Resources on Abundance

The Apple Orchard

Come let us watch the sun go down
and walk in twilight through the orchard's green.
Does it not seem as if we had for long
collected, saved and harbored within us
old memories? To find releases and seek
new hopes, remembering half-forgotten joys,
mingled with darkness coming from within,
as we randomly voice our thoughts aloud
wandering beneath these harvest-laden trees
reminiscent of Durer woodcuts, branches
which, bent under the fully ripened fruit,
wait patiently, trying to outlast, to
serve another season's hundred days of toil,
straining, uncomplaining, by not breaking
but succeeding, even though the burden
should at times seem almost past endurance.
Not to falter! Not to be found wanting!

Thus must it be, when willingly you strive
throughout a long and uncomplaining life,
committed to one goal: to give yourself!
And silently to grow and to bear fruit.

-Rainer Maria Rilke
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Red Brocade by Naomi Shihab Nye

The Arabs used to say,
When a stranger appears at your door,
feed him for three days
before asking who he is,
where he’s come from,
where he’s headed.
That way, he’ll have strength enough
to answer.
Or, by then you’ll be such good friends
you don’t care.

Let’s go back to that.
Rice? Pine nuts?
Here, take the red brocade pillow.
My child will serve water
to your horse.

No, I was not busy when you came!
I was not preparing to be busy.
That’s the armor everyone put on
at the end of the century
to pretend they had a purpose
in the world.

I refuse to be claimed.
Your plate is waiting.
We will snip fresh mint
into your tea.
"This Clay Jug" by Kabir (reading #608, Singing the Living Tradition)

Inside this clay jug there are canyons and pine mountains, and the maker of canyons and pine mountains!

All seven oceans are inside, and hundreds of millions of stars.

The acid that tests gold is there, and the one who judges jewels.

And the music from the strings no one touches, and the source of all water.

If you want the truth, I will tell you the truth: Friend, listen: the God whom I love is inside.

"Overflowing Tea" from Everyday Sacred, by Sue Bender

A wise teacher asked a student to fill his cup with tea. The student kept filling but the teacher didn’t tell him to stop. Soon the tea was overflowing the cup. The student says, “Can’t you see the cup is full? It can hold no more!’

“And so it is with you,” the wise teacher replied. “Your mind is full of too many things. Only when you are empty will there be room for more knowledge to come in.”

Whatever we are waiting for - peace of mind, contentment, grace, the inner awareness of simple abundance - it will surely come to us, but only when we are ready to receive it with an open and grateful heart.

-Sarah Ban Breathnach

When you focus on being a blessing, God makes sure that you are always blessed in abundance.

-Joel Osteen

Abundance is not something we acquire. It is something we tune into.

-Wayne Dyer

You pray in your distress and in your need; would that you might also pray in the fullness of your joy and in your days of abundance.

-Khalil Gibran
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If you can get your life down to one minute at a time, you don't miss anything. You have total abundance of information and material.
   -Tracy Morgan

“Gratitude builds a bridge to abundance.”
   -Roy Bennett

Abundance is about being rich, with or without money.
   -Suze Orman

Abundance is not a number or acquisition. It is the simple recognition of enoughness.
   -Alan Cohen

All misfortune is but a stepping stone to fortune.
   -Henry David Thoreau

Be content with what you have, rejoice in the way things are. When you realize there is nothing lacking, the whole world belongs to you.
   -Lao Tzu

Being broke is a temporary situation. Being poor is a state of mind.
   -Mike Todd

Both abundance and lack exist simultaneously in our lives, as parallel realities. It is always our conscious choice which secret garden we will tend...when we choose not to focus on what is missing from our lives but are grateful for the abundance that's present—love, health, family, friends, work, the joys of nature and personal pursuits that bring us pleasure—the wasteland of illusion falls away and we experience Heaven on earth.
   -Sarah Ban Breathnach

If you look at what you have in life, you’ll always have more. If you look at what you don’t have in life, you’ll never have enough.
   -Oprah Winfrey

If you want love and abundance in your life, give it away.
   -Mark Twain
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The heart that gives, gathers.
   - Marianne Moor

The measure of your life will not be in what you accumulate, but in what you give away.
   - Wayne Dyer

The test of our progress is not whether we add to the abundance of those who have much. It is whether we provide enough to those who have little.
   - Franklin D. Roosevelt

To live a pure unselfish life, one must count nothing as one's own in the midst of abundance.
   - The Buddha

Many a man curses the rain that falls upon his head and knows not that it brings abundance to drive away the hunger.
   - Saint Basil