

## Practice 1.2 Transcription

### If you ask you must surely need

So I am going to finish with a very short story, and here is the practice for the day, the practice will emerge from the story. The practice is: **commit an outrageous Act of Love**. And commit it with someone here at the festival, an outrageous lover keeps every boundary that should be kept and breaks every boundary that should be broken. Is this dangerous? Of course it is dangerous.

I come to speak dangerous words. I ask only that you listen dangerously. It is dangerous to our sense that we are impotent. We are not impotent, we are potent. We are living incarnated expressions of eros, of love intelligence. Love is not small, love is not limited to this small hallmark cards, gentle sweet thing. Love is strong, love is the most powerful force that exists, love is the initiating eros of All that is.

So we are going to start today with holy laughter. I tell you the sweetest shortest story and we take the assignment into lunch. And every day this week, we are going to commit an outrageous act of love. And every day this week, we are going to write an outrageous love letter. Because the first Acts of Love an outrageous lover does, is writing an outrageous Love Letter.

So every day, we are going to commit at least one outrageous Act of Love and one outrageous Love Letter. And then finally on Friday or Saturday, we are going to actually pick our swing. Until then we are practicing our swing. You did see how Bobby Jo did it, he kept practicing the swing. We are going to practice our swing the whole week. Until we come to that place that we actually awaken and we say "Wow, that is my outrageous Act of Love to commit". Unlike any other. And my invitation of life is not to heal the pain of the whole world, it is actually to be an awake choosing human being in an anthill. What's an anthill? A huge ant colony. An ant colony has an incredible organization, is of incredible elegance, of incredible beauty. And there is no Buddha. There is no command ant telling people what to do. There is actually an interior sense of self organization in the anthill. And every ant pays attention to the next five ants that are surrounding it. And that is actually how evolution works. It is how our cell knows how to choose to become a kidney and not a brain. It is the self organization of love intelligence in the cosmos, imagine an unique self symphony in the world. In which every person awakens, choosing their swing of outrageous love. And that becomes a viral gorgeous explosion of outrageous love throughout the world. And by the end of the week we are going to have a website up, which we are going to share with you. And it is called: outrageous Acts of Love.

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And we are going to send outrageous Love Letters, and stories about outrageous Acts of Love, and we are going to share them. We are going to inspire hundreds of thousands of people around the world, who are going to read our outrageous Love Letters, we are going to read about our stories of outrageous Acts of Love. Because the old world had to do it privately and quietly. Today, we need a symphony. Your outrageous Acts of Love are going to inspire ten thousand other outrageous Acts of Love. We will see that website by the end of the week on the screen. It is being constructed as we talk, right now. A unique self symphony of outrageous lovers. We are going to start light today.

Here is the story. Try to keep your eyes shut, if you can. Mines are shut too, let's feel it on the inside of the inside.

It's a story of my master, my teacher. I teach only with his permission.

*His name is the Baal Shem Tov, the master of the good name. He was a Chassidic master, he was a Rumanian mystic, who emerges out of the Carpathian mountains in 1760. He could understand so much of what was going on in people's hearts.*

*And there was one particular moment in time where a very very poor and desperate man comes to him and says: 'Holy Baal Shem Tov, I have lost everything. Three years ago I was wealthy and prosperous and today I have nothing. What happened? Help me, Please help me!' The Baal Shem Tov says: "Ah, you have lost everything. Don't you remember?" The man has never met the Baal Shem Tov before so he says: 'What do you mean, don't I remember?' The master of the good name says: "Don't you remember? Don't you remember?" He says: 'Remember what?'*

*"Remember, you were in the church, in the synagogue, and it was on the Holy Day. It was the Holy Day of fasting, and it was a 24 hour fast, and you had a little snuffbox".*

*You know what a snuffbox is? A snuffbox is a little box with fragrance of spices. And when you fast for 24 hours, you don't eat and drink, but you can actually smell fragrance. And the fragrance fills your being.*

*"And you would walk around this church, this synagogue, this mosque, this holy day of fasting, and you would walk around and you would give all the people from the snuffbox. You would give them something to smell from the snuffbox, to revive their soul. But in the back of the church there was a beggar and he was a little smelly. And he wasn't dressed well. And you saw him in the back but you never took the time to go to the back and give him the snuffbox, to give him the fragrance. He was not important enough to you. And so what happened is: your fortune has gone down and his fortune has gone up. And all of your wealth and all of your prosperity is his."*

*And the man goes insane and goes crazy and he says: 'Gewalt, gewalt'. And gewalt means: O my God, cursewords, gewalt, it is jiddish.*

*The Baal Shem Tov says: "There is only one thing you can do. Go to him and ask him to give you snuff, give you fragrance to smell. And if he refuses you at anytime, the wheel of fortune will turn and all of your wealth will come back to you".*

*Transcription*

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*The man says to himself: that is easy. Lets open our eyes and see each other.  
The man says: that is easy, I'll go to that town with a snuffbox, a little box of fragrance.  
And he says "I can do that easily". So, he knocks on the door at midnight. And the man,  
who had never met him asked: What do you need? And he says: I need some snuff. The  
man says: of course and he goes and gets the snuffbox and he gives it to him and says:  
"please, smell the fragrance". He smells the fragrance and he stalks away. He says: "okay, I  
can get him I'll wait". He is a business man. "I wait until he is in the middle of an  
important business deal in a private meeting". He waits and waits until he sees the man  
going into a private meeting and he bursts past his secretary (if there were secretaries  
back then) and he breaks into the room and he says: "I need snuff right now". And the  
man says to his business partners: "Please, hold on a second. Of course". He takes out his  
snuffbox and he says: "If you need it, if you ask, you must surely need. If you ask, you  
must surely need." And he gives him the snuffbox.*

*And the first guy is completely crazy at this point and he says. There is a custom to go  
every Friday to ritual bath. You take your close off and you bath in the ritual bath for  
purification. "I'll go when he is coming out naked from the bath, I'll burst in and ask him  
for fragrance". That what he does.*

*It is Friday afternoon and he bursts in, the guy is dripping naked and he says: "Give me  
snuff right now". The man says: "If you ask you must surely need". And he gives him snuff.  
And this happens 10 times and every time the man looks him in the eyes and say: "If you  
ask, you must surely need".*

*Finally he has one last shot. This man's daughter is getting married. There is a custom at  
the end of a wedding in this tradition to do what's called a Mitswa Tance. And a Mitswa  
Tance is when the father dances with the daughter as he is giving her away. And it is  
maybe the most emotional beautiful moment between a father and a daughter that a  
father waits his whole life for. The man finds his way to the wedding and it's at the end of  
the wedding and the music goes on perfectly. And they starting this dance together. And  
as the father and daughter are starting to dance he burst in between them and says: "I  
need snuff right now". And the man looks at him and he says: "Of course, if you ask you  
must surely need". And he faints. And he wakes up, the man who fainted, and he looks up  
at the father of the bride, giving him snuff to wake him up and he tells him the whole  
story. And the man has compassion and they split the money between them and they  
become the two most famous people in eastern Europe to take in every guest that comes  
to their door.*