

# Connecting New

February 2025

Three weeks ago I noticed a small yellow flower blooming, all alone in a patch of brown grass. It seemed out of place and that it had jumped the gun, too impatient to wait for spring. Yet, this was not the result of climate change and instead the flower (Crocus) was only acting according to its true nature. Offering beauty selflessly just when we need it. So too with our Hellebores (sometimes referred to as Lenten Roses). They start blooming long before the risk of freeze has past. This month's poem hopes to tap into the message these plants are offering.

## Winter Flowers

February is when yellow white Crocus surprisingly  
emerge in the midst of cold, dreary and dormant.  
Delicate and vulnerable, some would call them foolish,  
other courageous, both acknowledge their generosity.

But Hellebores invite us to participate in the process of hope and new life,  
eager for us to trim away what is now dead and desiccated,  
to remove the barriers that the world may encounter their beauty.

So choose to act, I implore you, not only with low-lying forbs,  
but with people who also need our assistance.  
Offer an unexpected kindness to your crusty neighbor  
and welcome the surprise of what will be revealed.  
And for yourself as well, take a risk, lean into vulnerability  
and let your goodness light our common path forward.



The above photos show a patch of Hellebores with one plant that had its dead stems and leaves trimmed away and removed.

May we receive and share what is beautiful in this world.

Peace and Blessings,  
Clarence

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