

WORKING PREMISES

Graduate Seminar

The context for this work is cosmic, entailing the whole Universe, or Cosmos, far beyond the earth. This Whole is seen as an open, energetic system of deep, coherent order, which is vital, sacred, and evolving.

The earth exists within this cosmic context and system as an energetic, living system in its own right, composed of the presence of many life forms and species, of which the human species is one.

The earth is, therefore, in essence, an aspect of the Sacred Cosmos, and consists of many levels of living systems within this larger system of Life. Therefore, infinite macro/micro correspondences and resonances between present experience on earth and the deep order of the Whole Universe are possible.

Humanity is both the species that can help realize and express this sacred essence of the earth in form **and** we are the entity that is blocking or impeding this possibility. This is due to lack of consciousness and maturity as a species. All problems on earth are rooted in this lack of consciousness, which is manifested in many forms of fear and ignorance of the Whole and our true place in it.

Human consciousness is constantly seeking to awaken, transform, and mature. Further awakening is needed sorely now, as there is a major crisis in the earth systems due to our immaturity as a species. However, at all times there is an inherent drive in all human beings to awaken and participate in the Whole. We, as a species, have a particular part to play in the Whole and in helping realize the earth as a sacred planet and a living aspect of the Sacred Cosmos.

The key to supporting this drive and process toward maturation of human consciousness is the eradication of fear and ignorance and the realization in each of us of the particularity **and** interdependence of all beings within a sacred context of earth and cosmos. There needs to be a movement from separation/ego to interdependence/community at all levels of human

organization, accompanied simultaneously by the full realization of individual and cultural uniqueness.

The history of the 20th century has been rooted in separation/disconnection from the Sacred and so in consequent violence, social injustice, and environmental degradation, which has generated immense human suffering. At the same time, during this century, the ideas and practices needed for the global transformation of human consciousness have emerged and are gaining credence and use throughout the planet.

In the 21st century there is a choice point for humanity and the struggle is intense between the old and new ways of being on earth as a species. This is going on now, and all of us are a part of it.

This struggle is in every human being—the intent to awake and mature **and** the desire to stay ignorant and asleep. Further, it is embedded in a living process and flow of our experience, moment to moment and over time from birth to death. This process is inherent in every human being, completely natural, and is, at root, the drive to maturity that exists in all of us. It can, however, become stunted and blocked in a wide range of ways. Our living experience contains both aspects. We need to learn to recognize, cooperate with, unlock, work with, and guide this complex living process within ourselves and within those we work with and love toward greater spiritual maturity.

The intended outcome of this living process is human spiritual maturity, connection to the Whole, and micro/macro system interdependence, or what I call “kosmos”— i.e. participation in the sacred cosmos and in the common consciousness as well as the experience of being fully alive and fully and uniquely oneself. Everyone has moments of this experience, and we can learn to sustain it better in ourselves and in others. This outcome leads to different thoughts, feelings, and actions that are more in line with the health and vitality of the Whole, person to planet and beyond.

The basic means to this outcome is sustained faith in “ Life living itself more deeply” and our learning to cooperate with this intent in each of us, to confront and remove the blocks, and to support the maturation process. Many tools can be used to help this happen, and each person needs to find their own way. However, no matter what the means used, essential to the

process is individual maturation **in experience**, the **actual** transformation of consciousness, and the grounded, detailed realization of sacred planet and cosmos in daily life through individual awareness, choice, and consequent behavior.

The key to doing this is to learn to follow this flow of living experience, moment to moment and over time and through space as truly and closely as possible. The sacred is seen as embedded in the truth of this experience and the core practice, therefore, is to stay as close as possible to it and help it work in ways that both reveal and explore the blocks to maturation **and** affirm and express this potential in every human being.

This work is imperfect and unfinished and, in essence, mysterious, but as we proceed with it, it gradually connects us more consistently and deeply to the Sacred Cosmos and the deep order and vitality of Cosmic Life in which we most deeply live as human beings.

In this way there develops a direct connection and resonance between the Cosmic Whole and the Here and Now, which generates the experience of the Eternal Now as the context for immediate presence, participation, and full aliveness in daily life.