

## Session 6.1: Synchronicity

Living in the Gift

[charleseisenstein.org/gift](http://charleseisenstein.org/gift)

Hello everybody. Today I'm going to offer some very powerful information; well... at least it has been powerful for me. It goes to a metaphysical level, yet it is also quite practical as I hope you'll find, maybe more practical than anything else in this course. The recording that I'm about to make contains preparatory information leading to a greater access to the flow of synchronicity in life.

Probably all of you know that the Newtonian world view is a hundred years obsolete. Nonetheless, the ruling theory of change in our civilization is still based on it. It says things happen when you exert a force on matter. It also says that materiality is a blind interplay of mathematical forces. That means that if you want the world to conform to your desires you have to force it to do so. If you don't make something happen then whatever happens is totally random, it's just the arbitrary forces of nature playing themselves out. On the other hand many of us have had experiences that seem to contradict that world view. We call them, or at least one kind of these experiences we call synchronicities, meaningful coincidences that seem to hint at some kind of coordinating intelligence in the world. When you meet just the right person at just the right moment or when some event happens at exactly the time that you needed it to, doesn't it feel to you like you have been given a gift? You didn't make it happen, you didn't force it to happen, you didn't exchange labour or money for it or planning or arranging, yet it happened any way. So that means it came as a gift.

Certain people seem to ride the flow of these gifts from the universe that we call synchronicities. They seem to possess a kind of magic. They are able to accomplish a lot more than they could only by relying on their money or their physical force to make things happen. Instead things seem to happen around them, they line up around them. Instead of pushing their projects onto a reluctant world they seem to be participating in something that wants to happen already. Wouldn't you like to have access to this kind of power, the power of being in the right place at the right time, meeting the right person and having things, amazing things, come to you without knowing how.

So let me talk about force a little bit. The powers that stand in the way of planetary healing have tremendous capacity to exercise force. Could be financial force, military force, political, psychological force. We are not going to heal the world by beating them at their own game. The simplest way to make people do things is to pay them. In our current system money operates as an instrument of force because ultimately it leverages insecurity and fear. So if we are going to be effective change agents we must rely on another power. If we are not going to outspend the military industrial complex, and we're not, we have to rely on some other kind of power than making people do things. I'm not saying that money is useless, but is that we will never out fundraise the world destroying machine.

To live in the gift it is also necessary to access the power of synchronicity. Fundamentally you are not going to be able to force the world to give you what you need. Normal employment is a kind of force. I have this thing, I have a product, my labour maybe that you want and I will keep it from you unless you pay me for it. It's a relationship of withholding and coercion.

So how do we access another kind of power that doesn't depend on force, on planning and on control? To answer that question I've observed when in my life, and in other people's lives when these kind of synchronicities happen or when they happen, you may have noticed this, that there are certain times of life when synchronicity appears with special impact or drama. It seems to me that it happens most often in turbulent or uncertain situations. Like maybe you move to a new city and you have no plan or life falls apart in some way and all your plans and certainties lay shattered. You don't know what's coming next, you don't know what you're going to do, you don't know what tomorrow is going to bring. These are the times when the magic happens. What all those situations share in common is that you are not trying to force your will onto reality. You're not in control. Usually that is because your attempt at control was laid waste by circumstances. So for me it is not so much that I choose to surrender, but it's when life makes me surrender, when I am surrendered by life.

One way to look at it is that when our regime of control falters then there is room for something else to get in. When everything is under control there is no room for other powers to intercede. I'm not trying to say that this is the only time that synchronicity happens in life. Usually though it just stands to reason the more rigidly we clamp down on life the less room there is for the unexpected and the marvelous. Maybe you can see the principle of gift at work here. Not only do synchronicities come as a gift, but in letting go of control we are already stepping into the spirit of gift, we are giving away something called control, called certainty and that is a key characteristic of a gift. I mentioned it at the beginning of this course, release, release, a gift has some quality of release, some quality of not knowing how the gift is going to come back to you or in what form. To release is to give away.

Another way to look at it is that to access extraordinary power you must render a sacrifice. We are going to work in some upcoming sessions with the concept of sacrifice a bit more, but I'm going to give you a little preview here, an example from my own experience and this example will also demonstrate how powerful the lens of gift can be in understanding self and world.

So I am going to apply this idea of sacrifice and gift in the realm of knowledge, the gift of knowledge. If you want extraordinary knowledge you have to make a payment, you have to make a sacrifice; you have to give up knowing things. If you already know how it all works, how it all is then you've blocked out real knowledge. Nothing new can come in because you already know everything, right? So that is why my most valuable intellectual practice is kind of the contrary of what we're told which is don't believe anything you read, my practice is believe everything I read. In doing so I'm making a sacrifice of thinking that I already know. Are you willing to sacrifice that? Are you willing to

sacrifice being the one who was right all along? I go into it. Maybe I am wrong about everything? Maybe there's a huge missing piece? So I take the new idea, the new knowledge and I try it on and I see what there is to see from that view point that I could not see before. I take this new lens, what becomes visible with this new lens and I think, "OK if this is true then what else is true?" So for example I could read something that says the government has been concealing contacts with ET's or that 9/11 was an inside job. And if I take that in and I say OK so if this is true then what? Well then a lot of other conventional beliefs come into question; a whole reality unravels and a new one offers itself. So if I step into that new reality what becomes visible and who do I become looking at the world from here?

So this could be the topic of a whole course and maybe I'll make a course about this if there's a lot of demand for it, intellectual yoga you might call it but for the present moment I just want to say that it starts with a release of control. It isn't that I permanently lose myself in whatever narrative I happen to look at, like I might even read a white supremacist chat and OK, what is it like to be a white supremacist? What are they thinking? What are they feeling? How are they seeing? What other beliefs are contingent on this belief and then I know what it is like to be them, but that doesn't mean that I'm gonna become a white supremacist. I like to use different view points as tools to understand human beings and understand parts of myself. So the important thing here is that whatever I read, whatever I hear I don't trip too quickly into fitting it into my pre existing frame work, my pre existing set of conceptual categories. I don't try to make sense of it too quickly but I take it on its own terms. You might say then that the foundation of knowledge is, "I don't know."

So, let me translate that now into action in the world. By parallel construction it is letting go of how you think it has to happen. By releasing that structure, or holding it lightly at least, there's room for another sequence of events to carry you. This is the same, releasing how you think it is, what you think you know or releasing how you think it has to happen. That allows it to happen in some way that you could not imagine and if you're holding too tightly onto planning step by step, "here's how it has to happen," then this other way of happening that is beyond your planning doesn't have room because you're so stuck on the way that it's supposed to be.

So this release of control, another way to put it is that what we give away comes back to us in another form. We release how we think it should happen and then it can come back, through happening in a different way. That's the dynamics of gift, you give it away it comes back in another form.

I want to bring in one more important question here. What is it that you are sacrificing for? What is worthy of your sacrifice? What do you care about so much that the sacrifice is an obvious choice? We'll work on this in the next couple sessions, but again, a little teaser. You may have notice that synchronicity tends to move us towards something. That's what distinguishes it from mere coincidence. Do you want to move haphazardly through life, bounced from here to there by whatever happens to happen or do you want to call on a coordinating intelligence to move you towards something?

Many of us harbour inner conflicts and issue unconscious prayers that move us in several divergent directions at the same time to the extent that when you do that you're going to feel adrift.

We will continue to work with this idea of an alignment, an intention and a dedication that organizes synchronicity towards an outcome. For now I would like to offer a little reframe here. I asked you, "what are you sacrificing for?" but we could also ask, "what are you sacrificing too?" because this vision or goal that you serve, you can see it as a being, something that will offer help in proportion to your sincerity and willingness. That is how some people are able to achieve such extraordinary results. Results that can only come from being in the right place at the right time and having the right person show up. That doesn't mean that hard work and careful planning and realistic assessment of the possibilities and resources are unnecessary. From the magical perspective you might see the work and the planning are how you demonstrate that you are serious to the being that you serve or to the goal that you serve. The magical is not an escape from the practical.

Let me summarize everything so far. Ok, synchronicity is a gift from a larger intelligence. It is an unforced surfacing of an implicate order that binds all things. It comes in through a release of control. It is a return gift in response to our release. When that release is in service to a higher aim the synchronicity will further the achieving of that aim.

That's it in a nutshell.

Let me say it again, Synchronicity is a gift from a larger intelligence. It is an unforced surfacing of an implicate order that binds all things. It comes in through a release of control. It is a return gift in response to that release. When that release is in service to a higher aim the synchronicity will further the achieving of that aim.

For this session's seed sentence first close your eyes and recall a time when you experienced a big coincidence that had a feeling of significance. Maybe it had a magical feeling? You were like, "wow, I can't believe how that lined up. I can't believe this person showed up just now." It's that feeling of, "I can't believe it" that feeling of awe that is the pheromone of the implicate intelligence of the world.

Remember that moment. Take a little time... It may not be super dramatic, but you had that feeling, that little magical feeling, and find the part of yourself that recognises it as magical. Yeah, maybe your mind can write it off as coincidence magnified by wishful thinking and confirmation bias. That's ok. Just for now give attention to the primal sense of a deeper intelligence in all things. An implicate order. And now, touch the knowledge that this deeper intelligence includes yourself and responds to your choices, and responds to your state of being, not separate from you.

Know that everything you do is witnessed. Everything you do is significant. Nothing is invisible and your Mantra is:

Intelligence runs through it.

Repeat this to yourself and meditate on it whenever it occurs to you. It will prime you to notice it more and more and it will set the stage for the work we will do in the next couple sessions.

Intelligence runs through it.