Deep Green Awakening of the Person/Planet:
Eight Interwoven Strands
A 21st Century Vision of Reverence for the Web of Life, Creative Resilience, and Compassionate Resistance to the Destruction of the Earth

Inspired by Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Joanna Macy, Albert Schweitzer and Arno Gruen
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In every age, the crises of the world become the crises of the self, crises of both personal sanity and of community life. The unprecedented outward challenges of our time now include such processes as global warming, extreme racial and economic injustice, perpetual war, nuclear weapons/waste/accidents, and accelerating global species extinction. These outward challenges are also deep inward challenges to our sense of identity and integrity: Will I collude with the oppressive/destructive forces at work on Planet Earth? Will I withdraw from life as a way of coping? Or will I find creative and life-affirming ways to resist, rebuild, and become a kinder and wiser person along the way?

As global mentors such as Einstein, Gandhi, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and (more recently) Joanna Macy have each expressed in different ways, our extreme circumstances challenge us in five powerful ways:

- they challenge us to think much more carefully and creatively,
- they challenge us to develop much deeper personal strengths,
- they challenge us to connect with much deeper spiritual resources,
- they challenge us to build much stronger and more supportive friendships and strengthened by all of the above,
- they challenge us to participate more deeply in the mending of our world.

The development of these transformational strengths and friendships is the universal work that Deep Green Awakening mutual support network encourages each person to embrace. This is a work we gladly share with many similar movements, from whom we learn and with whom we share through the Creative Commons all that we have learned.

Deep Green Awakening of the Person/Planet — Eight Creative Self-Inquiries

1. **Purposes:** What are my deepest connections with & commitments to the Web of Life and People?

2. **Exemplars:** Of all the people I know, or know about, who has inspired me to expand my sense of kinship and my circle of caring?

3. **Paradigms:** What new visions of the world energize me? What current understandings of the world cry out to be replaced?

4. **Partners for the journey:** Who are my companions in the work of mending the world?

5. **What principles and virtues inspire me as guides for my actions, interactions, and relationships?**

6. **What practices: for self- & team-mobilization could help me/us build a stronger community of Earth-healing activists?**

7. **Projects:** What kind of work in the world would express my deepest calling / evoke my deepest love?

8. **Perseverance & Deep Time:** Who are my deep ancestors & far descendants in the river of time?

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Deep bows to Joanna Macy and all my collaborators and teachers. Special thanks to Jay Mohler for permission to use images of his Ojo de Dios yarn-paintings (http://www.ojos-de-dios.com).

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Deep Green Awakening of the Person/Planet – Defining the Eight Interwoven Strands

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1. Web of Life & People: deepening my connection with, understanding of, gratitude for, and commitments to nurture & mend

2. Finding and linking with inspiring and empowering mentors and exemplars

3. Seeing with new eyes, feeling with new heart, by changing paradigms (especially from isolated things to a world of kin)

4. Finding and linking with partners for the journey: starting/nurturing teams of two & study/action groups

5. Naming & practicing the principles and virtues we want the world to adopt -- "being the change"

6. Work that connects and re reconnects: deepening practices for self- & team- development/ unfolding

7. Going forth: participating in projects to mend what is broken and to build what is needed in the world that gives us life

8. Opening to Deep Time thru commitment to ancestors, descendants, 7-generations thinking, and perseverance
Deep Green Awakening of the Person/Planet — Notes and comments on the eight interwoven strands

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1. Reverence and respect for the web of life and people, starting with those nearest to me, spreading out in widening circles of kin, including people who may be in need of care or oppressed/mistreated in my own neighborhood and/or country. Ecological cause and effect. The toxics we dump in faraway places will come back to plague our children and grandchildren.

2. Exemplars and mentors who have lived for compassion, justice and ecology show us that a different life is possible. They give us deep permission to live these values, acting as empowering spiritual ancestors: Wangari Maathai, Gandhi, M. L. King, Rachel Carson, Jesus, Buddha, St. Francis, Jane Goodall, Archbishop Romero, and many more.

3. Paradigms are all-encompassing storylines we use to make sense out of life. Industrial civilization thinks of the world as a giant machine with separate & replaceable parts. Careful observation, however, shows us that the world is living system in which everything is interdependently connected. Our lives depend on recognizing & respecting this.

4. The greater the tasks we face, the deeper the support we need to share with those who walk beside us. Find at least one partner-in-conscience, a companion-in-blessing, then make the circle of support larger.

5. In a world consumed with greed, hatred and short-term thinking, we will need to swim against the stream in order to preserve life on Earth and nurture our own sanity. What virtues do you see as the ingredients of a beautiful heart and a sustainable world? Here is my beginning list of 9, drawn largely from Gandhi, King and the Dalai Lama: compassion, courage, creativity, forgiveness, truthfulness, gratitude, nonviolence (the means are the ends), embodiment (“be the change”), emotional aliveness (accepting both joy & sorrow as part of life), responsibility for the consequences of one’s actions.


7. Choosing a project: Find or start a project that expresses your deepest calling, connects with your deepest talent, and evokes your deepest love. When working on painful issues (such as nuclear contamination of the Earth, climate change, & the epidemic of police violence), we invite you to explore the understanding that our pain for the world is actually a deep expression of our love for the world. May we all find new strength and courage in the love that is underneath our pain. (a central theme of Joanna Macy’s ecological work.)

8. Opening to Deep Time thru commitment to ancestors, descendants, 7-generations thinking, and perseverance

9. Seven Generations and Deep Time: In the face of a storm of runaway greed and toxic technologies, all of us are called to become guardians of the integrity of life, for all the people, creatures, rivers, oceans and mountains of today, and for all those of the future. We are each called to greatness through the path of great kindness. Perseverance of the mind through ongoing study, reflection and exploration. Perseverance of the heart through ongoing concern and cycles of remembrance and celebration. Perseverance of the hands through ongoing building, creating, working.

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