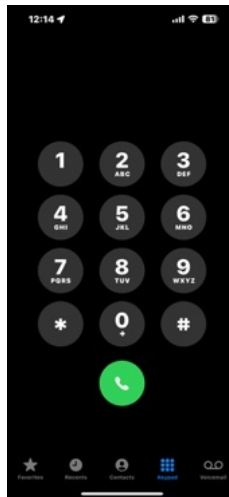


The Call

I had cleared mental debris for a path forward. Ambivalence was resolved, mostly. Focus had sharpened on the coming siege. I was braced for impact. Then came the call. Yes, the big picture makes sense; idealism must yield to prudence; better safe than sorry. Pity. Only art remains.



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