

The image features a monochromatic blue background with a soft, painterly texture. A large, white, circular shape is centered in the frame, containing the text 'The Tears of Things' in a black, serif font. The circle is partially overlaid by a thick, light blue brushstroke that curves across the top. A white, wavy line extends from the left and right sides of the circle, resembling a splash or a decorative flourish.

# The Tears of Things

The background is a deep blue with a soft, out-of-focus texture. A large white circle is centered in the upper half, containing the title. A white, horizontal brushstroke with a textured, painterly appearance enters from the left and curves over the top of the circle. A white, wavy line extends from the left side of the circle towards the right edge of the frame.

# The Tears of Things

**Pay No Attention to the Fireworks**



## INVOCATION

God of the Cosmos, you who dwell in the vastness and the dust, remind us of our place in a world marked by systems of violence. Uncover in us the roles we play, and open our hearts to the work of unmaking what harms.

**We are here to listen, to learn, and to act with compassion and love.**

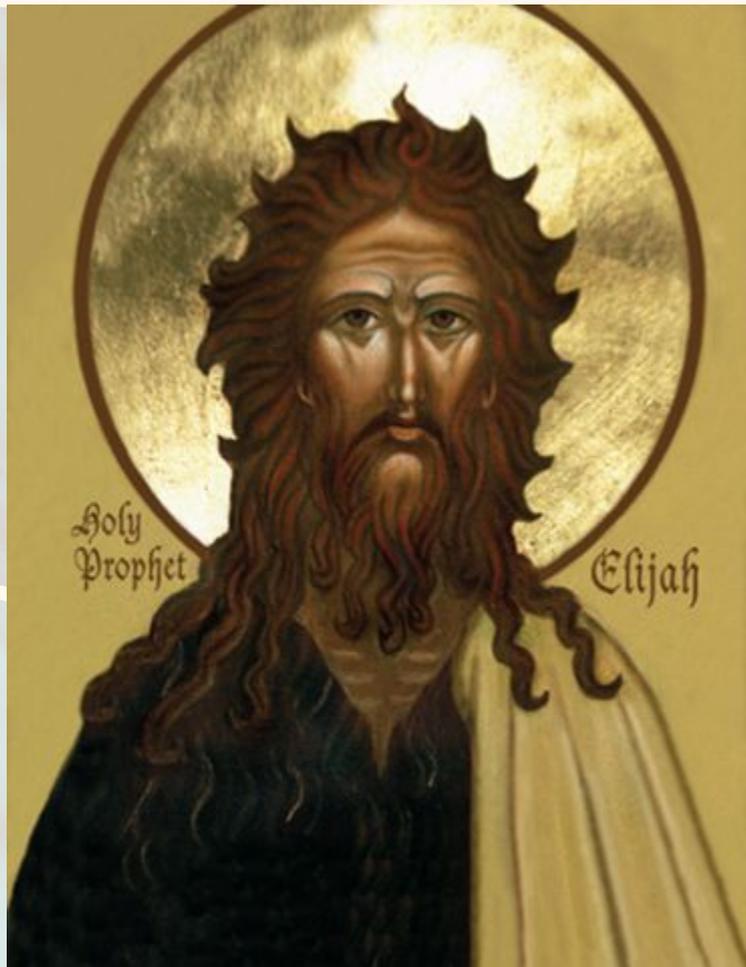


Katsushika Hokusai - Spring in the Rice Fields - Japan - Edo period (1615–1868)



Divine Rest, we confess the ways we have turned away from peace, the times we've chosen silence when justice called. Forgive us, O Beloved, for forgetting our belonging – for thinking we are not enough, for thinking we are not alone. Grant us the courage to embrace one another, to walk toward the peace that makes space for all. Let our hearts beat with the rhythm of unity, for in your peace, we find our true home. and we say together:

**We reject the violence of empire  
and embrace the peace of Christ.**



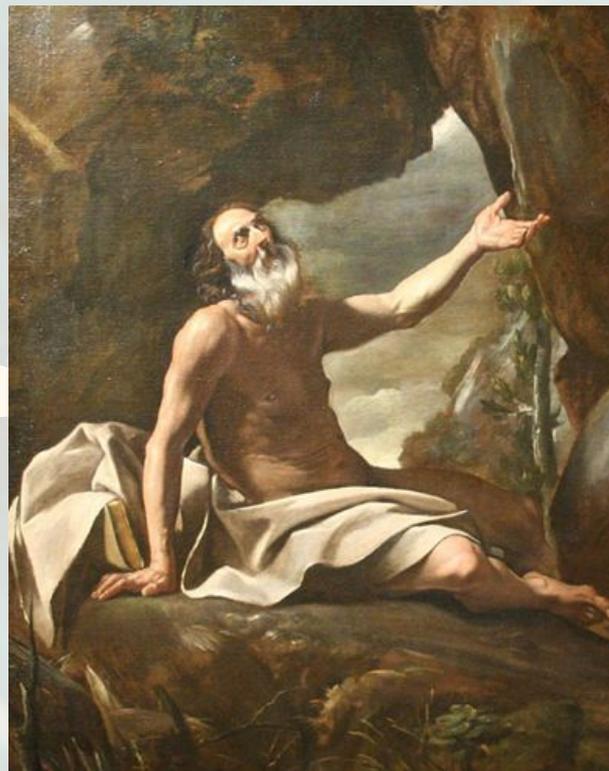


**Elijah's home**

**King Ahab &  
Queen Jezebel's home**







Two faces of Elijah: from ecstasy to agony.

Elijah kept going until he arrived at Mount Horeb. It was the mountain of God. There he went into a cave and spent the night.

A message came to Elijah from the Lord. He said, “Elijah, what are you doing here?”

He replied, “Lord God who rules over all, I’ve been very committed to you. The Israelites have turned their backs on your covenant. They have torn down your altars. They’ve put your prophets to death with their swords. I’m the only one left. And they are trying to kill me.”



The Lord said, “Go out. Stand on the mountain in front of me. I am going to pass by.”

As the Lord approached, a very powerful wind tore the mountains apart. It broke up the rocks. But the Lord wasn't in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake. But the Lord wasn't in the earthquake. After the earthquake a fire came. But the Lord wasn't in the fire. And after the fire there was only a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his coat over his face. He went out and stood at the entrance to the cave.



Then a voice said to him, “Elijah, what are you doing here?”

He replied, “Lord God who rules over all, I’ve been very committed to you. The Israelites have turned their backs on your covenant. They have torn down your altars. They’ve put your prophets to death with their swords. I’m the only one left. And they are trying to kill me.”

God encouraged Elijah then, giving him instructions, but also telling him that there will still be 7,000 people in Israel who have not and will not bow their knee to Baal.





The Tears  
of Things

# 1. A quiet and receptive heart:



## 2. A posture of listening rather than asking



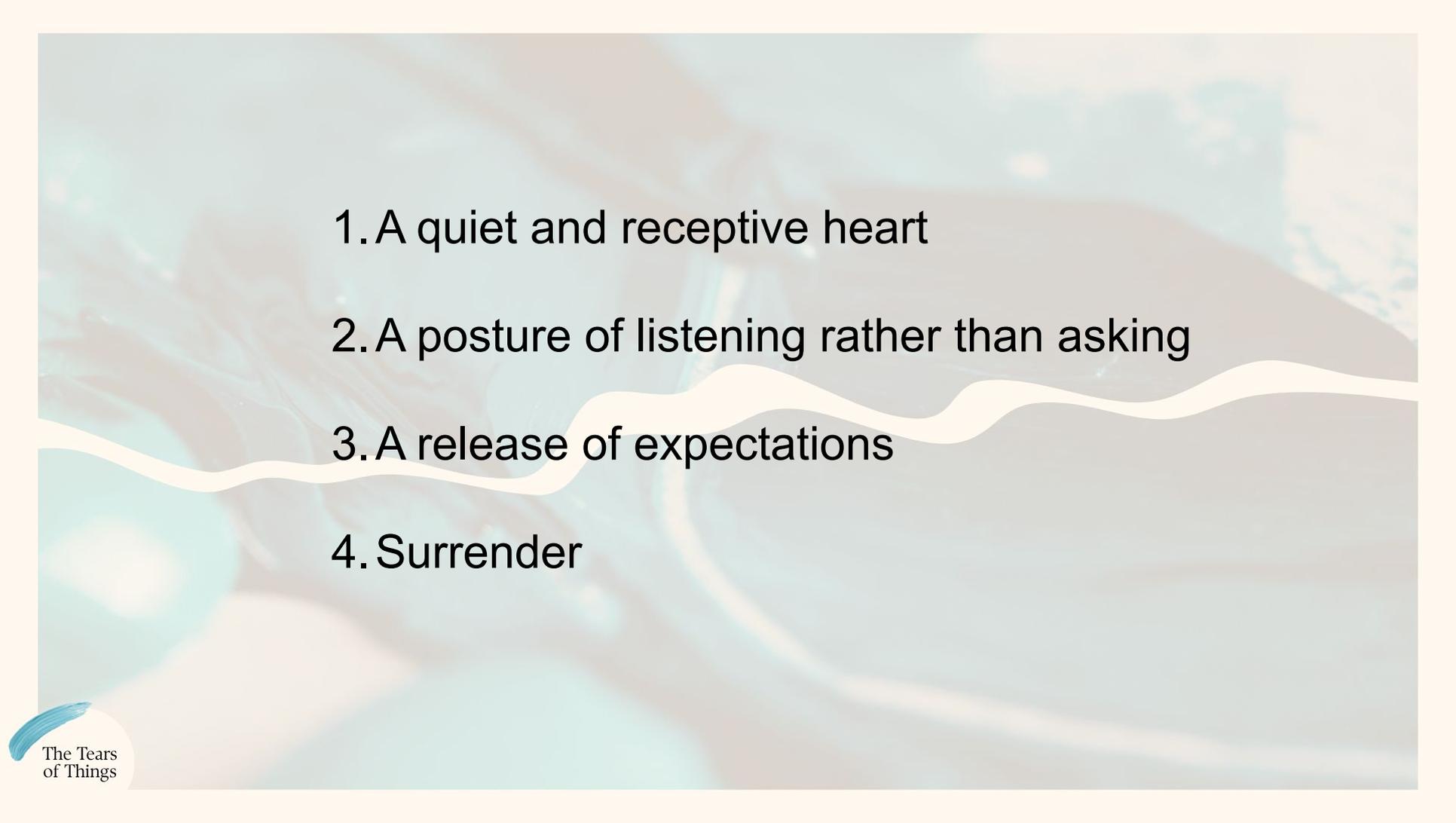
### 3. A release of expectations

"Expectation  
is the root of all  
heartache"

- Shakespeare

## 4. Surrender



- 
1. A quiet and receptive heart
  2. A posture of listening rather than asking
  3. A release of expectations
  4. Surrender



“Do you hear the people sing?  
Singing the song of angry men [and women]....”



Protest if you want,  
but *not* from hate.

Protest because the love  
in you for others wells up  
and will not be silent.

Protest *from* love,  
*with* love,  
and *for* love.



True strength

lies in stillness,

and in peace

