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Caring for Places: What Does It Take to Make Place?

It takes the mind of the beholder

Wondering
Imagining
Caring how things are
and might be

It takes circumstance and promise and
Companionable surroundings

That is to say it takes being alert among things
Standing beside them
Moving among them
Being enfolded
Discovering positions in a larger pattern
Choosing among paths and vantage points
Investing attention

It takes events
Everyday and momentous
Spontaneous and contrived

which fill the spaces between and bring them to life
which engage the senses and prompt the mind

Magic rings of silence
Sounds that touch the nerves of being, echo and spur recollection
The flows of social action

It takes marking the things that surround us in ways that call out and
recall events that take place

Inscribing thought in matter
Tracing the acts of conception and construction
Embedding ornament that intrigues and offers to narrate
Reflecting the joy of seasons and of ritualized time

Forging libraries of aspiration
Indexing paths through the repository of the city

It takes Companions
Faces that challenge
Faces that confirm
Faces that dance

The many great faces that help to bring places into being

And yes, the face of the unfamiliar

— *Donlyn Lyndon*