

Stay the Same or Change

We do one thing or another; we stay the same, or we
change.

Congratulations, if
you have changed.

Let me ask you this.
Do you also think that beauty exists for some
fabulous reason?

And, if you have not been enchanted by this adventure –
your life –
what would do, for you?

What I loved in the beginning, I think, was mostly myself.
Never mind that I had to, since somebody had to.
That was many years ago.
Since then I have gone out from my confinements,
though with difficulty.

I mean the ones that thought to rule my heart.
I cast them out, I put them on the compost pile.
They will be nourishment somehow or another.

And, I have become the child of the clouds, and of hope.
I have become the friend of the enemy, whoever that is.
I have become older and, cherishing what I have learned,
I have become younger.

And what do I risk to tell you this, (which is all I know)?
Love yourself. Then forget it. Then, love the world.

- Mary Oliver, w/ edits by Lyn