

## **Evolutionary Spirituality: The Soul of Evolution**

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### **What Is *Evolutionary Spirituality*?**

Evolutionary Spirituality is the *Impulse of Evolution*, unfolding now as our own passionate yearning to create and participate in self and social evolution. It is the soul of evolution. It is experienced subjectively as an unfolding, directional pattern toward higher consciousness, greater freedom through more complex and synergistic order. Through evolutionary spirituality we sense that we *are* evolution. We are nature evolving. As the crises on Earth deepen, this “soul” is becoming self aware in many of us. It is felt as a resonance with the deeper patterns of evolution, often called Spirit, with one another and with nature.

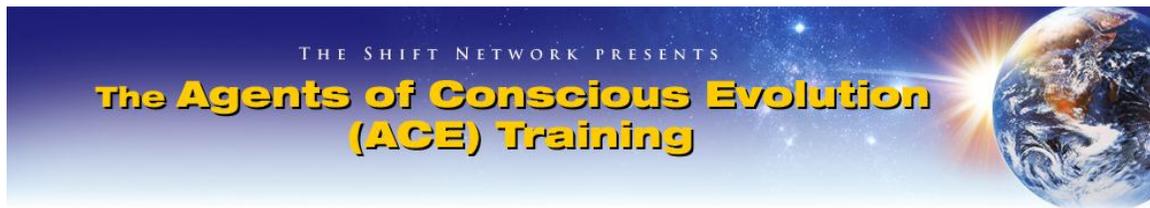
Evolutionary spirituality is neither a new religion nor an organization. It is the offspring of the mystic experience of the great traditions of the world combined with the discoveries of science. It comes forth as an evolving human, one who seeks to fulfill the ethical and spiritual insights of great visionaries of the past as co-creators of our world. It is giving birth to a global “communion of pioneering souls,” spontaneously arising among people from every race, nation and religion who experience within ourselves the emergence of a more universal, empathetic, spiritually-awakened human, a co-creator of new worlds.

Evolutionary spirituality seems to attract people Teilhard de Chardin (1964, 137-138) described as “*Homo progressivus*,” those in whom a “flame of expectation burns,” those who sense the future as an organism progressing toward the unknown. It is a type of human sensitive to and attracted by what is emergent within themselves and the world. I read with admiration the brilliant works of scientists who express awe and reverence for the laws and splendor of the universe objectively, but who do not also feel this universal intelligence subjectively, within themselves. I wonder if they have a slightly different genetic code or a “missing gene” that is not sensitive to transcendent experience, like being tone deaf or color blind.

### **The Experience of Evolutionary Spirituality**

Evolutionary spirituality is founded on a continuing inquiry to understand the laws and processes of the physical universe with a concurrent deepening awareness of unfolding patterns of evolution within. Evolutionary spirituality feels like love at the core of our being, reaching out to all life. Empathy expands. Comprehensive compassion grows. Our own passion to create appears to us as part of a larger design of creation. We are propelled forward as vital elements of that design through our own choice and intention.

We place ourselves as pioneers standing in solidarity with the great self-creating events of the past, such as the formation of life, of animal life, of human life. This is our lineage. In our genes are all the generations.



We are unique aspects of the universe in the process of evolution toward a more complex order. We are not simply one with an eternal deity, or living in a pointless universe going down to an inevitable heat death. We are bringing “the gods” home as our own developmental potential to co-create our futures.

### **The New Field of Conscious Evolution**

Evolutionary spirituality springs from radically new conditions facing us on Earth. Through science and technology we have gained powers we used to attribute to our gods. We can destroy our world or create a future of literally infinite potentialities. This new condition is acting as an evolutionary driver requiring us to learn how to evolve consciously, or to render ourselves extinct through misuse of our powers. I call this new potential the advent of *conscious* evolution, the evolution of evolution from unconscious to conscious choice (Hubbard 1998). In retrospect I believe we will discover that conscious evolution is as important as the invention of language or DNA. We will become a self-evolving species. We are facing an unknown.

No one on Earth has been trained in how to evolve a planet from its high tech, over-populating, polluting and warring state to a future equal to our full potential. None of the existing authorities can lead us through this transition—not heads of nation states, nor organized religions, nor global corporations. In our academic institutions there is not even a subject, field, or department on humanity’s requirement to learn to evolve consciously. Science alone, as science, cannot guide us, for it is often not imbued with a sense of direction, progress, or pattern for the future.

This vacuum of evolutionary leadership in the existing system is stimulating a large global movement of spiritually-based personal growth, social change, technological inventions, noetic sciences, health breakthroughs, developing and networking innovations in all fields, fostering new methods of co-intelligence, social synergy, sacred activism, etc., usually underneath the radar of the “news,” outside of academic disciplines or religions, ignored by current politics, yet instigating what Paul Hawken (date) calls “the greatest mass movement in the history of humanity” (pg #). This movement of civil society is inspired by some form of evolutionary spirituality, by whatever name it is called.

### **A New Image of “God”**

Evolutionary spirituality brings forth an evolving image of God from a paternalistic deity external to us, or an internal field where only the changeless is real, as in some Eastern traditions, to an image of God as what Sidney Lanier (date, page #) calls the “Great Creating Process,” what Aurobindo (1940/1990 \*\*\*dates don’t match reference list\*\*\*, page #) calls the “Consciousness Force,” David Bohm (1995, page #) refers to as the “Implicate Order,” Ken Wilber (1996, page #) calls “Spirit in action,” and Beatrice Bruteau (1997) calls “Cosmogestation... animating every atom, molecule and cell from within” (pg #).

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Evolutionary spirituality arises out of the subjective intuition that the fundamental Reality is Consciousness, Creative Intelligence, Unified Field, or Mind. Consciousness is not seen as the epiphenomenon of matter, but as the Creative Intelligence out of which matter, life, and human life have evolved. The universe does not appear as mindless, purposeless, or directionless, as posited by some, such as Nobel physicist Steven Weinberg (1977) who said “the more the universe seems comprehensible, the more it also seems pointless” (pg #). Rather, we witness a continuous process of transformation toward higher consciousness and greater freedom through more complex order.

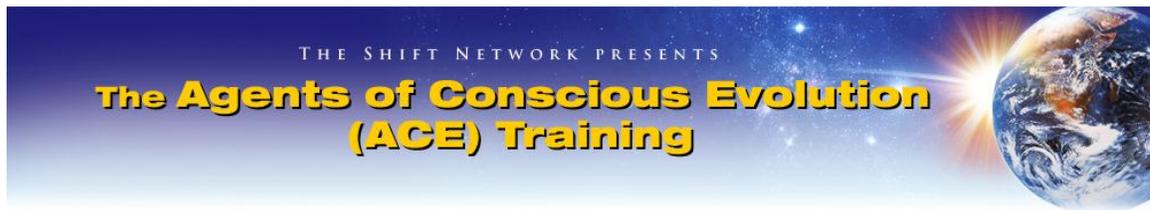
This explanation proposes that “what Darwin termed natural selection is an intelligently guided process that promotes the creative expression and evolution of ever more complex and interconnected systems: the operation of intelligent evolution,” as Gary Schwartz (2006, 12) puts it. It respects and deepens the scientific inquiry into the nature of creative evolution, probing into the anomalies that reductionist science cannot fully explain, such as the perfect fine-tuning of the first three seconds after the Big Bang or the origin of the universe itself (Laszlo 1996). It goes beyond the dogmas of Creationism or Evolutionism to open an inquiry into the nature of universal creative intelligence, subjectively, and objectively at “all levels and all quadrants,” as Ken Wilber (year, page #) puts it.

Neither the point of view of a “chance universe or an intelligent universe” as Schwartz (2006, page #) calls it, can be proven or dis-proven at this stage of human intelligence. Those experiencing evolutionary spirituality *choose* by deep attraction, metaphysical preference, intuition, and subjective experience, the world view that Consciousness is prime, that there is a fundamental designing universal intelligence at work in the universe, experienced as our own oneness with IT.

### **Evolutionary Spirituality Fosters a Three-Fold *Evolutionary* Consciousness**

Evolutionary spirituality looks *inward* to the Mystery, the Void, the Unified Field, the Mind of the Cosmos out of which everything is arising. It does not see that Mystery as a personal deity or a Being outside of the Field, but as the ground of being itself which is sensitive to our own intention since we are IT in human form. It is a non-dual, unitive awareness, not of the supernatural, but of expanded nature, including human nature, which is, at its source, a profound mystery. It draws from the new revelations of quantum physics that the universe is a unified whole, that it displays non-locality, entanglement, connectivity, and coherence throughout the whole. It finds that Mystery is animating the source of our own being, the center of supreme reality within ourselves.

Evolutionary consciousness looks *backward* in time, discovering that cosmogenesis, the whole story of creation, is alive in us now. We are the universe in person. The intelligence of the life force has broken into our consciousness as our own impulse to evolve, to create, and to expand to fulfill life’s potential. In expanded evolutionary consciousness we can imagine, for ecstatic moments, tuning into the



trillions of cells and the billions of miles of DNA within that are encoded with the universe story.

While experiencing inner oneness with supreme reality and feeling the active presence of the evolutionary story alive in our own being, when we are in evolutionary consciousness, we concurrently move *forward* to express our potential through action and self expression in the world. We find ourselves awakened from within by a passionate desire to realize our innate creativity, to join with others, to find our life purpose so that we are not left out of the story. We become authors of our own story, co-creators with the process of creation.

### **The Path of the Co-creator**

Co-creation means aligning with the Creative Intelligence of the universe and cooperating consciously with it in our own lives and in partnership with others doing the same. Co-creation is a developmental path that fosters an exploration of the art and practice of conscious evolution, inspired by evolutionary spirituality.

The Path of the Co-creator focuses on the weaving self and social evolution leading toward wholeness. In brief, the Self Path works toward an expansion of identity from the egoic self, to the essential or higher self, to the universal self, the highest frequency of our being, until finally we expand our identity to include the Great Creating Process, the prime agency of evolution as the source and momentum of our being.

In the Social Path of the Co-creator we start with resonant circles of two or more individuals who affirm the essential self as our true being, cultivating a field of non-judgment and love. This field allows the essential self to become stabilized as the center of our being. From there we move toward co-creative circles. These are little “multi-celled organisms,” clusters of people joining center with center, heart with heart to fulfill their life purpose in a way that models the change we would like to see in the world (Anderson and Roske 2001).

### **A Meta-Religion?**

I believe that evolutionary spirituality can foster the maturation of the human species. It offers a context for the unique contribution of every great faith to the conscious evolution of humanity. It is child of all the traditions, born into the next stage of human evolution. This convergence into what Sidney Lanier (year, page #) calls a “meta-religio” will form a new body of spiritual experience and practices, transcending yet including the best of the traditions, affirming and connecting what truly *works* to mature us through peer validation. In such a meta-religio, we move beyond dogma and cultural limitations, allowing that which does not work, that which imposes on us by “faith” unbelievable and destructive scriptural stories, freeing us to fulfill our potential as co-creative, coevolving, universal humans (a model that I sense has not yet fully evolved on this Earth.)

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Our spiritual ancestors paved the way for us not only through direct experience of supreme reality, but also, in their mystical visions of the future. They foresaw a radical new stage of being – a new heaven and a new earth; a New Jerusalem beyond sorrow, beyond death, the former things passed away; a paradise beyond this life through surrender to God; nirvana, the extinction of the separated self through union with the Field out of which all is arising.

These visions of the future that have attracted pre-scientific humanity to go beyond the current limits of human life, are actually coming true through our capacity for conscious evolution. Through the maturation of evolutionary spirituality we can experience ever more direct contact with Source, not only as Pure Awareness of the Eternal, but also as the evolving aspect of the creation. We can, through the harmonious use of our new technological capacities, transcend the limits of the creature human condition, extending our lives, exploring the universe – becoming a universal co-creative species. The mystical visions of the future can be reached for, not as life after death, but as life after this stage of life.

Religions are now being “evolutionized” as Sri Aurobindo evolutionized Hinduism, and Teilhard de Chardin evolutionized Catholicism. In my work as an evolutionary futurist for example, I was inspired by a personal experience to write an evolutionary interpretation of the New Testament (Hubbard 1993). I discovered that much of the New Testament is coded evolution that could not be decoded until the human species could begin to attain actual powers of “gods.”

For example St. Paul writes:

Behold, I show you a mystery: We shall not all sleep; but we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. At the last trumpet, for the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. (1 Corinthians 15:51-55).

I wrote:

Behold, the mystery will soon be revealed. The time of transformation is at hand. The twinkling of an eye, the trumpet’s last blare, come for the person when the planet has reached its limits and is ready like an egg to give birth to its child. We humans, bodily children of Earth, will become universal as we carry Earth’s body into the universe. In that environment, mammalian bodies will soon perish. The new bodies will be formed by the intention to survive and grow in the new environments of a universe of infinite variety, magnificence and surprises...” (p. 69).

I saw the life of Jesus as that of a future human, a quantum jump toward what I am calling a universal human. We can do the works that he did, and far greater works, when we learn ethical conscious evolution. We can produce in abundance; we can heal; we can resurrect simple organisms from the “dead,” that is, from DNA; we can perform virgin births; we can create holograms that appear real; we are studying the possibility of teleportation; we can leave this Earth and return alive, etc. Our technologies are actually

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inventing real capacities to do what appeared to a pre-scientific age as “miracles.” Since the whole process of the rise of the physical universe out of No Thing at All, is a mystery, a “miracle,” is it possible that the apparently mythical stories are evolutionary forecasts and visions of what is actually to happen when we combine heart, mind, and spirit with radical evolutionary technologies that transform the physical world? As we once believed, so it can in fact become!

Revelation unfolds as evolution, not as some future heaven or a Utopia, but as breakthroughs toward genuine newness, as once life was new, or humans were new.

All our religions were born before the threat of environmental collapse or nuclear holocaust. They all emerged before humanity gained its unprecedented powers. None of them can tell us what to do about cloning, stem cell research, non-human intelligence, space settlement, overcoming aging, and many other such radical breakthroughs. The spiritual texts of the past have prepared us, but we now can update the covenants.

New sacred scriptures will emerge from the experience of *being* co-creators as we learn to restore this Earth, free ourselves from poverty and disease, co-design new synergistic systems, transform “a terrible love of war” (Hillman 2004, page #) to the passionate love of evolving ourselves and exploring the vast untapped domains of inner and outer space. These new writings will be the sacred scriptures of the early phases of universal conscious evolution. They are being written now as the new covenants, coming through higher guidance, and through discoveries at the forefront of the new physics, biology, psychology, and social innovations at the growing edge of human endeavor.

From the perspective of evolutionary spirituality, we are at the threshold of the emergence of a universal humanity. We can become capable of conscious ethical evolution, first on this planet, then in the solar system, and finally throughout the universe. We can reach ever-deeper understanding of and participation with the processes of creation until we become co-creators on a universal scale. This is the promise of evolutionary spirituality.

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