10 WAYS TO STIR THE WATERS OF YOUR CREATIVITY

KEEPING YOUR CREATIVE FLOW ALIVE

DAN WILT

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WE ARE ALL CREATIVE BY NATURE.

In Genesis 1:26-27, we see in the first few words of the book, that "In the beginning, God created...." The most innovative being in the universe breathes into dust, and we are formed. ALL of us are born of the breath of God. Left-brained, right-brained, or hare-brained, we are all creative. We *make* by design.

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THE CREATIVE PROCESS IS LIKE WATER.

Genesis 1:2 tells us that the Spirit of God hovered over the surface of the waters at creation. Genesis 4:21 notes Jubal, the first musician, whose name means “stream.” In John 5:1-15 we see Christ heal a man by a pool named Bethesda. The waters in us must be stirred.



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These ideas are gleaned from many creative friends with whom I've worked both informally, and professionally, and are brought together as a condensed list of ways we can stir the waters of our own unique creativity as we go through the various phases of our lives.

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1. OWN THAT YOU ONLY HAVE ONE LIFE TO LIVE.

- Recognize your limitations and restrictions, as well as your capacity and opportunity, and maximize the season of life you are in.
- Listen for "Impact Moments," where you naturally touch people, and leverage them.
- Embrace that when you die, you're done here. You are. Leave your legacy.

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2. CLEAR A SPACE; MAKE IT YOURS.

- Enlarge quotes and dignify inspiring art with a frame in your space.
- Keep magazines, book covers, music, etc. within easy eyeshot and earshot, for reference.
- Your aesthetic should be practical, but also igniting, energizing, and renewing.

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3. CHANGE UP YOUR READING MATERIALS.

- All work and no play dulls the razor's edge. Find your sharpeners.
- Read different materials that relate to different sides of your personality/calling.
- Ask others in your area of creative passion to feed you their best resources.



4. CREATE LIKE YOUR SOUL DEPENDS ON IT.

- Your creative work is not a luxury; it is your language of prayer.
- Your creative work is a psychological and emotional outlet, therefore it is revitalizing.
- Your daily responsibilities are enhanced and enlarged by your creative forays.

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5. USE THE RHYTHMS OF A WEEK.

- Over time, certain windows reveal themselves as your optimal time frames for creative work. Lean in to those, and plan.
- Engage those unique times by making a system that moves you toward goals.
- Lace your work day with planned moments of creative inspiration as able.

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6. BECOME DEMANDING ABOUT YOUR TIME.

- You don't have to watch a movie every weekend. God has a claim on your time.
- Use a reminder or notes app to document books or material you'd like for birthdays, etc.
- Resist invitations if they collide with your system. Take control of your path forward.

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7. INVEST IN THE TOOLS OF YOUR TRADE.

- A quality instrument, for example, is a tool that speaks back to you. Invest. Great knives for a chef are a must. Paints make the artist.
- Ask those you respect in your field what tools they have invested in. Research trumps impulse. Save toward the right tools.
- Get lessons at what you do. At any age.

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8. GET IN THE MODE TO GET IN THE MOOD.

- *Start* the creative process in order to *want* the creative process. We are lazy. Fight it.
- Get in the mood to work by listening to music (if songwriting), or watching cooking shows (if cooking). Use inspiring media.
- Create an environment that minimizes all distractions once you start. Protect moods.

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9. GRAB MOMENTS THAT MAY NEVER COME AGAIN.

- Be prepared to be spontaneous, to ride a moment that comes up. Be ready.
- Know when a moment could create something beautiful for a low cost – ride it, and do the work it takes to grab opportunity.
- Research when other work is being done in your area, to see if you can piggy back.

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10. TAME THE BEAST TO GET THE BEST.

- Just because you can create something doesn't mean you should. Ideas aren't God.
- Know when sleep, or family, is more important than the creative impulse you're feeling. God knows what you need. Peace.
- Stop recording ideas or talking about vision when it gets in the way of relationships.

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