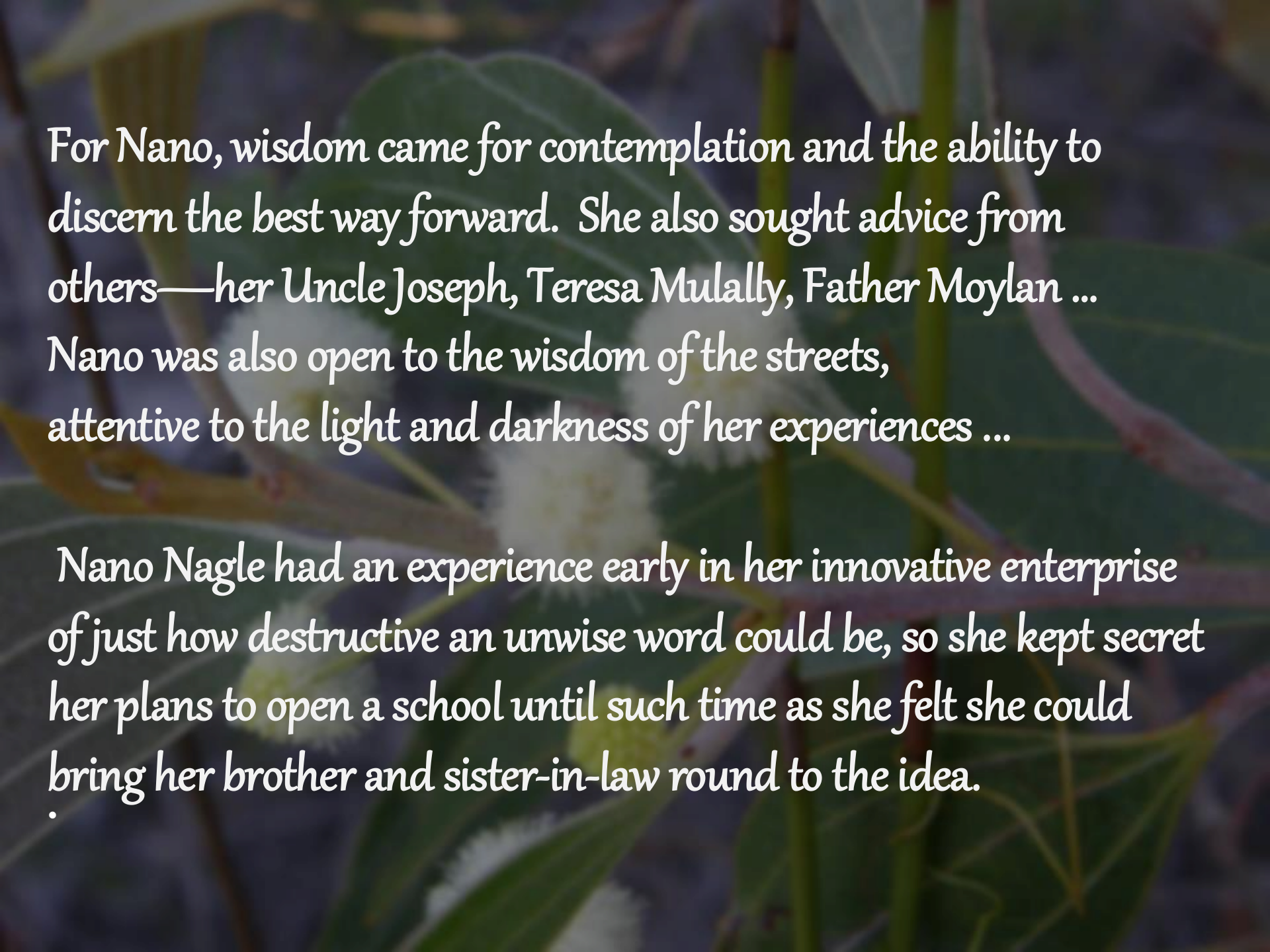
Dare to sit with your blessings, not just your accomplishments.

Choose to visit the holy places and people of your life
that keep your spirit alive.

Laugh at yourself and remember no one can get close to us
if we are too serious, even God.

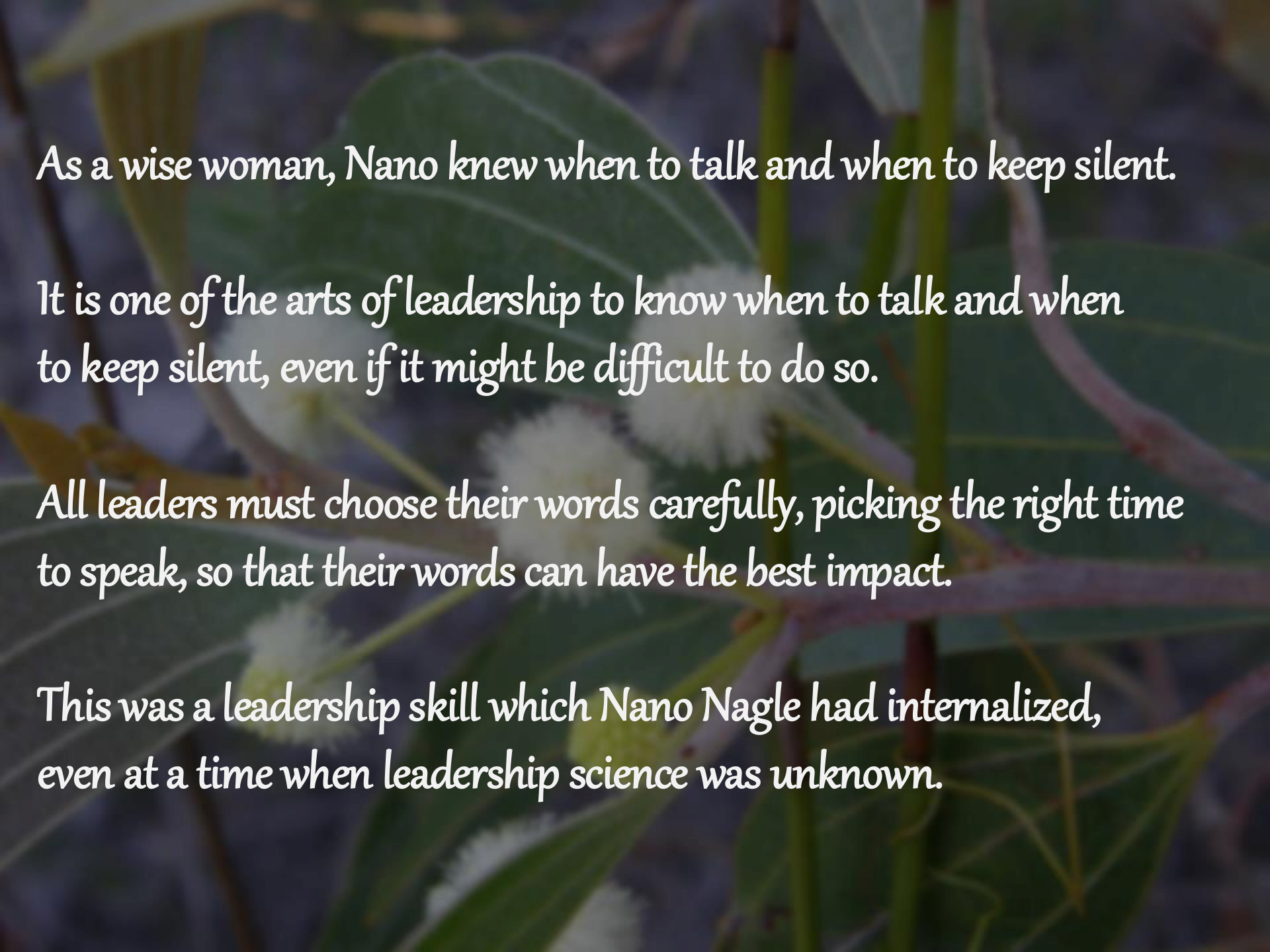
A close-up photograph of two tulips with vibrant red petals and white variegated stripes. The tulips are in sharp focus, while the background is a soft-focus garden scene featuring green leaves and several dark purple pansies. The word "Wisdom" is written in a white, elegant serif font across the center of the tulips.

Wisdom



For Nano, wisdom came for contemplation and the ability to discern the best way forward. She also sought advice from others—her Uncle Joseph, Teresa Mulally, Father Moylan ... Nano was also open to the wisdom of the streets, attentive to the light and darkness of her experiences ...

Nano Nagle had an experience early in her innovative enterprise of just how destructive an unwise word could be, so she kept secret her plans to open a school until such time as she felt she could bring her brother and sister-in-law round to the idea.

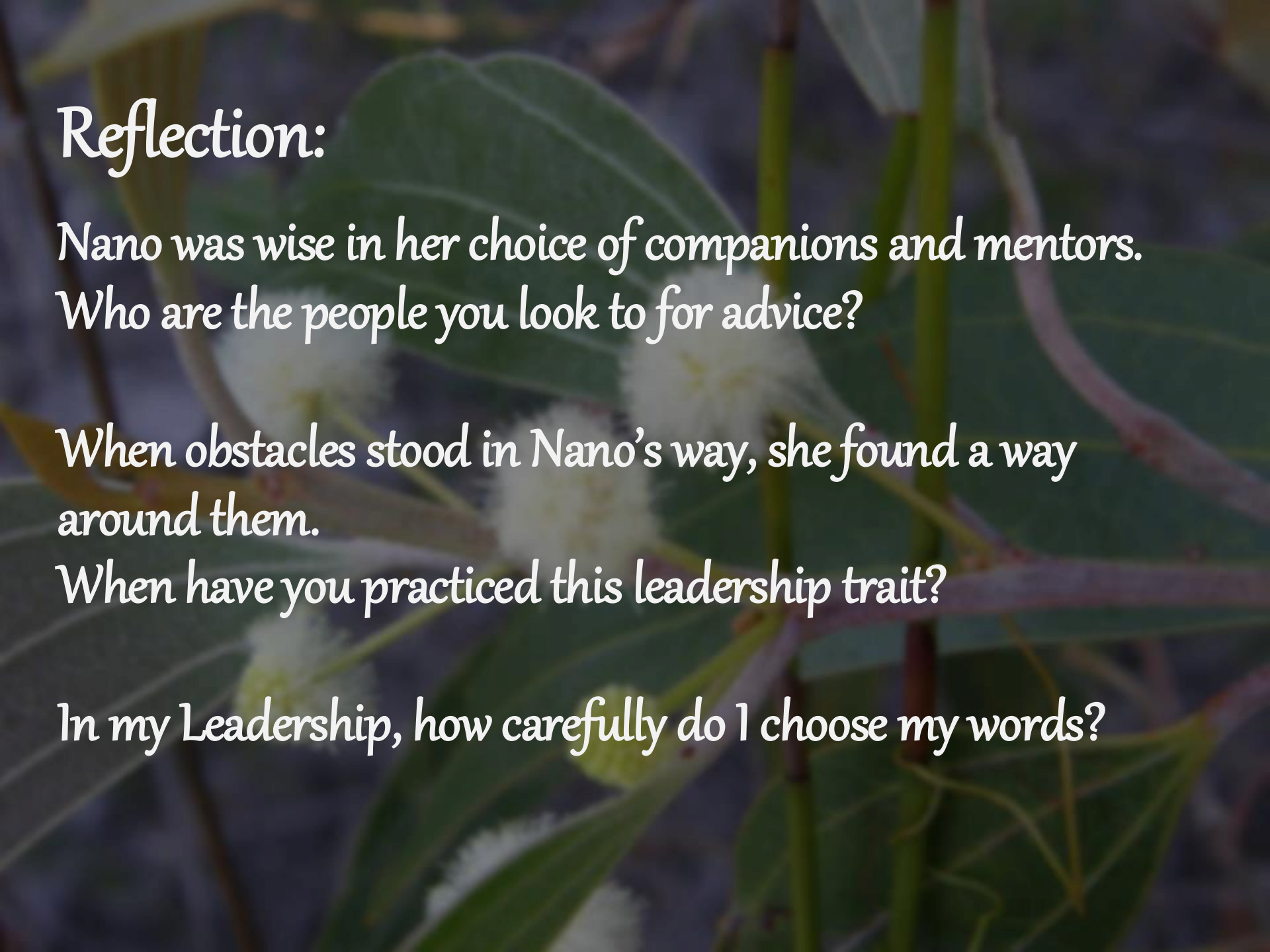


As a wise woman, Nano knew when to talk and when to keep silent.

It is one of the arts of leadership to know when to talk and when to keep silent, even if it might be difficult to do so.

All leaders must choose their words carefully, picking the right time to speak, so that their words can have the best impact.

This was a leadership skill which Nano Nagle had internalized, even at a time when leadership science was unknown.



Reflection:

Nano was wise in her choice of companions and mentors.
Who are the people you look to for advice?

When obstacles stood in Nano's way, she found a way
around them.

When have you practiced this leadership trait?

In my Leadership, how carefully do I choose my words?



Creativity

Creativity involves the focusing of energy, the engagement of the circumstances of life, committing and moving forward despite odds and uncertainty. (Tobin Hart).



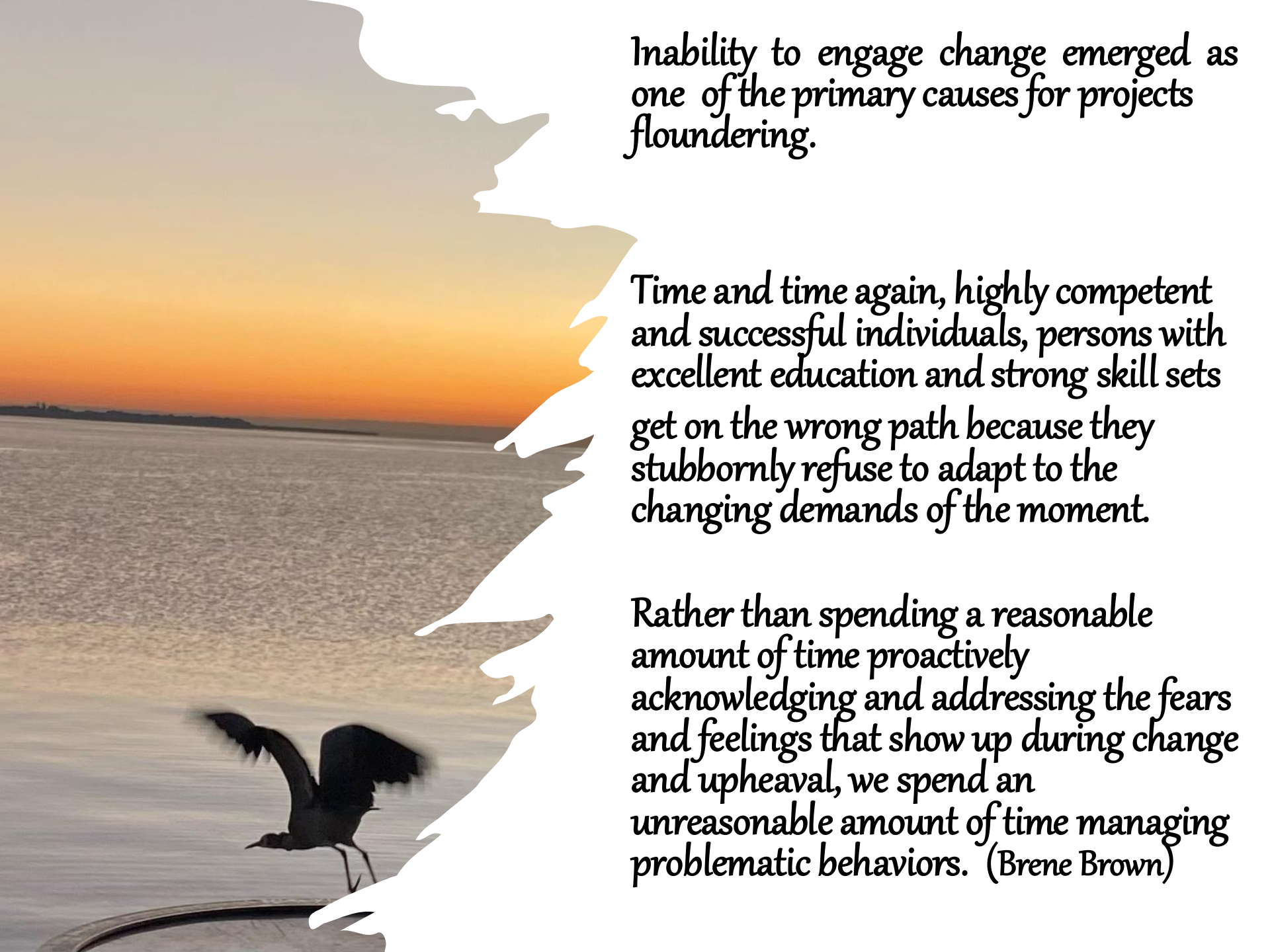
Her creative legacy was born from long periods of insecurity and uncertainty.

Nano's life is a study of creativity, a journey of change, challenge, loss, financial insecurity, change of direction, anxious decisions and struggle.

Her leadership surmounted these challenges, forging a new path and a new approach to the poverty which surrounded her.

It was not an easy journey and there were times when her energies flagged but she was always flexible and creative in her response to the difficulties she met.

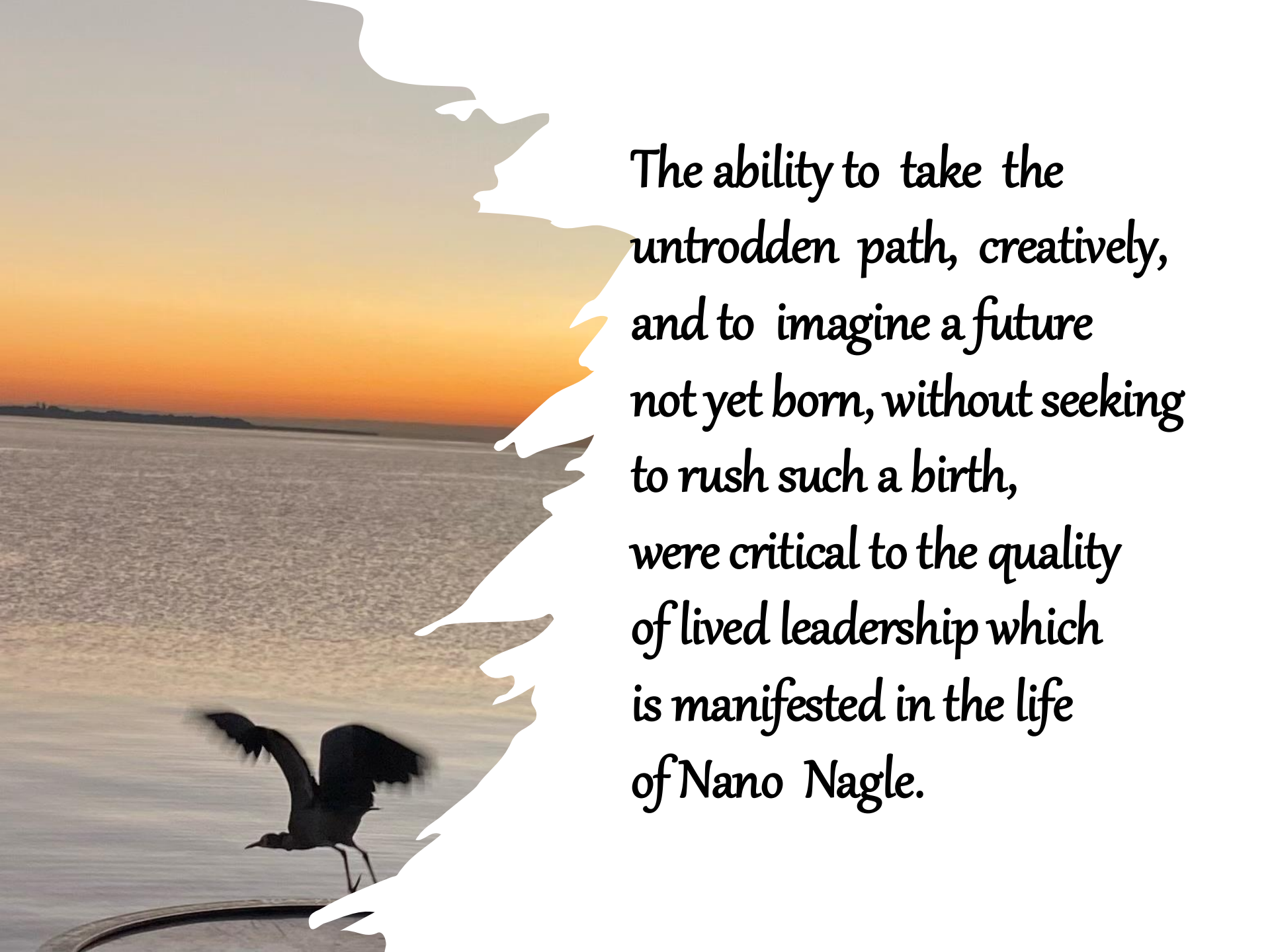


A sunset scene over a body of water. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and grey. A dark bird is in flight in the lower left. A large white silhouette of a person's head and shoulders is on the right side of the image, partially overlapping the text.

Inability to engage change emerged as one of the primary causes for projects floundering.

Time and time again, highly competent and successful individuals, persons with excellent education and strong skill sets get on the wrong path because they stubbornly refuse to adapt to the changing demands of the moment.

Rather than spending a reasonable amount of time proactively acknowledging and addressing the fears and feelings that show up during change and upheaval, we spend an unreasonable amount of time managing problematic behaviors. (Brene Brown)



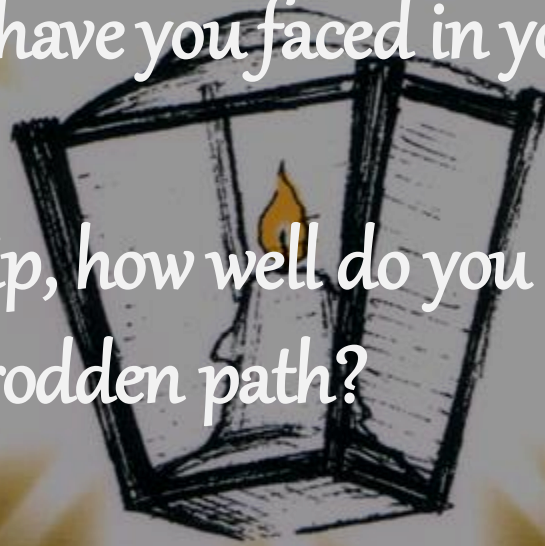
The ability to take the untrodden path, creatively, and to imagine a future not yet born, without seeking to rush such a birth, were critical to the quality of lived leadership which is manifested in the life of Nano Nagle.

Reflection:

What challenges have you faced in your leadership?

In your Leadership, how well do you adapt to change and take the untrodden path?

How do you encourage creativity in those you lead?







There was a time, such a time
when hearts were hurting
longing to find some peace of
mind, find an open door.
I knew a time, such a time
one heart kept searching,
trying to seek
through darkness to free
a heart without its soul.



Who will light the lantern
and keep it burning bright?
Who will search the darkness,
for shadows seek the light?
Who will find the courage
to sing a different song?
Who will light the lantern
and go
ONE STEP BEYOND?



We knew a place, such a place
in the future,
Where someone is lost –
always accost with uncertainties.
We know a space, such a space
in our future
When love feels the pain
Love lights the flame
through the night of years.



Who will light the lantern
and keep it burning bright?
Who will search the darkness,
for shadows seek the light?
Who will find the courage
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Who will light the lantern and go
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