

Session 9: Crowdcast Story-Sharing with Charles

Living in the Gift

charleseisenstein.org/gift

****Readers Note: Introduction and Housekeeping not included***

*(Begins 1.26.26)

CE: So the themes we've been exploring in the last couple of sessions are about synchronicity and sacrifice and that brings up a lot of questions and triggers a lot of, hope it doesn't sound like a cliché, to say triggers a lot of wounds people may have around sacrifice and what does that word actually mean? And it has brought up a lot of metaphysical questions about synchronicity what does this mean? That the universe is intelligent? Is it helping me with something I'm intending? What about people who are not privileged? What about people living in an impoverished village, does it not work for them? Are they not having good intentions or something like that, what's going on here?

I'm going to speak to a few of those issues and then maybe we can bring some people on who have asked questions around those for follow up. So I would like to start by saying that this is the gateway to a huge mystery and that any attempt that I would make to encompass the world and to encompass this mystery in some kind of intellectual structure and to say here's what a synchronicity is, here's what it means, here's how it works, if I do I'm going to be reducing or attempting to reduce the mystery into something conceptually manageable and I'm not saying we should never try and understand the universe but to do so always with the knowledge that you are committing a form of reductionism, a form of reduction, and so to hold onto that conceptual structure lightly and to realise whatever, however beautiful and elaborate that structure is there is going to be something left out so everything I say, keep that in mind.

You may have had the feeling before, that you are living a life that was given to you. Sometimes synchronicity can be, its not that the message of synchronicity, or the metaphysical message, doesn't necessarily tell you that you are in control of your reality through the magic of intention. It can also give you the experience, the feeling of "wow, I am so not in charge here, all of this stuff is happening to me that is directing me toward a certain life course I had no idea about! I meet such and such a person under unforeseeable circumstances and I end up spending the rest of my life with that person or I end up, one of the stories that was posted, really beautiful story from Claire, a chance encounter and then all of a sudden her whole career and experience of life has changed . So that's a deep truth that can be communicated simply through synchronicity. It's simply that I'm not in charge here. Now some people were also saying "yeah well I'm not experiencing any synchronicity in my life, I used to maybe at some point of life but now everything is just so staid and predictable and what's going on here?" Well when, some people say well it's all synchronicity, if you believe we live in an intelligent universe then you can't just say that some events are meaningless and random

and some events are *meaningful* and *synchronised*. So maybe it's about, the thinking goes, recognising that everything is synchronicity. However, when you are in a well maintained, strong channel of life then the so called synchronicities are going to be very aligned with your expectations and it is only when that channel splits and you are taking some other channel that it seems that reality is intruding and directing you in a different direction.

So some of my understanding of this has been informed by a Daoist teacher that I encountered in Taiwan many, many years ago and he said that there were five influences, five influences on a human life.

And order of importance they start with

Ming, which is fate or destiny, which is the basic contour of your life.

Here are the events that are gonna happen and maybe when they are going to happen, but not so much when, it's just the profile of your life. You're gonna be a leader, you're gonna be poor, you're gonna be this, you're gonna struggle with you health, you're gonna contribute in this way, you're gonna be visible and upfront, you're gonna be in the background etc, etc. That's the ming and that's the most profound, powerful impact on your life.

Second most powerful is ***Yin, or fate or fortune, it is more fortune, the different periods of your life and what is it going to be like.*** What's gonna be strong, what's gonna be weak, when you're gonna have health, when you're gonna have poverty when these things happen

Third is ***Feng Shui which is the influence of land on your experiences.*** They put a very strong, they give a lot of power in this conception to the earth, to unseen beings, well actually they're seen beings, we can see them but in the modern mindset we don't see them as beings. So therefore they are unseen as being but in Daoist understanding they are powerful.

Fourth place is ***Good Works; the things that you do to generate positive or negative karma.*** And this is a distant fourth, it actually doesn't affect the contours of your life very much, at least not this life. But they accumulate over time and they change the pitch, they change the current in subtle ways over time.

Fifth place is ***Study, your efforts to gain knowledge and to make better choices to become smarter.***

So basically they say you don't have any influence on, any conscious influence on fourth and the fifth, good works and study, not even so much on the third because your feng shui is pretty much determined by your ming and your yin that puts you at a certain place at a certain time. So you can't do that much about it. So the understanding is very much saying that your life is given to you and your task is to live it well, to fulfil that life so you can move on having done what you are here to do and that the way that you respond to life that's what will determine

what you need next in some future life perhaps. And I think that this idea, to frame it in terms of gift, that life itself is a gift. To me it's a liberating idea, it removes some of this heavy responsibility and says yeah, it's quite simple, I am just here to live well what has been given to me and I can then ask the question: "How do I live it well?" If I am in a situation, it could be a fantastic situation one I'm so thankful for or it could be a hard situation, a miserable experience but the same question applies, "How do I live this experience well, how do I receive the gift of this experience, how do I live it well and give forward from the place that I have been given, from the place that I have been placed?"

So synchronicity can, going back to the idea that we are always in synchronicity, that everything is always arranged but that it is not visible to us when we have a well established course, then sometimes when the course shifts, an event happens that feels like you're being redirected and there's a paradox here, so to take Jace's story about meeting the man in the park that turned out to be this incredible encounter and drew him to his path as a healer, like the paradox is that that wouldn't have happened if he had not have been in a state of gift, it came from the practice that I suggested in an earlier session. It wouldn't have happened if he hadn't like "yeah, I'm gonna stop and give this guy the gift of attention, the gift of a conversation, I'm going to be in a state of openness, it wouldn't have happened, yet there's also perhaps a feeling that I was destined to meet this person. So perhaps you could understand or resolve this paradox by saying his gift, which you can also see as a kind of a sacrifice, the sacrifice of the comfort and familiarity of a routine, like there is a little bit of a sacrifice to put yourself out there and to meet somebody if that is not what you usually do, you're letting go of a feeling of safety maybe or familiarity, it feels a little bit risky and so that's an example of kind of a subtle sacrifice. The sacrifice signals the readiness to meet this person that he's destined to meet because the coordinating intelligence does not operate in linear time the way that we do,, so it is gonna happen, it is inevitable that it's gonna happen. It's not gonna happen until your ready for it to happen and the readiness is a communication between self and world thought he choices that you make, the things you let go of, the sacrifices, the prayers and understanding them perhaps that every action is a prayer that establishes myself who am I am makes myself visible in a certain way to the coordinating intelligence, if I may put it that way, it makes me visible. So as long as we are unconscious that every action's a prayer or that all of our actions are pretty much aligned where, pretty much aligned with what I have been doing, where I have been going then nothing new is established by these prayers, I'm like this is who I am, this is who I am being and my life is arranged around that. It is when we deviate from normal, that is why when I suggested this gift process to do something I said it is just not quite in the normal, in the normal flow of the ways you already gift, every body here is already giving, maybe more than you realise but something a little bit outside of that flow because that then becomes a prayer for something outside of normality for you.

So these synchronicities, when they are a markers of a deviation onto a new course, onto a life course they have a feeling, a scared feeling, a newness feeling, a

feeling of wow, I can't believe that just happened, what a miracle, what a gift I have been given, because I did not know how to do this myself and it waters that knowledge that life is a gift, the only way you can respond is *Wow! Thank you!*

There's one more way in which synchronicity can operate though, which is these little synchronicities that may not be super significant, they may not change the course of your life but they give you a feeling of being carried, they give you a feeling of comfort, not being alone and they might come at a time where you are exploring a new way of being and need that kind of magic carpet ride. I think they also particularly come in, in a transition zone all the time, or frequently you're offering prayers, prayers meaning different choices, different words, different actions than was normal, breaking out of the normal flow of familiar synchronicities that don't even look like synchronicities then everything starts to look like a synchronicity which is just a revelation of something that has always been true.

So maybe one more thing, the normal that we have adapted around and what conforms our actions to it is very much determined by fate, by fortune, by feng shui, by culture, by the social and economic systems that we live in. Within that we can make choices and I think it's no more or less true of somebody living in a village in Afghanistan as it is with someone living in modern suburbia. If anything, in my experience and many people I've talked to, people living in a village in Afghanistan or Gabon you know, are more aware of the truth that life is a gift and more willing to trust a flow of synchronicity. This is not something that when you are sufficiently privileged and have satisfied the base levels of Maslow's Hierarchy then you can engage in this. It is an offering to us in every station in life.

I will leave it at that for the time being. So a couple of things. One, there may be some of the, I kind of, like a lot of the questions that were on the question feed here I may have covered in that and maybe not. So I'd like to offer the opportunity to some of those people, Brooke, Mary and who else was on there. There were a few people who asked questions about this so I would like to offer them the opportunity to come onto the screen and follow up, ask more deeply. And also I would like to share, I would like to have some people share their synchronicity stories. There's some amazing stories from my friend Polly Higgins whose an earth lawyer but she was sick and she couldn't come on and I'm going to put those up anyway, hopefully next week.

I would like to invite, let's see. One story that moved me, somebody you may have read was Claire's story Laurie if you could, let's start with that. Let's start with and then let's go with the questions, let's go to story mode, Claire has a story if we can find her on the crowd cast here and Marie Goodwin has a story that I would like to be heard. Probably most of you saw Jace's story. Thank you Jace for sharing that with us.

We have Claire or Marie ready to come.

Laurie and Charles: waiting for Claire to come on.

*****Reader Note : This portion of the session was inaudible. For quality purposes it has been edited out of this transcription, Clare's story can be found in Session 8.***

I will add to that maybe that, that time of suppression of the feminine gifts and I don't even necessarily want to genderise them because some of the gifts Clare was talking about, of hearing spirits speaking, the psychic ness she was talking about, things that were excluded from conventional, from consensus reality as it is called and suppressed and pathologised, that time on a cultural level is also coming to an end but many of us still have the wounds and the trauma from the brutal suppression of those gifts and the healing that anyone is doing in this area to reclaim them and to reclaim the self worth that should be a natural product of the realisation of your giftedness, this healing, this reclamation is something that you are doing not only on behalf of yourself but doing on behalf of everybody else to conform to the program of civilisation which welcomes certain gifts and not others. So I thank you Clare and anyone else who has been on this healing path. You are not just doing it for yourself; you are doing it for the world. The kind of gifts, today and we need to express today and we need to celebrate are different for the ones called for in what I call the Ascent of Humanity. The gifts that were called for then are the gifts that enabled us to dominate and control the world and the other. That took us to a certain point as a species whether it is a good point or a bad point I'm not even wanting to use that rubric of good and bad but it was an evolutionary process that is ready now to mesomorphies into something else and new gifts are coming to the fore that are in alliance with other awakenings that are maybe even beyond human consumption. My friend Orlande Bishop speaks of the core of the Earth emanating new vibrations and that big change are going to happen and I'm like "Yeah do we just wait around for the big changes to happen? And he's like "No, no it is not a matter of waiting around it is about preparing".

So these choices that we make that I call prayers that may not have an immediate, direct influence on the course of events in your life, they are a way of preparing for who you want to be when these changes happen, when the gift arrives of the synchronicities divergence into a different story, into a different life. When that comes, who are you going to be in response to that? Every choice you make is preparation for that, whatever comes. And I'm not saying that every single person here is going to enter this fantastic paradise, new world, etc, etc. But I do believe that in time all of us will enter a next evolution that is in that direction because this change is happening on Earth. Even at this point, externally if you look at politics things look like they are going in the opposite direction. The psychic core is already changing.

Yes. Thank you for that story. And thank you to the perhaps unseen beings that made that possible for Clare.

Marie are you ready to share your synchronicity story and perhaps if you think it is time for the story to be told.

Marie: Chatter and a little inaudible.

I am happy to share my story. So I am writing a book and while I was in the process of writing the book, the book has a lot of synchronicity stories that are involved with it and this is just one.

In the process of writing my book I often leave my home to do it and go on these long retreats. I have decided that this old growth forest, about 5 hours from my house is the best place to write mostly because I feel like the trees are helping me in some way and I just love being in those woods. So I was there and it had stopped raining and I was in the middle of, kind of a writers block. I was in the middle of trying to figure out an herbal recipe for an initiatory drink. I was pouring over books, I'm looking at specific herbs, I'm trying to look up ancient recipes and nothing was really hitting me home and it was stopping the progress of the book. I said "I'm just going to go for a walk and clear my mind" and so I went out into the woods and stepped out of the cabin and walked out into what is called the cathedral in the state park and there's 180 foot Hemlock trees, there's like 800 acres of them, it's this beautiful old growth forest and you can just roam and roam and not see any body but what I kept seeing was these tiny little mushrooms at the base of the trees and they were everywhere and I had been in the forest the day before and they weren't there the day before. They were everywhere underneath the trees now all of a sudden and they're teeny tiny and they grow in clumps like 30, 40, 50 mushrooms. I didn't think much of them, they were just there and mushrooms are part of the forest and I kept seeing them. I thought "huh" maybe these mushrooms can be part of the recipe I am writing about, like you know I don't know what the mushrooms are, I don't have any expertise in mushroom identification, I had no idea what they were so I went and I picked a couple and put them in my pocket, finished my walk and went back and added them to the recipe and it kind of broke me through the writers block and I finished writing, I spent another 4 or 5 days at this place and then left and came home. And when I stepped out of my car in my front yard I park under a 300 year old sugar maple tree that just stands there, just in my yard and I step out of my car and those same mushrooms were growing under this tree that I've known and loved. I know my yard and this area like the back of my hand and those mushrooms have never grown there, I have never seen them before but there they were the same teeny, tiny little mushrooms growing in this clump, 40 or fitting growing under this tree where they had never grown before and so I was like OK, that's really strange and so I went in and found a mushroom identification book I was like, I really need to identify what these mushrooms are and it gave me chills. I found the mushrooms and the mushrooms grow in Europe and in North America in old growth forest and they believe, they been found in

residue vessels in Germany and in Greece and they believe they are used in initiatory rights and that they are hallucinogenic. I can't remember the name of the mushroom. I went to look it up today and my ID book is misplaced, I was gonna tell you today but I felt guided by the woods to pay attention and then when I drove home it was reiterated to me that this was something to really pay attention to. So that's just one of several synchronicity stories that have happened but it felt really powerful in the moment. I felt chills going down my spine. I wrote Charles and a friend of mine immediately and said "you're never gonna believe this" and yeah. So yeah, it's pretty amazing.

CE: Is it OK if I share a little bit of the premise of your book ?

MG: Absolutely. Yes, of course!

CE: So the book as I understand it, I've only read the first volume, it is basically like what would happen if somehow the shamanistic, paganistic cultures of Europe that were being destroyed by christianity but they were still alive in the 10th century and really up until the witch hunts you know but they were in a process of being destroyed, what would happen if they somehow were able to get in touch with the still in tact thriving traditional cultures of North America and get help somehow to pre-empt colonisation and kind of reverse colonisation to re colonise Europe with animistic, shamanistic knowledge. Is that somewhat accurate Marie?

MG: *Inaudible*

CE: So that is somewhat accurate. So for this story to work she needed, and it's historical fiction, Marie is trained in Archaeology and she's doing very, very careful research so it's historically plausible, so she needs a visionary plant ally of some sort to realistically fit into the story. She gives up on finding it, there's a release, there's a surrender, I can't do it, I give up, I don't know how this is gonna happen and then that very day, walking out into the woods and there it is , showing itself to her and then she goes home, there it is again. And it's just, "who's in charge here?" You know.

And it's not that we have to try. It's not that she doesn't have to spend days and days and weeks and months working on this book. The effort is required and that effort is what I was talking about, the effort is kind of a prayer that says "yeah, I'm in service to this" and when help is needed and all of your efforts fail and you're in the not knowing of how can I do this but I'm not, it's not giving up, it's just I don't know how it's gonna work , that's when help comes and it might not come in the timing that you think that you need to best serve this vision but I've noticed that it comes. Does this prove that we live in an intelligent universe? NO. But it resonates with that knowledge that I believe all of us carry. It's not about proof. It's about, it's about nurturing a knowledge and a state of being a state of being and that's also what I am trying to do in this course, or one thing that I'm

hoping to do, is and not just myself but collectively to create a field where we nourish this already existing knowledge for which conditions are ripening to re-enter the mainstream of our society. And I believe, and this is why I want the stories to be shared, I believe the more we are touched by this emerging reality, the more we are enrolled in it.

So if you're listening now I want to encourage you to trust this process, that as this information comes to you and as you hear the words that have been spoken today that, I think I've said this before but it initiates a cascade of changes. Whether you know it or not, whether you try to or not, whether you do your homework or not, whether you qualify or not. So it's not a matter of qualifying, it's a matter of preparing as Orland Bishop says.

So Marie is there anything else you wanted to share about that or in response to what I've said or

MG: No, I think that for me, especially with regard for this book that I've come to not expect but to know that in, so I don't think I'm really well practiced in the rest of my life recognising when synchronicities are happening but with respect to this book I am so now finely attuned to the fact that this is the way the knowing is showing up sometimes for me. That I'm trying to be, I feel like I see it better or I'm more aware but I'm also really trying to walk that line between making up a story that like "oh that's definitely a synchronicity" instead of the knowing that comes in that is "oh yes, that's important". So I'm constantly trying to figure out, you know, like checking myself like "are you making up that this is important or is it actually something really important?" When I feel like the synchronicity really happens I get this overwhelming emotional response to it and that for me is how I can check in with myself. I don't know if that is true for other people but there's always this zone between "Is this really a synchronicity, a message, something that has been sent to me by a larger intelligence or is this a product of my own mind that I want to happen?" And I think that is really hard to navigate sometimes. Being attune to that and learning how to surf those waters is, I think I'm getting better at it. I don't know maybe you talk about that a little bit but yeah?

CE: Yeah, great, thanks Marie and goodbye for now. So this is, this is also, you know this idea of am I just making a story about it or is it a "quote" real synchronicity and Marie identified this feeling of awe and gratitude and I think that, let's let it be ok to want and need unequivocal experiences that give us the feeling of "Wow! I cannot believe that happened!" Where there's no doubt, there's no doubt that something extraordinary is going on. And perhaps for this moment you can touch for a second the willingness and openness that you have within you to receive such experiences. And notice at the same time, is there also a wound of "I'm left out, they happen to other people". And what is the despair, perhaps, underneath that feeling of "I'm left out, the world is a dead place." There's no intelligence beyond what we make, not what we put into the world, beyond our own imprint, beyond the meanings that we create and the order that we create

with technology, with force. We're alone here. That is a profound wound, and it is a wound of our civilization. By our, I mean the dominant civilization on Earth. Dominant at least from a certain way of looking at things, that carries an ideology that I call a separation. You know it's not just a philosophy that we are separate selves in a blind, mechanical universe. It is a very uncomfortable and painful state of being. Perhaps you could say that the ideology is just the clothing on the state of being that fits its form but is quite superficial. And you can imagine what becomes possible when this wound of separation is healed. When a person is liberated from that constant suspicion that maybe I'm just all making it up. Maybe I'm just making it all up. Maybe it's just the dead, blind universe and I am a separate individual in it and when I die, I'm snuffed out and that's all there is. And I'm not going to prove to you that's wrong. I am merely pointing at an other knowing inside of you that can co-exist with this dread.

Another way of naming the dread is nothing is a gift; nothing will be given to you. You have to make it happen. You have to be in charge, you have to have power, you have to dominate otherwise no one's going to do it for you. So really this course, what we're doing is we're excavating that and practicing an alternative. And I can say, treat it as an experiment, does the alternative work, what are the results, what are results in your life and what are the internal results? Or I could also say just notice how it feels, notice what it brings up because the dread will then speak oh yeah that's just a delusion. And maybe you don't even have to prove it to yourself. But merely start by giving attention to that knowing. It co-exists with the doubt, it's there. And the hostility of that doubting part proves that it's there otherwise we wouldn't be so triggered by it.

So what we are stepping into here or what we're maybe engaging, I said it before, life is a gift, the world is a gift, we are live in a universe of gift we're not alone here, we don't have to make it happen, that's what synchronicity tells us, we don't have to make it happen, things can happen without our contrivance. The part about the sacrifice or the prayer, that's asking for it to happen but its not making it happen and that's really different. The prayer, I'm not going to say that what we specify in our conscious mind will come to pass because very often the actual prayer is very different from the conscious intention. So it's very different from or I'll say it, this whole thing about setting an intention, that is only as effective as your full alignment with that intention and there might be ways that you're unconsciously not aligned with that intention. So if you are doing and saying things that contradict what you say that you want then you are basically offering two contradictory prayers. And that is why it can be so powerful to make a sacrifice, to make a surrender, a release, a gift is aligned with the intention that you really do want because then you are aligning your conscious mind with your unconscious. Yo are demonstrating, yeah I do want this thing, I am aligned with this thing. How that arrives, because the unconscious prayer may not even be something that we are able to put into words, how that arrives is unknown to us and the path to that is also unknown and it might involve two years of illness. It's not always healthy even to try to narrate your illness into a story of it's all good, it's all going in a perfect direction and here's what that illness meant and here's

why it was necessary. Sometimes it will come to you, like a flash of a revelation, like oh yeah, I do understand why I had to go through that passage way. But sometimes the attempt to narrate it, to enclose it in a story, in some concepts doesn't feel true and it denies, maybe sometimes its premature to say, here's what it was, I know what it was, everything is under control, I know what it was. Maybe you don't know what it was, maybe you will never know what it was until the day you die. So just notice if the attempts to narrate your misfortune come from that same doubt, that same wound, that same dread and you're desperately trying to make sense of it. An alternative is the knowledge that there is a sense and as that knowledge comes deep, it might become less and less necessary to know exactly what that sense was and this is a kind of serenity.

So let's bring up, we had Katie, Mary and Brooke I believe. We can bring up multiple people at once and maybe we can just have a little confab with them, Laurie if you can find them , all three or one or two of them and see if they can speak with the voice of the collective., to bring up any remaining questions or requests for me to speak more on any of these topics .

So we are just going to pause for a minute....here we have Mary Tracey

Mary Tracey (MT) : Hi

CE; That's one. Hi, good your sound quality is really good here

MT: Oh good

CE: Let's just wait for another half a minute to see if any of the others can come and if not then you get to be the, you get to channel the voice of the collective.

MT: inaudible

CE: Which just means say what's on your mind.

MT: I don't know what I've done, I think I have disappeared from my screen

CE: But I can hear you so that's OK

MT: OK

CE; There might be a ...you hover over you picture you might see a camera icon that says "toggle video". There you are.

MT: OK , can I just do the audio on its own because I don't know how good the quality is going to be

CE; OK. Yeah, that's cool.

MT: Cool, excellent. I don't want to push things too far, with this computer.

Laurie Young (LY): Charles , Katie. **inaudible**. So far, Brooke, if you can hear me it is saying that your browser is incompatible. I don't know. Sometimes that is a thing with Safari, I don't know inaudible...but in any case it is not letting me send the invite through

CE: OK

LY: For Brooke

CE: So we have

LY: You have Mary, who you just talked to and Katie who has been invited so ...

CE: OK, so let's just yeah, so Mary do you have any follow ups or what's on your mind ?

MT: I don't have any good synchronicity stories. My question is all about what to do with the doubt when it shows up after years of doing this work and not seeing the results that you are expecting. I don't know, I've had experiences of synchronicity but they never seem to land anywhere concrete. I can't be certain that they are pointing me anywhere, they seem to be random, it's like something nice that shows up, you know what I mean?

CE: Here you are at a certain point in your life and I don't know you so I don't know if you are married or not, have children or not, working or not.

MT: No, no that's the , that's it basically. (Laughing). The absence of all of the things.

CE; Ah, ha...so the absence of those things then, um . So I don't want to fish for synchronicities but the idea that I'm working with, what random events, seemingly random events had to happen that you have the absence of these things? And is this the life that has been given to you to live for a certain period of time ? **Long pause... ..**Just to offer that as a possibility but really maybe I will just ask you what is the, like you've spoken about the despair and the doubt you know and the, and you've said synchronicities, they happen sometime, they don't take you anywhere, they don't mean anything. Can you say a little bit more about how that feels to, what's the one sentence title of the story of having had that experience?

MT: Yeah, it feels awful because you experience synchronicities and you think, "finally, this is amazing, this is going to work and how could it not?" and then it doesn't and you think, "am I being taken for a ride here? What's going on? Is somebody actually enjoying my suffering and I don't get it?"

C.E.: Right

MT : The logic is beyond me, basically.

C.E.: Right, it's like it would be better to just not have any synchronicities at all and have one that promises you some magical new life and then it gets taken away again.

MT: Exactly so... I haven't had any good synchronicities for a while so I suppose that's a good thing. At the very least I don't get my hopes up.

C.E.: Yeah, and here you are none-the-less, on this course, listening to this material, participating. So that means there is still a spark inside of you that has not been extinguished. Is that correct?

MT: That is true, yeah.

C.E.: Yeah, like a little flame.

MT: Yeah, it's been battered quite a bit.

C.E.: Yeah, like a little candle flame that keeps flickering and flickering and flickering, but it won't go out.

MT: Yeah. Almost, but not quite.

C.E.: Yeah, and that flame is a treasure, and if you... I'm just going to speak irrationally here, but if you accomplish nothing else in your life but to keep that flame alive, then you have done a big service to the world because you haven't had much help in keeping it alive.

MT : That's true.

C.E.: And I saw your face when you were just on, animated by kindness. So yeah, that's the light of that flame. Somebody has to be in the role that you're in. You could imagine even on some level your soul volunteered for this because you were like, "yeah, I think I can do it, I think I can keep the flame alive" and it might be that that time of lonely keeping the flame alive without aid and sustenance from a universe that seems to not be speaking to you, it could be that that time is coming to an end... it will come to an end, but I don't know when and you might notice almost a fear of it coming to an end because if things start to flow in ways you always wanted, what if it gets taken away again? So, it's almost more comfortable if it doesn't happen. I would just offer it to you that fear, a little salute, a little nod you know and say, "yeah, I feel you." and then also at the same time to carry the awareness of this flame of hope that never dies and this flame of willingness. "Yeah, I am willing to enter a magical world, a flow of synchronicity or the unexpected thing that could happen. It could happen, you don't know. All you

know is that you have this willingness to it, willingness for it that has always stayed alive even with the doubt, even with despair, even with the betrayal and the set backs. How am I so familiar with what you are saying because it's like my life hasn't been all magical carpet rides at all. (To Mary) I totally know what you're talking about, ok? If that's why I'm even able to talk about it let's talk about it. What you're saying and what you're bringing into presence right now is in many many of us, maybe almost all of us. So thank you for presencing that, I'm allowed to use a new agey word, thank you for "presencing that." I know that having brought that into presence and into words and into your field of attention and our collective field of attention, presencing and giving attention to the inextinguishable hope and willingness and to the fear and the dread and the feeling of betrayal, just putting it all in that field of attention and by doing that you have set a process in motion and initiated a healing and I will be curious how that plays out for you if you'd be willing to write to us at some point after it's had time to settle. Any follow up or response to that?

MT: Now I'm just full of gratitude that's all. Thank you.

C.E.: Thank you and I'm full of gratitude for you as well and I'm not just saying that. It's a hard job that you had and I'm sure that we are, not just me but many of us on this call and unseen beings are grateful to you, so thank you.

Mary: Thank you.

C.E.: Maybe we'll just move on to our dear friend Brooke who keeps popping up at various events and things. Hi Brooke it's good to see your face.

Brooke: I popped up again! Hi Charles!

C.E.: Hi, so any comments?

Brooke: Actually you addressed most of the questions that I asked in the "ask a question" section with your little spiel that you gave at the beginning. I would just say in terms of synchronicity and having them just bowl your life over and change your perspective and make you recognize, make a person recognize that there is an intelligence that runs through it, etc. The adventure that I've been on myself for the past, oh I don't know, quite a few years is one that went from really really really strictly rational evaluation of the world and all information that it presented to me. I was trained to be skeptical about everything and to view the world from a certain view point and many experiences that I've had in recent years have just upset that apple cart completely. It's a roller coaster, at times when the synchronicities are there and they're beautiful and they're right in your face and you're just saying, "Ah yes, yes, yes! This is it!" This is just the way things are and then there's despair that comes in and there's doubt and there's all this, but I would just say something that I've said to you before is that I have this kind of knowledge beyond the faith of that intelligence that runs through it. I have

examined it from a million different angles rationally, I continue to all the time just because that's the creature that I am. Yeah, and it's beautiful. Even when it's disparaging it's beautiful.

C.E.: Thanks. I hear you. Is there a question on the edge for you, like a question on the prow of a ship that's pushing through the water?

Brooke: (Sigh) I mean in terms of that faith thing, well all five of the different areas you addressed, the faith thing has always been there for me. In terms of synchronicities are you familiar with David Foster Wallace, the writer?

C.E.: Uh... a little bit.

Brooke: Anyway, doesn't matter. He did an undergraduate thesis; it was a philosophical thesis that was called *Fate, Time and Language* and so it was basically the difference between, "the past could not have happened any other way" or "the past did not happen any other way." So for you and me to be sitting here having this conversation there was three and a half billion years of evolution of life on Earth, everything would have had to happen exactly as it did for you and I to be sitting here having this conversation. Could it have happened some other way? Yes, of course it could have. So in terms of looking back at ones life and various synchronicities or things that have occurred one could say well... you know I am just telling myself this story that this is the way it happened so I am looking back and I'm saying "ah yeah," you know? I'm diluting myself with this, but then I can look at something like my initials are LBS and I'm a Libra and my Mayan horoscope is water and my middle name is Brooke. These are silly little things and I can be telling myself this story, but then I can listen to you tell me about there's this thing back there it's this thing. There's this potential and there's my free will that acts on potential.

C.E.: I'm going to say a little bit to indulge our metaphysical cravings here, but I'm not going to go super deep into it. Just to throw a little spanner in the works, as far as David Foster Wallace's thing, everything had to have happened exactly the way it happened in order for us to even be having this conversation. Another way to look at it would be that our having this conversation right now retrocausally organized the past into something that allows this conversation to happen.

Brooke: (Laughs)

C.E.: Start playing with that in your mind and see where it goes. If you want a little extra fuel to the fire there are common physics experiments that seem to point in this direction and in *The Ascent of Humanity* which was many, many years ago, as much as I can recall exactly the argument, but there is a guy, British biologist Johnjoe McFadden I believe his name was who wrote about the observer affect of the future of an evolved organism that bootstraps it's own evolution into being. Weird shit is going on here.

Brooke: (Laughs)

C.E.: I'm a little hesitant to sully the waters of this course with too much "weird ass" metaphysical stuff. I don't want people to have to subscribe to retrocausal influences in order to embrace the principals of living in the gift or the knowledge that the knowing that I just spoke about before. Our understanding of causality is rudimentary. Our understanding of this world is rudimentary. We, as in the dominant culture, have imposed a causality onto the world that is really ignorant or very superficial, a very narrow narrow part of this spectrum of being. A particular causality that we have imposed on the world, which is essentially a four spaced causality, severely circumscribes our capacities and our lives. It basically asks us to step into greater and greater domination and control. For that reason alone I would invite us to explore other causalities, other metaphysics that might be a better habitation for the gifts that we spoke about earlier, the suppressed gifts, the feminine gifts, the gifts of the flow, the gift of hearing other beings, the gifts that come from understanding that we are inseparable and interconnected intimately and interexistent with all things. Those gifts are alien to the dominant cosmology and that's why I do like to talk a little bit about metaphysics and gift cosmology and stuff because we do need to create an intellectual home for the beings we want to become. We can't always live with this contradiction between what we've accepted as real and who we want to be. So, yeah. Thank you Brooke, do you have a word of good-bye or anything you want to say?

Brooke: Peace and love.

C.E.: Alright, peace and love. Thank you. So I think we are pretty much nearing the end of our time together. I know that there were some other questions I haven't answered; some of them will kind of come up again. I just wanted to quickly map out where we are going next. Back into the more mundane world of money, economy, business in the gift is one topic, working in the gift, right livelihood, that kind of stuff and understanding not just on a personal psychological level, but also I'd like to bring in some systemic understanding to make the link between these personal practices and our role as social and political beings. From there going back to what gets categorized as a maybe more spiritual thing of us seeing through the eyes of gift, of seeing with generous eyes and the power that we can access that way, to be agents of change. Maybe at the end I'll go back into the systemic a little bit because I do see a "disturbance in the force" that is on its way as far as the financial system and the economy so I might have a few ideas about how we can prepare for that. Not prepare as in "how can we survive it?" but prepare for "how can we, in that context, serve the change we want to see. That brings me back to one of the themes that we talked about here today, preparing to respond to whatever life is given to us whether it's a painful, sad, frustrating situation or a blissful situation. So maybe if you want to close your eyes now for a little send off. In that regard you are probably getting used to my way of doing these as you direct your attention inward. Maybe notice that counterpart flame discussed with Mary, which is your willingness to respond in

the most beautiful way to what life is offering you. Even when it sucks, even when you feel betrayed by events, even when you tell me to shove it, if I told you that this was a gift, even at those times, still there is a recognition that it is a gift. It came to me. It came to me and my job is to respond well knowing that each response is a prayer that says, "Here is who I want to be. Here is the world I want to see." Each choice point is a declaration and feel that serenity, that faith that does not need to know how that declaration manifests in reality when, for whom, in five hundred years and know that beings five hundred years from now will give you thanks for the seemingly invisible responses that you are now preparing yourself for in this moment of preparation. Again, touch your willingness and capacity to respond well. Know yourself as a giver and know your openness as a receiver, a receiver of the help you need when you need it. In openness and serenity, in peace, open your eyes. Ok, so... as Marie said, we have given you a lot of material in the last couple of weeks so we'll give a little delay before the next one to give you a chance to integrate, process or catch up on it so... "To be continued." Thank you all so much for joining me today and for creating and contributing and participating in the field from which I'm speaking and the field that has brought us all together, that we are part of and that is reverberating among us and nourishing and watering those emergent gifts that are so needed today. Thank you for your contributions and be well.