

Emergence

1 Our greatest genius may be the ability to prime the healing and evolutionary circuits of one another. **Jean Houston**

2 I have found that anything that crosses swords with our entitled ego is a powerful source of transformation and inner evolution. **David Richo**

3 The older I get, the more convinced I am that every human life is an evolutionary process during which the Creator offers to the creature an experience of divinity, an opportunity, great or small, to share in the ongoing act of creation. **Morris West**

4 Spiritual emergence has been defined as “the movement of an individual to a more expanded way of being that involves enhanced emotional and psychosomatic health, greater freedom of personal choices, and a sense of deeper connection with other people, nature, and the cosmos. An important part of this development is an increasing awareness of the spiritual dimension in one’s life and in the universal scheme of things.”

--**Christina and Stanislav Grof**, 1990

5 Spiritual Revolution

"Listen for the whisper of God everywhere. Work for justice. Know that your life is in communion with all life.

"The spiritual revolution, finding God in the world, is an invitation to new birth, most especially for religion. There is no better place to start than in your synagogue, mosque, temple, or church.

"And that new birth is happening. You can hear it as the earth groans for salvation, as poets and philosophers tell its stories, as scientists search the soil and the cosmos for life, as the oppressed, poor, and marginalized push for dignity and economic justice. It is time for the church to wake up. There is nothing worse than **sleeping through a revolution.**" **Diana Butler Bass**, *Grounded: Finding God in the World: A Spiritual Revolution*

6 Horribly painful as such a time of disorientation and fear can be, it also offers an opportunity — a *kairos*, as the gospel writers would have said — for seeing, learning, and growing. . . . As

Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote, "People wish to be settled; only as far as they are unsettled is there any hope for them." **Kerry Walters**

7 While God-energy or grace, is given to each person to spur him or her on their evolutionary path, it must be accompanied with an ardent desire to actually advance forward. While in the physical body growth is spontaneous, the inner development required to live a joyful life requires passionate desire and determined commitment to growth. **Edward Hays**

8 There is only this one life going on, this one loving, all giving, perfect intelligence. This one perfect pattern of infinite potential, and as it emerges, where there is resistance, or in some cases where there is a need to develop certain abilities in this three dimensional realm called human existence, it appears like crisis, it appears like problems, it appears like bad things. But when you really understand this oneness, you get to understand and discover that, in fact, all of it is really a conspiracy of good; a conspiracy of wholeness.

--**Derek Rydall**, Emergence: The End of Self-Improvement

9 As teachers, we need to recognize that teaching the wings of awakening is what the sacred art of teaching is all about. No matter what our subject matter, the age of our students, or the number of students we are responsible for, we are offering them all the wings of awareness.

Jane Vennard

10 The Light of Something Not Fully Born

For me sometimes there is a sense of shame attached to hoping. A timid but panicked voice scares me into thinking that something bad might happen, that my happiness won't last, and that I don't deserve what I want.

. . . . We believe, wrongly, that if tomorrow we are not guaranteed safety, health and happiness, that today we cannot embrace those things. It is such an ungracious way to live: rejecting what are being gifted in the present moment because we don't have an insurance policy on it.

It's cliché but true, there are no guarantees in this life. If we wait for a divine assurance to be happy we'll always be waiting. It is earthbound purgatory. When we constantly foretell disappointment we stop hoping, stop praying, and stop living.

The truth is that sometimes all we get is the light of something not fully born. It's ok to feel the subtle joy that arises within us when we believe that things will get better, that our dreams might come true, and that the future will be kinder to us than the past has been.

Jessie Curtner, from her post to her blog, theinbetween.com

11 A Sikh Prayer for America on Nov 9, 2016

Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh

In our tears and agony, we hold our children close and confront the truth: The future is dark.

But my faith dares me to ask:

What if this darkness is not the darkness of the tomb, but the darkness of the womb?

What if our America is not dead but a country still waiting to be born? What if the story of America is one long labor?

What if all the mothers who came before us, who survived genocide and occupation, slavery and Jim Crow, racism and xenophobia and Islamophobia, political oppression and sexual assault, are standing behind us now, whispering in our ear: You are brave? What if this is our Great Contraction before we birth a new future?

Remember the wisdom of the midwife: “Breathe,” she says. Then: “Push.”

Now it is time to breathe. But soon it will be time to push; soon it will be time to fight — for those we love — Muslim father, Sikh son, trans daughter, indigenous brother, immigrant sister, white worker, the poor and forgotten, and the ones who cast their vote out of resentment and fear.

Let us make an oath to fight for the soul of America — “The land that never has been yet— And yet must be” (Langston Hughes) — with Revolutionary Love and relentless optimism. And so I pray this Sikh prayer:

Nanak Naam Chardi Kala,

Tere Bane Sarbat Da Bhalla

“In the name of the Divine within us and around us, we find everlasting optimism.

Within your will, may there be grace for all of humanity.”

Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh

--**Valarie Kaur**, sometimes called Sikh election prayer, from her blog

12 A Poem by Rumi

Birdsong brings relief

to my longing

I am just as ecstatic as they are,

but with nothing to say!

Please, universal soul, practice

some song, or something, through me!

--**Coleman Barks** trans., *The Essential Rumi*

For Reflection and Discussion

A What is your take on this month's topic? Has it changed as you have reflected on it?

B Would you give yourself high marks for your impact on "the healing and evolutionary circuits" of others (see 1 above)? Can you think of people you know who inspire you with their efforts?

C Have you found it to be true that "anything that crosses swords with our entitled ego is a powerful source of transformation and inner evolution." (2 above) Is that a helpful observation?

D Have you experienced "spiritual emergence" as defined by the psychologists Goff and Goff (4 above)?

E Does Valerie Kaur's characterization of our public life these days as "the darkness of the womb" resonate with you (11 above)? What evidence informs your answer?

F Does your experience at All Souls have an effect on your understanding of emergence? On your direct experience of emergence?

--Mary Beth Hatem, for All Souls Church, Unitarian

