

Stuff from Chapters 1-2

pg 2 - read first four paragraphs for intro (Nate)

Welcoming to space... normal intro (Nate)

Silence and checking in... question is: (Lucius)

One of Plotkin's foundational ideas is that we live in a largely adolescent world (7).

"We live in a largely adolescent world. And it is, in great measure, a pathological adolescence. There is absolutely nothing wrong with (health) adolescence, but our cultural resources have been so degraded over the centuries that the majority of humans in "developed" societies now never reach true adulthood."

What do you think about this?

Intro of book and Plotkin (Nate)

Summarize "*homo imaginens*" - we are now imagining not only for ourselves but for all Earthly creatures. A highly skilled and nuanced imagination - exercised by not just a few but the majority of humans - now acquires the most fundamental significance for survival.

- universal awareness of an evolutionary arc to the unfolding of the world. Science-informed universe story.
- Universal visionary capacity
- Healthy modern adolescence

Five facets of the wheel (Trade off)

- a map or story of optimal human development
 - o *ecocentric* - models human development from the perspective of earth's rhythms
 - o *soukcentric* - the relationship and importance of the soul guiding our process of maturing.
 - o In contrast to the primarily egocentric worldview in our society
- A set of guidelines for individual psychological healing and wholing
 - o Not Pathology - "What symptoms of dysfunction is this person exhibiting, and what can be done to eliminate these symptoms and/or this dysfunction?"
 - o Wholeness centered (Holistic) - "What qualities or capacities are missing from this person's embodiment of wholeness, and what can be done to cultivate these qualities or capacities?"
 - o A map or model of psychological wholeness is essential.
- A design tool for creating healthy human communities and life-sustaining societies
 - o Sustainable - integral to community of whole Earth
 - o Just - equal opportunities *and* benefits of *all* persons
 - o Compassionate - shares its wealth with all other societies and with the greater web of life. No exploitation

Example of oppression from bottom of p25 - read. (Someone from group)

- A deep cultural therapy - a way to heal and transform our existing human cultures
 - o "the cultural therapy we need springs from revelatory or visionary experience, an awakening to the dream of the Earth." (26)
 - o "requires profound changes in the way we embody and support every stage of human growth."
- A portrait of the emerging stage of human evolution
 - o Conscious cooperation of collective imagination required!!

Definitions

Soul - A thing's ultimate place in the world... VERY relational

- place - the role, function, station, or status a thing has in relation to other things
- ultimate place - place in the great scheme of things, its quintessential place in the world or the universe

"the world" - nature... you were born to occupy a particular place in nature - a place in the Earth community, not just the human community. "The world cannot fully be itself until you become fully *yourself*." We are pieces of the puzzle

Read pg 39 - "The power of Here" (someone from Group)

Spirit - single, boundless, and eternal mystery that permeates and animates everything in the universe and yet transcends all... essential to development is cultivating a personal relationship with spirit

Mystery - the undifferentiated realm of spirit and soul

Ego - a person's everyday conscious self or personality - our normal way of experiencing ourselves and the world (important to get this... p42-43). It is the ego that matures, not the soul... it is not something to just be given up. "At soul initiation, the ego accepts its role as an agent or handmaiden for the soul."

Upperworld - transpersonal states of consciousness identified with spirit and characterized by unity (or nonduality), grace, bliss, transcendence, emptiness, light (often golden), enlightenment, the celestial realm, and pure awareness. Conscious self transcended

- meditation, prayer, contemplation, and yoga

Middeworld - everyday, waking identity and state of consciousness - the "dayworld," the personal and interpersonal world of ego. The realm of ego growth... conscious self is differentiated

Underworld - transpersonal states of consciousness and identity associated with soul and characterized by depth, darkness, demons, the daemon, the subconscious, sacred woundings, dreams, the unknown or not-yet-known, shadow, death, and visions of personal and cultural destiny. Conscious self is deepened and matured.

"The shared purpose of transcending the conscious self (upperworld), differentiating the conscious self (middeworld), and deepening the conscious self (underworld) is personal development or maturation, which fosters cultural vitality and evolution, which in turn promotes ecological and planetary vitality and evolution."

Soulcentric cultures - designed to assist all members in discovering and living from their deepest and most fulfilling potentials (their individual souls), in this way contributing their most life-nourishing gifts to their community and environment and, in doing so, actualizing the culture's potential (the cultural soul) and supporting its ongoing evolution.

A society that is soulcentric is necessarily ecocentric.

Ecocentric society - its customs, traditions, and practices are rooted in an awareness of radical interdependence with all beings. The world is a web of relationships.

Egocentric society - prioritizing the lifelong comfort, security, and social acceptance of the early-adolescent ego. Dysfunctional notion of the self, which it sees as an isolated, competitive entity, a free and autonomous agent. Separate from the natural world. Not too many egos, but too much value on the early-adolescent *uninitiated* ego... too many *unhealthy* egos. (good summary 46-47)

Close with reading from p 48 (Kat?)

