“I do not want to be a robot, a cog in society who answers ‘yes’ because ‘yes’ is considered the appropriate answer. Neither do I want to be a protester. I just want to seek out what lies underneath the veils of politeness and programming that I’ve been given as a person in this society.” ~Damien Rice

I had originally read this quote from Damien Rice on Brainy Quotes. I knew there must have been more to the story, because Rice’s message resonated. What was posted was merely a snippet of a more pointe remark, when read in its entirety. It was based on Rice’s self-reflections. Much of what we are doing in our paired classes this month.

When interviewed by Jessica Springsteen of Rolling Stone Magazine, Springsteen states, “I've read that you spent much of the past few years self-reflecting and learning more about who you are.”

I have spent some time learning, but learning does not imply understanding. I am more a student now than I was 10 years ago. ***I do not want to be a robot, a cog in society who answers yes because yes is considered the appropriate answer. Neither do I want to be a protestor. I just want to seek out what lies underneath the veils of politeness and programming that I've been given as a person in this society.*** I want to get comfortable with my insecurities until I am no longer insecure. I want to be comfortable in my skin so that I do not need to dump any of my discomfort onto someone else in the form of judgment.

This for me was a more insightful and powerful message. It is something that I have struggled with for sometime. Maybe, much of it had been my upbringing; to tow the company line. As if taking a scene out of the “Matrix,” I had to unplug and take the red pill to see how far the rabbit hole would take me. When there were those who would try and tell me what I would have to do, I would retort with an off the cuff remark. The more that I stood fast; I found that I did not break. That I was stronger than I once appeared to others…even myself.

Having suffered from anxiety and depression, feeling defeated; kicked at every turn. Unable to find employment and forced to work two full-time commission-based only positions, just to survive; working for much less than I was worth. I found my own voice when I learned to say the word ‘no’ out loud. Much of my dis-‘ease’ seemed to stem from relying on the voice of others. I was once quiet and introverted, but…oh, how we change when we are bludgeoned and backed into a corner one too many times.

References

NPR.org,. "Damien Rice". N.p., 2015. Web. 18 Feb. 2016.

Rolling Stone,. "Damien Rice On How Eight Years Of Soul-Searching Led To Long-Awaited LP". N.p., 2014. Web. 18 Feb. 2016.