

# theslowdown\_20200629\_20200629\_128

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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

graduates, noblest, human evolution, slowdown, belief, jimenez, capacity, terms, old habits, absolve, members, assures, humane, lovingly, generation, work, verbs, freefall, logos, selflessly

00:06

I'm Tracy k Smith, and this is the slow down.

00:20

During this season of upheaval, my thoughts go out to all the new graduates emerging from their studies, and into a global economy in freefall. Like my nephew Harrison, and my niece, Rachel, who graduated from college and law school this month. This year, his graduates will need patience and great creativity. And they'll need the support and understanding of a dedicated network of friends, family members, and willing mentors. And I believe they'll need to nourish a belief in their own capacity to offer help to foster change, to so insight and provide relief to others both near and far. Luckily, my experience as an educator assures me that members of this generation possess all of these qualities and more. They're empathetic, creative, mindful and courageous. They're capable of envisioning a world in which the values driving social relations can be humane, a world where we have many options. When it comes to who we are, and what we might seek one day to become their patient with their elders. They're willing to educate members of my generation, and the generations ahead of mine. On perspectives, we old folks sometimes have trouble grasping. As frightening and uncertain as this moment in human history may be. It's also an exciting time, a time when Change is inevitable. May we all use it as an opportunity to grow, adapt, shed old habits, and contribute to a wild and wonderful new phase of human evolution? When I think of the current crisis in these terms, I'm persuaded to let go of my fear and embrace love, hope, curiosity, resilience, and belief in our highest noblest capacities. It won't be easy. There's still more loss, we must endure both individually and as a collective. But maybe our tolerance for division is waning. Maybe we'll decide instead, to band together. What would be the terms of such a union? Is there room for honest apology, forgiveness, compassion and love? Is justice empirical? Or must we work to fashion the terms of it together? It would be backbreaking

contentious labor. Still, I get excited thinking it might be possible to attend lovingly, selflessly, to our ailing world. Today's poem is basic needs by Vanessa Jimenez gab. There will be work by late fall raining in Havana, VA. Whoa. It's so hard to not think of you. Privacy is complicated. The famous Hotel by the sea. Where did you come from? Where did you come from? Sometimes the verbs aren't important. Thank you for this organization, the conspicuous absence of logos, these mountains I believe will absolve me when I remember to look up. Money doesn't always mean what I think it does. It sounds lovely. Such red red berries. I could live in your country. I could never in your country. We can't always be so kind. The real question is not will we hurt. But what do I do with this happiness?

04:46

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