

Is There Another Way?

As I navigated another holiday season this past year, I was reminded again how we, as women, have to juggle so many responsibilities...our work, home, husbands, children, parents, friends, our inner peace, and the list goes on and on (especially at the holidays). Many times, when I encounter some difficulty, but in particular an over-commitment of responsibilities, I remind myself that surely there is another way to look at the problem and solve it. My beloved mom used to say, "Well, there is more than one way to skin a cat." (You know, I never before analyzed that saying from a literal perspective, but being a cat-lover myself, it is an odd metaphor.) Nevertheless, I always "got" the meaning and would try very hard to figure another way out of a problem or situation. This is also the same beloved mom who, in raising my sister and me, coined the phrase, "Just do it!" decades before Nike used it.

As I was reading from a favorite book during one of my morning "quiet times" last December, I was struck by the impact of this story and wanted to share it with you:



Lisa Adler

"A story of the wars of the first Napoleon has often come back to me. He was trying, in a winter campaign, to cut off the march of the enemy across a frozen lake. The gunners were told to fire on the ice and break it, but the cannon-balls glanced harmlessly along the surface. With one of the sudden flashes of genius he gave the word, "Fire upwards!"

and the balls crashed down full weight, shattering

the whole sheet into fragments and the day was won."*

Now that 2009 is fully upon us, my hope for all of us is that we can think of ways to "fire upwards" with the challenges we face. It seems that we are often the ones who face the planning and organization of our families and our homes. Please do not forget to address your estate planning needs with your legal professional as you work through your responsibilities this coming year.

**Taken from a Blossom in the Desert, Reflections of Faith in the Art and Writings of Lilius Trotter, Compiled and Edited by Miriam Huffman Rockness. All of Lilius Trotter's journals, diaries, sketchbooks, and artwork, unless otherwise noted, are copyright @ 1998 by Arab World Ministries. Used courtesy of Arab World Ministries archives.*



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