

The Individual and the Community

In human terms the New Jerusalem described in the Apocalypse of Saint John is symbolic of a future global community of human Individuals who, in a mood of serving, donate some of their individual incarnation to others in order to pursue common goals. Reciprocal to the individual's donation, a community formed by such Individuals, is best served by donating a tolerance towards the risks involved in undertaking new initiatives introduced by Individuals. With these kinds of agreements, collaborative activities can occur for the benefit of both the Individuals and the communities.

MAKING AGREEMENTS

Of course, this kind of community of individuals is far in the future. But the seeds for such a relationship between an individual and the group that they interact with in daily life are within the scope of people today.

Your life community is composed of the people who you, as an individual, most often interact with in daily life. That can be either face to face or remote. A life community may even be composed of just two people.

My colleague and dear brother, Orland Bishop teaches that it is through the agreements that people freely make with each other that a path to new community life can be found. When made in freedom, agreements create social synergy.

The agreements that are put forth in the New Adam work provide an opportunity for one person to authentically awaken with interest in the soul life of another through symbolic biography. This practice is based on the dyad interaction of an anointing ceremony.

PRACTICAL GEM WORK GROUP

The technical dimension of the formulation of the gems and oil pairings in the New Adam gel can seem to be intimidating. Formulating twelve gems and twelve oils will not be practical for everyone. The time and labor invested in grinding gems makes it most reasonable that a group of interested people would carry that task out of their common interest in the alchemy of the process. For that, it is best

for those who wish to prepare the gems to network with others to share the labor and materials. Such a network can readily be formed if the will to do the lab alchemy with gems is strong enough.

In actual practice there is very little gem powder necessary for making the anointing gel. The gem work group could make very small amounts (a pinch) of gem powders available to others. A pinch of powder put in a pill pouch can be sent in the mail. The gem group can exchange raw or individual gem powders among its own members to create a full spectrum of gems powders that would then be circulated to others. Financial support for equipment and supplies and mailing of the gems could be based on donations from recipients of the powders.

MAKING THE GEL

The recipient could then create a gel, add the powder and then blend a few drops of whatever oils they wanted into the mix. The gel is easily created by boiling $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon of agar in $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of hot water for five minutes. When the agar dissolves, let it set up. Then add a $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon of sunflower lecithin and a few algae oil drops from a capsule. The goal is to then blend these ingredients into a smooth custard. The essential oils can then be added drop by drop and blended slowly. The algae oil and lecithin help the water-soluble algae marry the essential oils. The final addition of the gem powder to the mix creates the anointing gel. It may take some back and forth of adding lecithin to make the custard stable with the oils and gems.

The life community can decide which essential oils to add according to their needs. They can be purchased or distilled. **It is not necessary that a life community include all twelve gem/oil blends to create a ceremony.** The following explains how a life community can decide which gem/oil pairs are most applicable to meet their social needs. It could be that just one oil/gem pair is the content of the anointing gel you use.

MEETING SOCIAL NEEDS

The twelve gems and oils represent a palette or menu of possible human beliefs and the soul issues that create them. A group wishing to do this work is a life community. That community may be composed of souls whose social goals are represented by only two or three of the total twelve pairings. It may be that a group is dealing with only one of the twelve themes. That group might only use

one of the gem and oil pairings to create an anointing gel for social healing ceremonies. That group might consist of just two individuals.

The key here is to be able to meet the social needs of a small group by creating ceremonies where the individuals agree to meet at particular times, on particular themes in order to create a menu of stories or images that will be used as the focus of the ceremony. Consideration of seasonal aspects in the search for relevant stories is useful.

EQUINOXES AND SOLSTICES AS SYMBOLS

The equinoxes and solstices that determine the seasons are four solar fixed or cardinal points in time that define the year. The four solar fixed points are universally the times of major religious festivals. In Christian iconography the season-to-season movements were imagined as the will efforts of Archangels. In the older traditions when people lived close to nature, the annual seasonal rotations in the life of nature were linked to the succession of these fixed points. Shifting from one phase of life to another was seen as an analog to the rotation of the seasons. There are four solar shift or flux points situated exactly between the fixed points of the solar equinoxes and solstices.

FLUX POINTS IN SOLAR TIME

The solar flux points occur where the Sun slows down and speeds up in its daily declination as a rhythmic time dance resulting from the orbital motions of the earth. The ceremonies celebrated on the solar flux points were often rites of passage from one phase of life to another. For many different religious traditions these rites of passage were represented in a liturgical context with stories of saints, gods, heroic beings, ancestors and much more. The solar flux points can be useful blueprints for designing ceremonies for your life community. The flux points are cosmic stress places where a rite of passage ceremony is useful. Universally, all humans pass through cosmic flux points when the Sun/Earth dialogue initiates seasonal change.

LIFE THEMES AND RITES OF PASSAGE

The following ideas are suggestions for festivals that support soul conditions you feel are presently active in your life community.

In a seasonal mood between the winter solstice and spring equinox, a festival celebrating the return of the light represents childhood, the new, the potential.

Between the spring equinox and the summer solstice the fecund quickening of nature represents the growth towards adulthood with its challenges related to establishing the self.

Between the summer solstice and the fall equinox the procreation of seed plants and animals in nature represents the life of the family, an image of a soul ripening the self through social interactions.

Between the fall equinox and the winter solstice the ripening and decay of nature represents the death of the individual and the entrance into the realm of the ancestors. These solar flux points provide soul themes for creating rites of passage. The soul themes are childhood, maturity, family and ancestors.

FORMING A CEREMONY

In liturgical calendars the fixed points of the solstices and equinoxes are the times of major festivals. They are cardinal points. The flux points exactly between the fixed cardinal points celebrate rites of passage(flux). Rites of passage between childhood and adulthood have a particular mood theme that is different from independent adulthood and the demands of family life. The same can be said of the changes that occur between family life and old age.

The mood themes suggested at the end of this article address the stresses incurred at these times of great flux in the life between an individual and the community in which they live.

Here are examples of how this might work.

MOOD THEMES

It may be that a life community is going through a particular challenge. Using the seasonal flux points as a template imagine some mood themes around childhood or new beginnings. Perhaps your life community has been involved in a spate of childbirth events that have caused the social dynamic to change. Or perhaps your life community is considering undertaking a new initiative and that is causing concern among some of the members. Or perhaps you and your spouse just had a baby. These are all similar in that they come under the mood theme of new

beginnings and childhood. Algae and quartz are “mothers” that are involved in the creation of the new. Receiving gem powder from a working gem group and forming it into an anointing gel could form the basis for a ceremony where “newness” is the theme. Excerpts from fairy tales like the queen bee, mother Holle or Hansel and Gretel describe the challenges and rewards of children dealing with new situations in a moral way. Creation myths, stories of heroes and heroines also address the issues around “newness” that can create challenges in personal life. A gel made with algae oil and quartz, or citrus / agate represents this life theme of the child.

It may be that your life community is composed of individuals who have left their family of origin but haven’t started a family themselves. Social conversations tend towards the trials of work in the world and issues of authority versus autonomy. A fairy tale like Rumpelstiltskin, Greek myths of Zeus and Dionysus, the story of Job and an angry god are filled with opportunities for researching the relationship between authority and autonomy. Karma and freedom, self and world, dreams and realities are gem/oil pairings that could be put into a gel for general life community rites of passage ceremonies.

It may be that your life community is composed of families going through the challenges of raising children or the challenges of children leaving the family unit. Greek myths are filled with familial themes among the gods. In a broader sense the human family of everyday life encounters may be a struggle for your life community. Frustrating faculty or business team meetings would come under this type of challenge. The dialogue between Arjuna and Krishna in the Bhagavad Gita is a story of family relationships. Many of Christ’s parables such as the prodigal son address familial patterns of relationships. Gem/ oil pairings for this kind of ceremony could be suffering and compassion, forgiveness and guilt, healing and wounding.

It may be that your life community is composed of elders with physical afflictions or loss of interest in life. Stories like Hiawatha and the sorcerer, or themes from Holy Week have this mood theme. Excerpts from biographies like Helen Keller or those who have returned to life after dying are this mood theme. The teachings of Black Elk, The Black Madonna. Gem/oil pairings in this mood theme would be growth and decay, life and death, anxiety and courage.

The following list of soul themes for the twelve gems and oils is intended to serve as a menu for thinking about ceremonies that are important soul themes in your life community during a rite of passage.

Gem/Plant/Soul Issues

1. QUARTZ and ALGAE – SACRIFICE and NEW BEGINNINGS

Quartz is universal gem mother; algae is universal flowering plant mother. Both sacrifice an old condition in order to allow new potentials to arise. The qualities address not only new beginnings at the present time but also issues in the soul that are carried over from childhood.

2. CHALCEDONY and FRANKINCENSE – AUTONOMY and RELATEDNESS

Chalcedony is a large family of related gems with many different forms. It symbolizes the challenges of relatedness to others. Frankincense unites water soluble and oil soluble components. It is used in religious services as incense that relates the human and the Divine. Both the gem and the resin balance separating and integrating potentials in living systems.

3. OPAL and LEMON BALM – GROWTH and DECAY/ORDER and CHAOS

As minerals, opals maintain a cellular organization resembling organic colloids. Volcanic dust becomes gem-like by being dissolved in organic acids. The opal symbolizes the potential for the chaos to become highly ordered. Lemon balm promotes colloidal formation that supports the maintenance of cellular integrity in living systems. It symbolizes the healthy ordering present in the life forces of the body. This gem/oil pair is used to promote order in chaotic conditions.

4. AGATE and CITRUS – SELF and WORLD/FRIENDS and ASSOCIATES

Agates are cellular forms that are precipitated out of hydrothermal solutions. Citrus oils are cellular deposits precipitated in the rinds of growing fruits. Both

gem and oil are used to balance exchanges between a peripheral environment and an individualized form.

5. AMETHYST and MARJORAM – DESPAIR and DEVOTION

Amethyst forms through reciprocating pulses of pressurized solutions that oscillate between different metallic contents. Sweet marjoram is used to harmonize blood flow that oscillates between the venous peripheral circulation and the arterial pulsing of the heart. They both symbolize the oscillation between despair and devotion in the soul life.

6. JASPER and PINE – FORGIVENESS and GUILT

Jasper is an opaque gem composed of minute fibrous inclusions that are the first crystals to fall out of a general matrix. Pines are the first plant group to separate out of the lower plants in order to bear flowers. The separation gesture in both the oil and the gem is a symbol of guilt at leaving an established situation. Jasper and pine are used to promote forgiveness from guilt.

7. EMERALD and HELICHRYSUM – HEALING and WOUNDING

Emeralds form in extremely long ripening conditions. This makes them vulnerable to shocks that introduce wound-like inclusions in the gem. Helichrysum forms its oils as a result of an extremely long flowering process. This creates substances that can dissolve the scars from emotional and physical shocks from previous insults. Together they symbolize wounding and healing

8. GARNET and MYRRH – LIFE and DEATH

Garnets form as deposits of residues that occur in highly pressurized geological interfaces. They symbolize the formation of a corpse that falls out of other gems. Myrrh forms as a healing substance that forms in wounds in trees growing in extremely arid conditions. Its preservative power was used to embalm corpses. This gem and oil blend focuses on issues of life and death.

9. RUBY and TAGETES LUCIDA – DREAMS and REALITIES

Rubies form from deeply embedded residues from ancient seafloor animal life found in limestone. They symbolize embedded memories in the soul that interfere with present life realities. Tagetes lucida is a traditional remedy for

“susto”, a nervous state based on past shocking events. The gem/oil blend symbolizes the work to bring buried dream-like memories of the past into a clearer perspective in the present.

10. ROSE QUARTZ and ROSE – KARMA and FREEDOM

Rose quartz has unique fiber forms within a crystal forming quartz matrix. The uniqueness is created by boron, a metal that descends from the highest heavens onto earth. Rose oil is symbolized by the dew forming process considered by alchemists to be an earthly deposit of cosmic planetary movements. Together the gem and oil blend symbolize the drama of past cosmic karmas meeting the freedom of new possibilities for living.

11. TOURMALINE and SPIKENARD – ANXIETY and COURAGE

Tourmaline is formed by reciprocating hydrothermal pulses in rock masses that deposit different metals in the gem with each oscillation. This is an image of the oscillation in the soul during anxious states. Spikenard is a member of the valerian family known for moderating anxious states. It is useful when there is anxiety about a pending event. Together the gem/oil pair symbolizes the relationship between anxiety and courage.

12. HELIOTROPE and LAVENDER – SUFFERING and COMPASSION

Heliotrope or bloodstone forms in a mineral context where fluxing and fixing of metals in the matrix sequesters red iron deposits in a green stone. It symbolizes the blood of Christ shed on the green earth during his suffering. Lavender regulates the fluxing and fixing of metallic neurotransmitters in the synapses of nerves. It acts to moderate and soothe hyper anxious states. The gem/oil pair symbolizes the relationship between suffering and the compassion needed to moderate suffering.