

## The Fourth Sign of the Zodiac (Part 3)

by Mary Oliver

I know, you never intended to be in this world.  
But you're in it all the same.

So why not get started immediately.

I mean, belonging to it.  
There is so much to admire, to weep over.

And to write music or poems about.

Bless the feet that take you to and fro.  
Bless the eyes and the listening ears.  
Bless the tongue, the marvel of taste.  
Bless touching.

You could live a hundred years, it's happened.  
Or not.  
I am speaking from the fortunate platform  
of many years,  
none of which, I think, I ever wasted.  
Do you need a prod?  
Do you need a little darkness to get you going?  
Let me be as urgent as a knife, then,  
and remind you of Keats,  
so single of purpose and thinking, for a while,  
he had a lifetime.

(Book: Blue Horses)

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<sup>1</sup> <http://poetry.drewhendergrass.com/favorites/The-Fourth-Sign-of-the-Zodiac-by-Mary-Oliver> (accessed January 19, 2024).

Storytelling in a small group or personal reflection. One by one, each person shares their answer to the first prompt below. Then go to the next question and so forth. A person can pass.

- 1. Share about a time you felt disconnected from the world and may have felt at that time:** I “never intended to be in this world.” What has happened since then?
- 2. What would it take for you to let go of what is holding you back in your life?** “So why not get started immediately.”
- 3. Share how you bless what you have.** “Bless the feet that take you to and fro. Bless the eyes and the listening ears. Bless the tongue, the marvel of taste. Bless touching.”
- 4. “Do you need a prod? Do you need a little darkness to get you going?”**  
**Share about a dream you have. Why is fulfilling this dream important to you? What simple steps can you take now to make your dream come true?**