

Patience of the Seasons

Song by Stephanie Tiede from the play
From the Heart: enter into the journey of reconciliation

In my first year of university, I took an Indigenous studies course. My professor was a warrior of a woman; so bold to share the past, so patient with our reactions to it. She always reminded us that, sometimes, when we're learning, it is easy to get overwhelmed or burdened or frozen by the weight of the history. This song is my reminder to cope.

Listen all my children
to the words I tell you
Keep them safe, keep them warm
that's all you'll ever need...

Words fall from your lips
of truth and hope
I ate and ate and ate them up
'Til I was full and satisfied

But those words turned ugly on my
tongue
I spat them back naïve and young
At the ones
I wanted most to know

Teacher let me sit back at your table
I'm not sure if I'm yet able to share
All that I've been shown
Still I take to the road...

I'm lost and tired and feeling like
None of this journey's going right;
The truth has changed
To a knowing kind of weight
But if I choose to stay unmoved,
unchanged
My ignorance perpetuates
The lie
That what was done was yesterday

Because I fear the past more than the
future
History's a long forgotten teacher
And if her knowledge is lost
A nation's unity's the cost

So I will wake, take up this load
Sometimes together, sometimes
alone
But onward
Is the only direction I can go

Each new day's part of the journey
You could say we're always learning

But if I

Teach

You

And you

Teach

Me

Then that's all we'll ever need