

## Session 6.2: Philosophical Comment

Living in the Gift

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No doubt some of you philosophical types are prepared to offer a philosophical rejoinder to what that seed sentence seems to be saying and what I've been saying in this session, it seems like I'm saying that everything happens for a reason. You might protest, "well, what about the Holocaust?" or "what about childhood cancer?" and so on. It seems that, as it says in the Bible, that the rain falls on the just and the unjust alike and that everything is indeed random. My purpose here is not to resolve that conflict, my purpose is in that little meditation to touch that part of yourself that does resonate with the idea that there is an intelligence that runs through all things. I will say just to address the sceptical part of some people's minds, that the intelligence, if such an intelligence exists, is unfathomable. It's mysterious and the intention with purpose that that intelligence carries is beyond our understanding. It has to be beyond our understanding. In fact, surely if such an intelligence is operating it must be making use of our frequent journeys into the space of nothing matters, nothing is intelligent, there is no purpose, it's all a storm and a fury signifying nothing." That state of alienation and despair, that must be part of the big plan as well.

Philosophers and theologians have argued about this for a long time and it's not my hope to resolve that conflict in a little online course, but because the position of "it's all random, it's all huge play of force and mass in a universe that is propelled by entropy toward heat death," That whole world view, that's the dominant mythology of our culture, that's the mythology of science. I want to direct attention to another knowing within ourselves because the belief system that holds it all to be random and that explains away synchronicity as mere coincidence magnified by wishful thinking, that way if thinking is fully at home in our current economic system, our current social system, our current political system, it is foreign to the realm of gift.

I'm attempting here to cultivate and empower the state of being and the state of perception that corresponds to living in the gift. Part of that is to understand that everything we do is witnessed, that all gifts come and circulate back to the giver on such a subtle level that it doesn't even matter if they come back because they still come back. It doesn't matter if you give away all your money and you die in the poor house. That does not prove there is no justice in the world. That does not prove that the gift does not move in a circle because there are dimensions in this view to our existence beyond our biographical lives in which all things do come around because we are all interrelated, we are all interexistent. It's impossible for something to happen to one part of the universe or one being in the universe and not affect all beings in the universe. So that is not only an intellectual belief but also a feeling state that I want to invoke in this course. I'm not trying to prove it to you, but I'm asking; "do you feel at home in that world view?" and also to offer an experiment, and this is what we're going to be doing in this session and the next couple sessions, an experiment, what happens to life as you sink into this way of seeing the world, as you sink into seeing through the lens of gift to living in the gift, what happens? What happens to you? What happens to your life? What happens to your

emotions, what happens to your perceptions? How do you feel? How do you relate to other people? That is the experiment that I'm offering you to do and if you don't like the results, then you can believe whatever you want.

At least let's give it a chance. Let's return to our home base of belongingness in a world in which consciousness and intelligence and desire and subjectivity are not the sole properties of human beings alone.

So, that's really what I'm getting at, by offering you this seed sentence of "intelligence runs through it."

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