

YODER SAYS...

EMERGE. CONNECT. THRIVE.

These words make me think of a seedling pushing up through the soil, opening its leaves to the sunshine and growing a large, yellow bloom. Then I would eat it.

That's just my jam of course. I see the bloom and I might ask, Will it taste good? Is it a poison risk? Are there any more? And that is about it for me, until I move on to the next bloom or patch of grass or hay pile.

What do you do when presented with the emergence of a large, yellow bloom? Maybe it arrives in the form of a client challenge, a business opportunity, or a chance to learn a new skill? When it emerges are you curious, fearful, resistant?

At our farm we recently welcomed 2 mini donkeys, Rose and Ida. Donkeys are equines, of course, but they don't behave the same way I do. They think a lot more. They ask a lot of questions and sometimes their curiosity looks like fear or resistance. People talk about donkeys being stubborn. I think the donkeys are intentional and just need more information up front. Plus, when they learn something, they don't forget it. Nothing like some of the horses I know, who can walk past the same bucket 6 days a week and then on day 7 act like the bucket is on fire. What is that all about?

At the farm I hear our clients ask a lot of questions. Sometimes to me the questions sound like fear... "Is he going to kick me?" Sometimes the questions sound like resistance... "Why do I need to do that?" And sometimes they

sound like outright curiosity... "Are all horses as sweet as Yoder?" (Self-serving, I know, but someone really did ask that.)

Do you ever think your questions might sound like resistance or even fear to other people? Do you know how to ask questions that build connection instead of a barrier? I am a horse and wouldn't know to pose this question, but let's just say I am asking for a friend.

As I write this I am waiting on springtime in Minnesota. It is a long, agonizingly slow journey that teases us with warmth and then dumps a load of snow in our pasture. Sometimes right on a few yellow blooms! Rose and Ida don't care for the cold and are constantly asking me if I know that their breed originated in warm Mediterranean climates. I don't feel any connection to that. I am from Ohio.

I guess emerging from this long winter, connecting with the blooming earth, and eating my way through the summer is how I will thrive. For now I am just going to take things one bloom at a time. I hope you can do the same.

~ Best, Yoder



YODER

THE THERAPY PONY, FEATURED COLUMNIST

You can email me through
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