

Why We're All Here...

Statements Shared by Participants from the Live Program in Preparation for this Learning Journey

Hi everyone,

I have been pretty blown away by some of the responses to the four-part registration question that all of you answered. Here is distillation of it from Mirror, one of our volunteers and participants. Reading it, I am reminded anew of an insight that often visits me: that we are all on the same journey, by many different paths yes, but fundamentally the same journey. Each of the statements below is my statement too. Even if the details may not describe me (I've never had a corporate job, for instance), every word is nonetheless true.

Read through these -- maybe you will get the same feeling I do: that your story is my story, that we are all one tribe, on this journey together... losing our way in order to find our destination.

With love,
Charles

We're here for community. We've experienced loneliness, isolation and a lack of support leading to doubt and anxiety. We're here to experience co-operation, collaboration and co-creation. We've realised we need each other, we need connection, we need to be seen by those who share similar values and we need help from others to focus. We give each other hope, validation and reassurance to keep going. We're here to not be alone in the asking of difficult questions.

We're here for the love of learning and education, the gift of inspiration, new ideas, the absorption of life-changing information, to drink in stimulating views and to consciously, with purpose and presence reflect on how we live our lives.

We feel the pain of separation, the impoverishment of disconnection and isolation in how we live and question if this is the way it's meant to be. We're tired of the bad news and negativity spouted by the media, the pointless destruction of the planet, the terror, fear, injustices and inequality. At times we feel a sense of uselessness, futility and despair over the vast oceans of work needed to be done to make any difference at all. Many times we've felt the pain of failure, the loneliness of the pioneer and wayforger and being ahead of our

times. We're here to transcend lifetimes of cultural wounding and practice compassion for self and others.

We're here to embrace new tools and new language to speak to the shift required. We're here to give up the fight, the pushing against, the need to dominate and control and judge the supposed ignorance of others. We've been shut down by other's judgements and criticisms in the past from choices made to embrace paths outside the norm. Or we've offended or evoked anger in others by speaking our views. We've felt the heavy fatigue of stories and structures alive in our families that tell us we have to earn the right to exist, be deserving, conform and prove value to some external authority. We're here to know beyond doubt we are not hapless victims or refugees escaping from a cold, cruel world destined to misunderstand, abuse and take advantage of sensitive and soft hearts. We're here to know how to communicate to our loved ones who may not agree with our values without getting on the soapbox or forming hard armours of protection and defence. We're here to practice compassion for self and others.

We're here via the journey of healing from life-changing illness, chronic health issues and recovery from physical collapse. We're here to practice self-empowerment, self-responsibility and self-forgiveness. To be awake and aware and walk the path of an evolved human being.

We're here for right relationship with the Earth and land beneath our feet. To learn how to listen to the Mother, to honour Her and all beings, animal and plant life that reside here. We want to leave this place in a better condition than in which we found it, slow down, get off the treadmill and no longer contribute to exploitation. We're here to live in harmony with natural rhythms and cycles of creation and be worthy protectors and custodians who know what it is to care well for all we've been entrusted with.

We're here to taste oneness, to know we are inseparable cells of the Earth's body, a single heart beating, interconnected, interdependent and whole. We're here to bow down, sink to our knees, ask for grace and mercy as we whisper, "I'm sorry for what we have done to you, Mother. I love you. Please forgive us." and finally, the only words remaining to fall out in open-mouthed wonder "Thank you. Thank you. Thank you." and "How can we ever repay your generosity and patience?"

We're here to form a connection with our selves that cannot be threatened, to live in alignment with personal truth, to honour intuition, listen to our inner voice and gut feelings and be who we are on the inside. We're here to have the courage to act in ways that are congruent with our close-held values even if it means looking crazy or being judged by others. We're here to stop living from guilt and for other's expectations and to finally give up worrying about what people think. We're here to live authentically and dance to the beat of our own hearts.

We are here because of a calling to serve something bigger, to act on a vision, to give back, contribute in a positive way, share our gifts, be midwives for change, guiding lights for others and to make a difference in the world. We've got a fire in the belly. We're up for the thrill of a challenge well taken. We're here to participate fully in life and take our place here as social and planetary activists, advocates for change, creators of beauty, artists of the soul, teachers and healers.

We come from the corporate world, leaving well paid, secure but unsatisfactory jobs that caused emptiness and unhappiness in our lives. In current careers, we're noticing things aren't working the way they used to, the prescribed medications and standard treatments for the depressions and maladies of life aren't helping anymore. We're questioning of the value of what we do and how we choose to spend our time. We are redefining what it means to be "successful" because the current definition of "success" no longer fits. We no longer fit.

We feel lost, stuck in old and unsustainable ways of living and being and looking for direction and purpose, some higher vision to devote ourselves to that feels right and real and necessary. There's desire for integration on every level as we transition into what's coming. We're here to be in the not-knowing and to be OK with fear and uncertainty.

We're building and growing conscious businesses based on contribution, community, generosity, reciprocity, sustainability and trust. We're building a more conscious, loving relationship with money itself, actively working in alternative economies and untangling lifetimes of unquestioned beliefs around what it means to give and receive and the interpretation of value, worth, exchange, equality, obligation, debt, survival, gratitude and the gift. We're exploring the tension between doing work we love and doing work that pays, looking directly at the starving artist archetype and finding powerful and personal ways to keep going that resonate and feel peaceful.

We're here for our children, to become better parents, to show them a more enlightened way of living to model than what's been taught us. We're here to feel supported in the parenting and schooling choices we make the world would tell us are incorrect yet our hearts know are the only way to do this.

We're here to embrace duality and the tension between doing and being, human and spirit, masculine and feminine, light and dark. From time to time, we fall back into old paradigm thinking of the self at the centre of it all, cut off from the whole and fall back into destructive habits of mind and behaviour to cope. We're finding ways to be with paradox, ways to be with the conflicts and contradictions surrounding us as we try to live yogic wisdom in a western world. We're finding new levels of acceptance and embodied wisdom as we do this, new ways to love reality.

We're here to use our time remaining in the most valuable way possible and to know it's never too late to begin. We're feeling a sense of urgency because of age and entering the

final stages of life. We want to know what it is to live fully and die well and leave behind a legacy of love connection and meaning.

We long to go beyond individual ego, to find more joy and lightness, spiritual connection with the void and reconnection with the freedom and innocence we are. We're here to know what it is to trust life and each other. To feel pure again and revel in our creative nature. We're here to be held by something bigger, strap on our angel wings, be guided and directed and know we too, are being breathed and moved through.

We're here because we're in the space between stories and we don't have any answers.