

In the poem “Poppies” (“**New and Selected Poems: Volume One**”), Mary Oliver gently asks each of us to be *light*:

*...light*

*is an invitation*

*to happiness,*

*and that happiness,*

*when it's done right,*

*is a kind of holiness,*

*palpable and redemptive.*

Swami Vivekananda says (“**The Complete Works of Swami Vivekananda**”): ““*Be like a lily — stay in one place and expand your petals; and the bees will come of themselves.*”....*The power is with the silent ones, who only live and love and then withdraw their personality. They never say “me” and “mine”; they are only blessed in being instruments. Such men are....Christ and Buddhas, ever living fully identified with God, ideal existences, asking nothing, and not consciously doing anything. They are the real movers....absolutely selfless, the little personality entirely blown away, ambition non-existent. They are all principle, no personality.*”

Elsewhere he says: “*Bring your own lotus to blossom: the bees will come of themselves.*”



“Lighthouse” — painting by **Deepa Krishnan**

In “**Bird by Bird: Instructions on Writing and Life**”, we read Anne Lamott: “*Lighthouses don’t go running all over an island looking for boats to save; they just stand there shining.*”

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