

Outline for Chapter 3

Spiritual Integration at MYC

January 19, 2010

Intro to Spiritual Integration

Silence / Check in - *What's the question or desire or passion or deepest need that you wake up with or that follows you throughout the day? Five Words!*

Nature's template for the Wheel

- 4 compass directions
- Diurnal directions (sunrise, noon, sunset, midnight)
- **East** - beginnings, origins, birth, end of night, enlightenment and illumination... Sun rising → ascension to spirit
- **South** - greatest warmth, place of the "inner child," growth, flowering, puberty
- **West** - light to darkness, culmination, shadow, "direction wedded to the soul, of self-discovery, of introspection and introversion,"
- **North** - where the sun goes after it sets, cold, decisive, stillness, hardship that is familiar and accustomed. Leader, teacher, parent
- **East** - death. Bonds newborn and the elder

East and west (extroversion / introversion, light / shadow, ascent / descent, spirit / soul). *East-West is the transpersonal axis of the Wheel.*

North and South (survival / growth, parenting and leadership / childhood and growth. *North-South is the personal axis of the wheel.* Middleworld

This is... the **Mature Form of the Hero's Journey** (pp 54-56)

"Both men's and women's paths to genuine maturity are distinct from juvenile, usually masculine, heroism. ... The journey is soul-defined rather than self-defined, and service focused rather than conquest obsessed." (56)

Four Stage mode (Diagram 3-2) (T) = transition, rite of passage

- Childhood - learning fundamentals of nature and culture
- (T)Puberty - transition of sexual, social, and psychological flowering
- Adolescence - acquire the social and psychospiritual capacities to prepare for Soul initiation
- (T)Soul Initiation - we shift from a focus on social belonging and soul discovery to the active embodiment of soul in our community
- Adulthood - acquire and hone our unique ways of serving our community through soul work
- (T)Crowning - relinquish our conscious attachment to the embodiment of our individual souls and turn toward the tending of a more expansive domain, the soul of the more-than-human community
- Elderhood - highest social status... contrasted to "senior citizen" - the lowest.
- (T)Death - return to spirit

THE WHEEL!!

Key things to remember:

- timing of the transitions between stages is independent of age and social role, and for the most part, independent of biological and cognitive development.
- No stage is better than any other
- The only way to cooperate with the process of maturation is to LOVE the stage you are in (and its tasks)
- Every transition is painful and involves crisis.

Read page 62 while group follows along on the diagram

Pointers on bottom of 63 - East = being, West = doing, South = individual, North = collective

Small Group Discussion -

- Where do you see yourself on the wheel? What soulcentric experiences from the wheel have you lived fully into or missed, partially or entirely? What else does seeing these stages bring up for you?

Large Group Sharing & Close.

Definitions

Psychospiritual Center of Gravity - what individual's day-to-day experience revolves around. Helps us understand what people find most compelling

Passages and Rites of Passage - transition into and out of stages. Often led by elders and initiators. Birth, Naming (appearance of an integral conscious self), puberty, and death are givens. Rites of passages are never necessary for the transition... but it is extremely important for the community to pay attention and celebrate the changing PCG.

Stage Name - ecocentric (Nest, Garden, Oasis, cocoon, etc) evokes central qualities and opportunities of each stage.

Stage and Quadrant Archetypes (Diagram 3-4) - 2 for each stage (quadrant and stage) Quadrant archetypes are more mysterious, bigger, abstract. Example of Orphan... how if the stages are so family oriented?

Gifts to community (Diagram 3-5) - these are our blessings... and celebrating these gifts. having (healthy) people in each of the eight stages is what makes a society healthiest. What is missing from our society as we know it?

Developmental tasks - none are ever fully complete. Necessary to our maturing

Circle of identity - increases outward as we mature. Think no/infinite self identity of an infant to universe of the sage.

Egocentric stages (Diagram 3-6) -

Suggestions for cultivating Soulcentric development in an Egocentric world - in each chapter

Operating Guidelines - pp 72-74... very important! Read if we have time.

Need help determining what stage you're in?

The identifying signs of your stage (more or less from the most definitive to the least) are:

- your current psychospiritual center of gravity (see p. 64 of *Nature and the Human Soul*, and then the introductory sections of the chapters on the stages you are wondering about)
- the primary developmental tasks you find yourself working on (see p. 69)
- the developmental archetypes with which you and your behavior most fully resonate (see p. 67)
- the primary psychosocial gift to community that you manifest without trying (simply through your presence) (see p. 68)
- your circle of identity (see p. 70)

Please remember these things:

1. If you get different answers using the above identifying signs, then the first (center of gravity) is most definitive.
2. Not only is it possible to be working on the tasks of earlier stages (as well as your own), but *everybody* has unfinished work in *all* previous stages, and consequently everyone can always be working on those earlier tasks as well as those of their present stage.