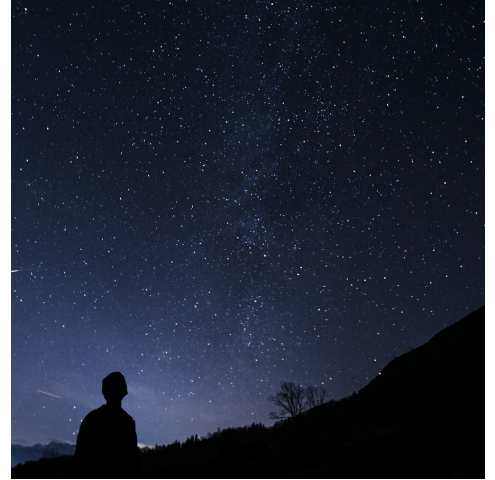


# Touchstones Theme: Hope

Hope is an embrace of the unknown and the unknowable, an alternative to the certainty of both optimists and pessimists. Optimists think it will all be fine without our involvement; pessimists take the opposite position; both excuse themselves from acting. It's the belief that what we do matters even though how and when it may matter, who and what it may impact, are not things we can know beforehand. We may not, in fact, know them afterward either, but they matter all the same, and history is full of people whose influence was most powerful after they were gone. *Rebecca Solnit*



We hope, we despair, and then we hope again — that is how we stay afloat in the cosmos of uncertainty that is any given life. Just as the universe exists because, by some accident of chance we are yet to fathom, there is more matter than antimatter in it, we exist — and go on existing — because there is more hope than despair in us. “Hope,” ...Václav Havel wrote, “is not the same as joy that things are going well, or willingness to invest in enterprises that are obvi-



ously headed for early success, but, rather, an ability to work for something because it is good, not just because it stands a chance to succeed.” Hope, ...is the antidote to cynicism — that most cowardly and self-defeating of existential orientations. *Maria Popova*

## Please join us in exploring Hope

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