

*Picture of the Week: February 16, 2015 – The Sails Within*

If you're out east, I hope you're safe at home. As usual this time of year, the wintry weather is here with a purpose, but maybe it'll make for a beautiful spring. I'll certainly appreciate the nice weather when it comes. For now, I dream of palm trees in San Jose, as in the picture below.



I had quite a driving experience on Valentine's Day when unexpected snow and wind came about on my way home from the grocery store. When I left the store, the streets and my car were covered. I had no idea a normally 15-minute drive would take 45 minutes. I drove about 20 miles per hour or so, trying to steer in the tracks made before me from other cars. There were no salt trucks, and at times it was hard to see, especially with the wind. My wheels turned with snow and ice beneath them, and I got nervous. I breathed deeply. I prayed. I asked my angelic guidance to be with me, as I saw other cars creeping tenderly down the road. One truck beside me swerved to and fro, and I feared I might do the same. But as I continued to pass each traffic light, I looked at it as passing a landmark unscathed, and I was closer to home. Eventually, as I could hear the wind's voice I asked myself, what is this experience teaching me? What am I learning from this? I knew my life wasn't in danger, but I didn't want to get stuck or damage my car. Everything was going to be okay I thought, as I gingerly passed another traffic light, following the trail of tracks.

My most scary moment was when I realized I was getting too close to a car ahead of me, and I couldn't break because of the snow and ice. If I tried to do so, I'd slide into the car, so I slowly glided my car into a lane with barely any tracks, but clear of cars so I wouldn't slide into anyone. Thankfully, the lights gracefully kept turning green so I didn't have to use my breaks until it was eventually safe to do so. Shortly after, the roads looked clearer from more tracks from cars. Though snow and ice covered the last quarter mile home, it was the most relieving stretch of street knowing I'd be warm soon.

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Experiences like these remind me of the many journeys we take in our lives. Sometimes we can barely see on the path we've chosen to take. Sometimes we see others on our path struggling, and we fear we might struggle the same instead of focusing on ourselves. There are moments when things are slow, and we want them to go faster. Yet we are wise enough to know if we go faster it'd be a mistake, or as was the case driving in the snow, dangerous. But when we see how far we've come with each landmark or traffic light we pass, we know we're a little closer to our destination. Eventually, the path gets easier as we follow the steps made before us. At the same time, there are moments we must forge our own path, even if it's scary, for our highest good.

This Valentine's Day was one of my worst driving experiences, but I was incredibly relieved. I made it. And when I thought more deeply about it, I've made it through plenty of other things in my life. I'm sure you have made it through many paths and journeys as well. Some things we experience remind us what we go through, how far we've come and what we can overcome. We are truly blessed to have the capacity to make it through anything. Have a safe, wonderful week.