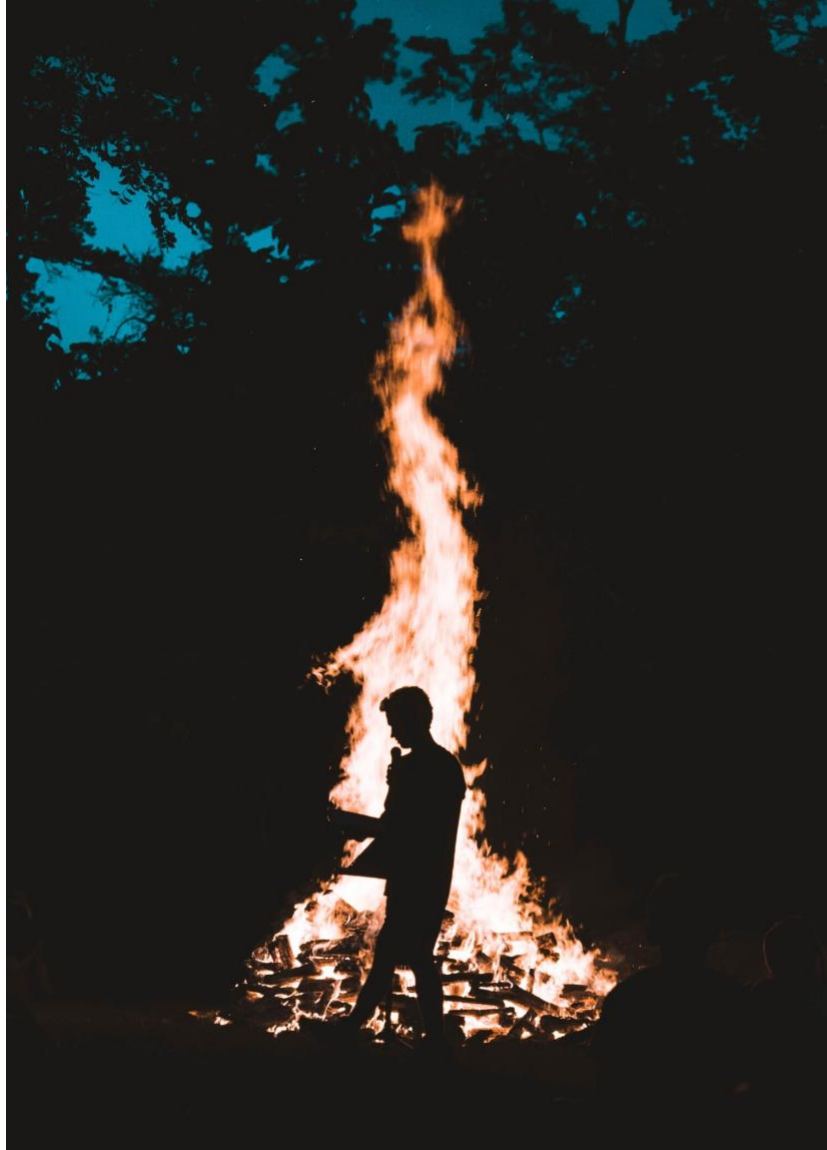




Old Master Potter



He disappeared into his creation.

“There is an ancient Chinese story of an old master potter who attempted to develop a new glaze for his porcelain vases. It became the central focus of his life. Every day he tended the flames of his kilns to a white heat, controlling the temperature to an exact degree. Every day he experimented with the



chemistry of the glazes he applied, but still he could not achieve the beauty he desired and imagined was possible in the glaze. Finally, having tried everything, he decided his meaningful life was over and walked into the molten heat of a fully fired kiln. When his assistants opened up the kiln and took out the vases, they found the glaze on the vases the most exquisite they had ever encountered. The master himself had disappeared into his creations.”

– Whyte, 1994, p. 114-115

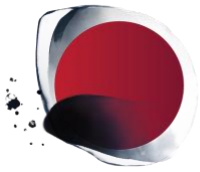
As fathers, when we hold presence for our children, we are both the container and the contained. We join our children in such a way that we are fully part of their play, their question, their experience of eating dinner; while at the same time we hold and contain their process. When we play with them we ensure their freedom and safety. When they ask us a question, we respond in such a way as to keep the question alive while joining their wonderment and curiosity. When we have a family meal, we have set the context for them to receive nourishment and nurturance while we become part of what they consume.

To fully join our child means we lose ourselves to the relational. To do this, like the master potter, we must also hold the context, that relational moment, so that the beauty of who we are as fathers becomes part of the formation of our children in a safe and facilitated context. We hold our presence as we disappear into our relationship with our children to re-emerge as an integrated component of their creation.

Reference

Whyte, David. (1994). *The heart aroused: Poetry and the preservation of the soul in corporate America*. New York: Doubleday.

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The Tim Dukes Method provides an opportunity for self-reflective individuals to cultivate the capacity to receive into consciousness hidden aspects of the self, claiming your unique gifts – ensuring that today’s brilliance successfully transitions into tomorrow’s wisdom. The Tim Dukes Method is designed and implemented by Dr. Timothy Dukes for determined creatives to ensure long-term viability — as a continuing investment in the well-being of yourself, family, organizations, culture, society, and the Earth itself.