

Masculine Initiation
for the 21st Century:
Facing the Challenge
of a Global Brotherhood

Dr. Robert L. Moore's
Address to the New Warrior Network

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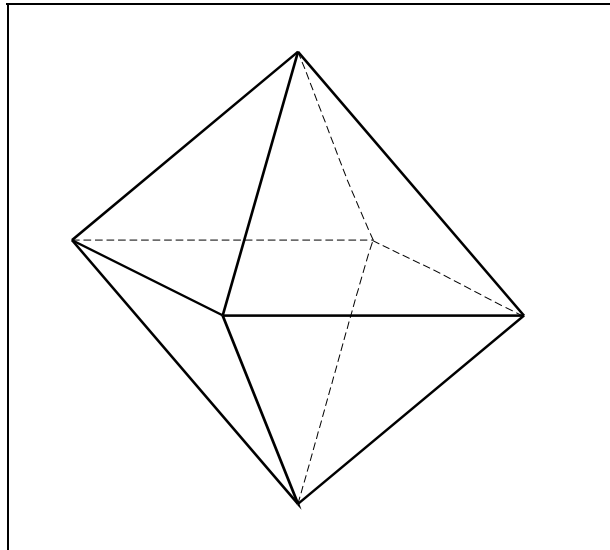
Masculine Initiation for the 21st Century: Facing the Challenge of a Global Brotherhood

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Introduction

I propose to share with you some of what we know about **the Sacred Masculine and the work of empowerment of the male soul and its relationship to initiation**, the process of initiation, the transformation, in short, the great work we all share. This is our territory and I simply want to go over it with you. Many of you could teach this as well as or better than I, but I want to recall us to the center of our work and touch on the map for our work, the work that men face today, what I like to call the plumbing, the hard wiring. Then I'd like to focus on where we are right now in this work: What time is it now? What do we face? How are we doing in the world? By that time, I will be able to show you some of the reasons why we are doing the way we are doing. Then I would like to just share with you just a few reflections on **what I think is needed in the way of masculine brotherhood**.

The first thing I'd like to do is to pass this octahedron around and have each of you hold it. The meaning of this will become clear as we go. Put some good energy into it from your soul. That's what I think is a wonderful **symbol of the god-self** that is in each one of you. Even if all that I say tonight is gibberish and is totally confusing, your right brain will understand if you just hold that for a minute. Your right brain will get it and the left brain will eventually catch up.



Masculine Spirituality and Initiation

Many of you heard the lecture I gave to the Chicago Men's Conference recently in which I talked about masculine spirituality and how I like to think about it. When we talk about the sacred masculine and the masculine spirituality that's related to it, there are two components we need to discuss. The first component is for a man to get connected to the power, to the great power that he needs for life, that his family needs him to have, that his community needs him to have, that the world needs him to have. And second, masculine spirituality is about what a man needs to do to keep his power from turning demonic and destructive in his personality and life, in his family, in his community, and in the world. That's what masculine spirituality is about, two parts: **A man has to connect to the power and then figure out how to keep that power from destroying him and his world.**

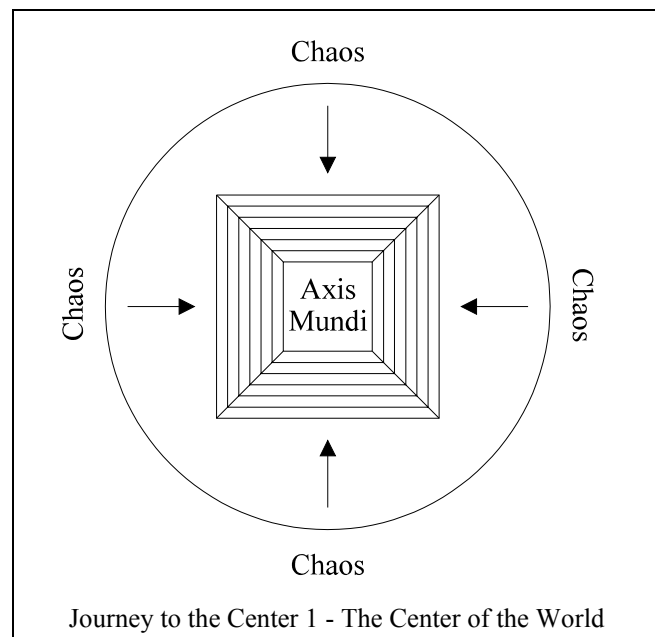
In the history of masculine spirituality we haven't done well with the second one. We've been really good about powering up, like the SS, but we've not been really good about keeping the power from turning demonic. I have reasons to hope that we may be getting to the point where we might do better, and that is where I want us to get to before the night is over.

I want to share with you an image. I have a number of images I want to share with you, different images of the journey to the center.

The Center of the World

The Center throughout history has been understood in masculine spirituality and other forms as where the power comes into the world. **The first task of masculine spirituality is locating the center, connecting with it, plugging into the sources of regeneration and creativity that are needed for life.**

Here is an image from the work of the great scholar Mircea Eliade. If you haven't read his book [The Sacred and the Profane](#) you should get it and read it. He's one of the most important people helping us understand human spirituality. What he helped us to understand is that **when human beings don't know where the Center is, they fall into chaos.**



That chaos has different forms. It can be a **cold chaos**. You've all been depressed. You've all been without energy, a cold chaos of the wasteland. Or, if you don't know where the Center is, you can have a **hot chaos**, a compulsive chaos, an addictive chaos, where you've got lots of energy banging off the walls and lighting you up like a Christmas tree, but it's making your life crazy, it's destroying your world. Before you can find that center, you've got either cold or hot chaos, some way, and there's no space in the world that is habitable.

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We talk about a **habitat for humanity**. Well, that is just a new way, a recent way, of talking about the old idea of finding the Center so there can be a world that is habitable by humans in which you know what direction you're in, you're oriented. Eliade called that the **Axis Mundi**. That's the World Tree. In Christianity it's the Cross. In Judaism it's the Holy City of Jerusalem. In Islam it's the Cabal, the great black tomb. In Native American traditions there are a number of sacred mountains which are sacred centers, the Center of the World. If you've been to the Southwest, you've probably been to the Center of the World of some of the native peoples.

The old peoples of the earth always knew that you had to find the Center of the World. Now, why? Because they knew if you couldn't find it you would either be without the energy you needed to live, or if you had energy it would be demonic, it would be craziness. So finding that Center, and in that Center when you find it, the power of Being flows in through that Center. It is here that creation forms out of the chaos. It is here that the great "I AM" is said. It is here that you return to for regeneration when things begin to deteriorate. It's here that the creative, regenerative energies of the world flow in.

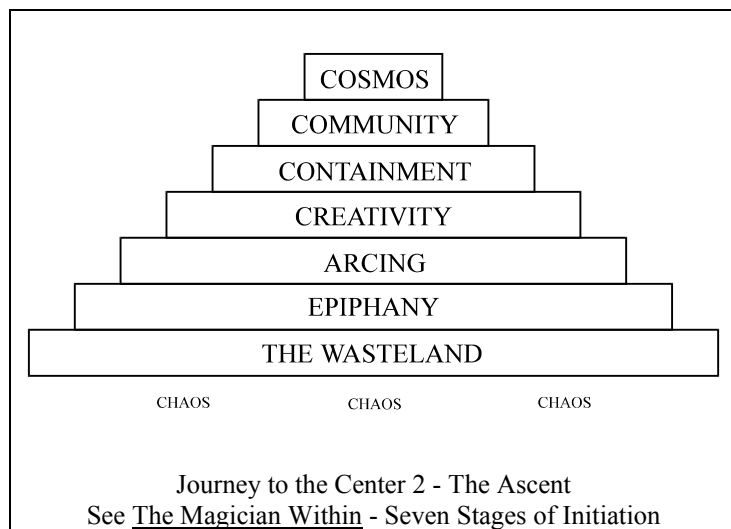
So that's one image, the Center, and as you get out from the center, there is increasing disorganization unto the point where you say you are in the wasteland. The traditional peoples all over the world tended to see this a quadrated world. The closer you got to the center, the closer you got to the source of organization and creativity, cosmos, world, shambala.

The Journey to the Center

Now this is simply an image of an Ascent. In spirituality, and especially in masculine spirituality, **the Journey to that Center** and to the fruits of that Center are **imaged as Ascent**. You see all kinds of examples of sacred mountains. Probably 50 cultures talked about pyramids and used pyramids to image this Ascent, this spiritual Ascent, the spiral toward the Center.

What I want to do for just a moment is talk about the transformative dynamics of that Ascent and to have you think about the way in which your experience and the experience you wish for other men is a walking of this Journey, of this Ascent. **It moves from the wasteland that we saw before, at the edge of the circle, up to the Center where you find cosmos, world, shalom, the sacred order of justice and peace.**

Now just let me take you through the stages. Just work with me on this because **this is the process that you're going through as you power up**, as you get more and more connected with your Center. As you get more and more connected with that gold energy in there, as you learn to deal with your power. You see, it's easy as long as you are not connected to your power. But once you start getting connected, it gets more and more dangerous unto the point where, when you're really cookin', you're at most risk. That's why I want us to go through this quickly. For those of you men that are already really cookin', remember when you weren't cookin' so well and when you were looking at other men who were cookin', the leaders that you admired. We need to talk just a little bit about that dynamic.



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The Wasteland

So we start down here in the wasteland, in the chaos, either the cold chaos or the hot chaos. Some of you majored in one or the other, you know. I usually majored in the cold chaos. I spent so much time chronically depressed, that I didn't even know I was depressed until I started feeling better. But anyway, when you're in that you do not believe there is a center. You don't believe there is any energy. You can't see any gold in the world. You don't believe there is any gold in the world, any god energy, because you do not see any light shining out there. This is where a lot of men find themselves today. They do not even see any gold out there to envy. This is one of the great horrors of our time, that men are so cynical and nihilistic and have absolutely no hope. There can be no hope when you are here.

Epiphany

But you know, the spirit moves on the face of the waters and there will be an epiphany. Something will shine. Now all kinds of things can shine. It can be female. It can be a wonderful bourbon. (Maker's Mark, gentlemen, Maker's Mark, it's a fine spiritual bourbon. My shadow drinks Wild Turkey, but I drink that spiritual bourbon.) It can be a job. It can be a house, a place in the country. It can be Mexico. It can be another man. But there is a gold that shines and you can see that glint and suddenly everything is changed because you went from not believing there was any such thing to actually seeing it shine. The gold is not in here, the gold is out there. So that is the first step. That is the beginning of a chance for hope. It doesn't feel great usually, because immediately one feels what the French philosophers call "**the lack**." Contemporary French philosophy and psychoanalysis talks about "the lack." They talk about that violence in the sacred book. They talk about the reason that we want to get folks and sacrifice them is because of our "lack." OK, but I move right to **envy**. I lack and I see that shine and I will envy it, particularly if it's in another man.

So you've got the dynamics. We talk about this in psychoanalysis today. The hundred and seventy-five dollar word is "idealization," "idealizing self-object transference". That's the big language. It just means you look out there and you see the gold and you know it's not in you, you think it's not in you.

Well, as you leaders know, when you shine the idealization is going to come your way. For those of you that are not leaders yet, your time will come when men will look at you and they'll see the gold shine. Then they're going to envy you because initially they're not going to believe they could ever have it. Then they're going to hate you. I heard that there's a T-shirt in the New Warriors going around now. It says "Leader" on the front and it has a target on the back. Have you heard that? Well, it's great! It ought to be passed around to everybody that's thinking about leadership or everybody that is a leader because it's exactly where we are here.

Arcing

The next stage is when you connect with that person, when you form a connection with the source of that shining. This happens a lot in your work. When that connection is made and a flow of energy begins, there is a technical term for that: It's called "attention arc." It's called arcing. Think about arc welding or think about the arcing that goes on in electroplating. There is that flow of energy. There is an arcing of energy. If there is not a connection point between you and that source of gold that you see, there is no arcing and there's not going to be any transformation. But if there is a connection, that love, that from-the-heart connection, there's

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contact and there is a beginning of a transference of that gold, that shine. This is what's supposed to happen in psychoanalysis and psychotherapy, that heart connection. Often it doesn't, but that's what's supposed to happen.

If the relationship continues, then the one who felt he has no gold, gradually his lead starts turning to gold. And soon ... I didn't tell you about the bad part. That's the mana stage, what Carl Jung called the mana personality stage. When you first touch the gold, when you first realize the gold is in you, it lights you up like a balloon. You feel like you can do anything, but you just have to hang on a little bit because the drop is coming soon. But the good news is, that if you stay with the relationship, if you've got some men that love you enough to put up with you when you're in your mana personality stage, the arcing will continue. You've had a great experience, you've had your initiation, and now you know everything there is to know. You've got these guys that love you in spite of all you know, and they continue loving you. Then that arcing continues and your radiance continues to grow. What was lead gradually turns to gold and begins to shine more brightly.

Creativity

Now as that radiance in the man continues to shine more brightly, he begins to feel his creativity flowing in him. This is when he gets dangerous because now all these streams of creativity are coming forth, The great philosopher Tillich said **the creativity starts flowing so strongly that it can begin to break the forms in the personality. That's what he calls the demonic.** That is, the demonic is not bad energy, its wonderful energy, it's just that the energy has started to break the forms. It's so strong and it's not contained.

Containment

You do a lot of work with men around containment. Here's why: when that creativity from connecting with all that powerful, sacred, masculine energy starts to really cook, then the demonic is breathing down your neck. **This is why you have to have the community.** The technical phrase for this is "an adequate self-object milieu." Translate that into: **Your community helps you contain and channel your creativity.** The people that love you have gotten past their hate of creative people because they've gotten more used to their own shining and they can help you affirm, contain, and channel your creativity.

Community

When you have had that kind of community around you enough, here's the good news: You internalize that community. Then that inner temple gets firmer, that inner cup that can hold all your energy. This is the good news: **You internalize all these men that love you, and they become a cup that helps you hold that god energy.** The bad news is: **You never get to where you can handle it alone.**

This is the big thing. We'll see a little bit about what's happening now because men have been told that they ought to be able to handle it alone. The fact is, the old peoples of the earth knew that men cannot handle it alone. Men don't get so mature that they can handle it alone, none of 'em. It doesn't matter how many years of analysis they've had. You never get together enough to handle it alone. So that's where the community, containment, formation, training about how to channel that energy and what it's for comes in.

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Cosmos

That brings it, in the old mythologies of the world, into building a **habitat for humanity** called cosmos in the mythologies. So, what's that energy for? What is the community stewarded for? It's stewarded for the Polis, they used to say in Greece, the city and the cosmos, that there be a vessel safe for humanity and friends.

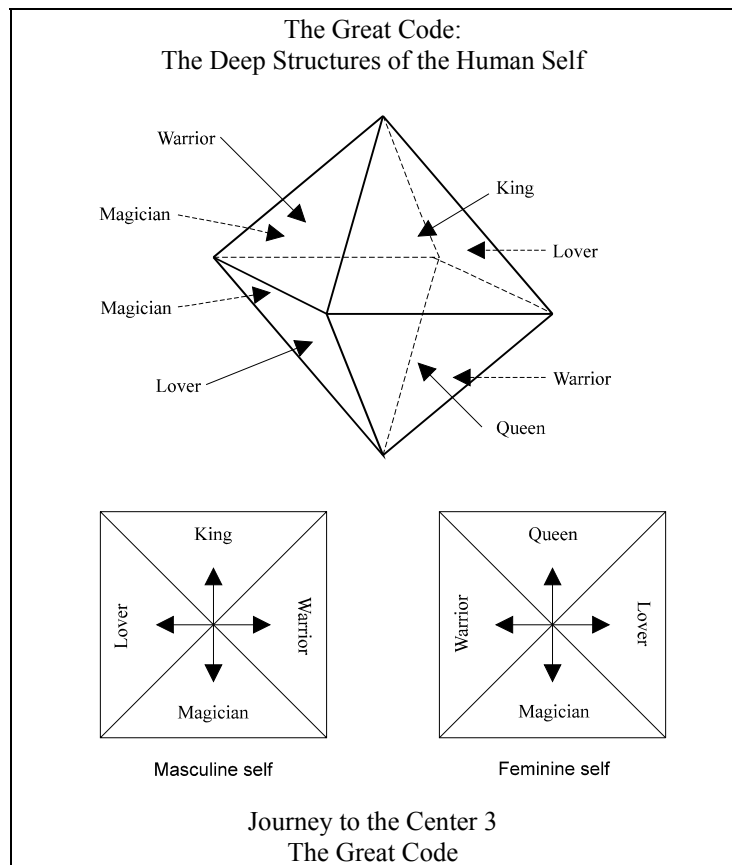
So here is the journey to the center and the ascent, the struggle of the ascent, and the goal as we saw before of getting beyond the self even beyond the community to cosmos, to world building, to justice and peace. So that is journey to the center 2.

The Structure of the Psyche

This represents my discoveries and my work over two and a half decades. Many of you could teach this. There's enormous evidence to believe with Carl Jung that there's a Great Code about this journey to the center that is in your two million year old DNA, that there are clues to the task of that journey to the center that are far more specific than many people believe.

Now many of you have read my books, listened to my tapes, and so I'm not going to belabor this. I'm going to leave this up for those of you that haven't.

We're talking about the male psyche, but I want to do a quick round saying how the female journey to the center and the male journey to the center are similar and how they are different, critically different. I want to just take a few minutes to go over that with you.



The Four Powers

As you know, I believe, with Jung, that the four quarters of mythology show the world being quadrated, that there are four corners of the world, there are four elements. The Navajo said there are four winds. The Hindus said there are four faces of god. The early Christians said if you are going to have a complete gospel, there have to be four gospels. Jung said myths, mythic images, are the faces that instincts bring to the world. Humans quadrate the world in mythic images. There must be a four-fold instinctuality.

He thought it was typology: intuition, thinking, sensation and feeling. I found out later that Tony Wolf, his lover and teacher, thought it was something else. I find that I am in her tradition. She thought that there were four structural forms of the female psyche, not four functions like

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Jung thought, but four structural forms. I believe there are four structural forms and that they correspond to four energies in the human soul.

These four energies and the task of balancing them are the way in which men and women are alike. In other words, the energies which men and women have to learn to balance, to access first, and then to balance in their individuation, or in their pilgrimage, in their journey to the center, are the same four energies. But the way that we get to the center is not the same. That is the critical difference in our plumbing that I think will help us understand why we are in the mess we're in today on this planet.

Let me just go through these four powers.

King

The mythic images of the King and the Queen represent an instinctual line having to do with nurture and centering in the human personality. I will talk about the initiation that goes with it in just a few minutes. So there is one line having to do with inclusive nurture. This is what I call the royal line of development.

As you hold that octahedron that comes around, notice that it is two pyramids, base to base, a male pyramid and a female pyramid, placed together into an octahedron. If you'll look in the appendix to the male quartet set of books Doug Gillette and I have written, you will see a discussion about this eight-fold nature, the octahedral shape. Jung believed the structure of the deep self in men and women was that octahedron that you are holding in your hand. I'm simply offering a decoding of that octahedron.

So this royal energy, inclusive nurture and centering, without it you're not calm, you're not centered, you do not have a vision, you do not have a sense of "I am" and "I want." I like to say that if they held a .357 magnum up to your head and said, "Tell me, son of a bitch, what do you want?", you'd just have to be shot if you don't have this. A lot of men really want to know what they want but can't find it. That's because of this.

Lover

The mythic image of the Lover is an instinctual line of development, power, sexuality, affiliation, intimacy, embodiment, joy. If you don't have a connection with this, you don't have any fun. No matter how smart you are, how caring you are, all that kind of stuff, in terms of your nurturance, you don't have any fun and it's not worthwhile. You can thank D. H. Lawrence for being the high priest of this energy.

What's that poem? "Sooner murder an infant in it's cradle than to nurse unacted desire." (from *Proverbs from Hell*, William Blake) The idea is that if you are just building good works out of duty, it's terrible. That's the absence of this Lover energy, you see.

Magician

Mythic images of the Magician, high priest or priestess, represent the cognitive line of development. This has to do with moving from mere knowledge to wisdom used for healing of self and community.

Notice that the cognitive line balances the nurturance line. This is the same in men and women. There's no difference there. In other words, it's just as hard to get inside at the things for men and women, just as hard to develop generativity and the capacity to bless and nurture for women and for men. We're alike in that way.

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Warrior

The other axis is where the bad divine joke is. Jung thought that God had a bad sense of humor. If you look at this carefully, you'll see why, you can say that it's probably true. The reversal here in the male and female soul is right here on this Lover-Warrior axis. The Lover energy we talked about. The Warrior energy is that energy of focused discipline, boundaries, service, mission.

The Asymmetry of Male/Female Development

The asymmetry that we've got here is that young females are flooded with Lover energy in adolescence. Notice I put adolescence, early adult-hood, mid-life, maturity, corresponding for men with Warrior, Magician, Lover, King and for women with Lover, Magician, Warrior, Queen. Here is the asymmetry. I've said a long time that men and women pass each other at mid-life on this axis. This is the source of so many divorces and so much inter-gender misunderstanding. So just as the woman at mid-life is powering up into her aggression, a man is discovering the opening of his heart. So they pass each other in the night, literally pass each other in the night. I want you to think about how this difference is enormously significant. I want you to think about the life cycle in women and men.

After I published this series of books, David Gutmann's book, Reclaimed Powers, was pointed out to me. It is a cross-cultural study of men and women through the life cycle that gives empirical validation to my assertions that cross-culturally this movement of women to more aggression at mid-life and men to more passivity is a fact. It's in the hard wiring.

So here are the four foundational powers with one asymmetry. They have the same center but different trajectories for men and women.

The Four Initiations

We are the social animal. We are the cultural animal. We are the ape that creates culture. You put us down anywhere, we're going to create myths and rituals. With those four foundational powers, we're going to create the software we need to actualize our hardware, the potentials in our hardware. If you give us long enough, we will create what we need. **We will create initiations through culture which correspond to each of these instinctual lines.**

In other words, our species is not simple, we're souped up. We're a very souped up chimpanzee, and we have to have a lot of software to go with our biological hardware. So in the past, in indigenous peoples, we have created initiations which correspond to each of these lines of development. We're going to see a little bit later what has happened to us that gets us to where we are now, but here's what we do.

In the past there have been things which men were taught to do that created a **royal initiation**, that really helped them get to the point that they could bless. Men did things together which helped them learn how to mentor. Men did things together which helped them be aware of the need for sacrifice for the whole and they didn't leave this to chance. This is the key thing. They didn't have the same assumption that contemporary people do that you just let a person grow up and they'll be mature. None of the indigenous peoples made that mistake.

They also realized, and Gutmann's book makes this very clear, that the old peoples of the earth, the tribal peoples, all knew that you'd better **initiate the Warrior** in a young man. If you don't initiate the Warrior that aggression energy in a young man is going to damage his community and probably himself. So they came up with software, tribal initiations, from the Masai to the

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Zulu to the Zuni, helping the young male learn what his aggression is for because he's got it so early in his life, he hasn't got any life experience to tell him how to use it wisely. Compare that to the woman.

Among the old peoples of the earth, they didn't just have ordained clergy, they had software initiations for men in this energy. Men learned their **ritual responsibilities**. There was no such thing as a man in a tribe of indigenous peoples that didn't have his ritual responsibility, that did not take his place in the circle of men in the long house. If you haven't ever been in the Museum of Natural History in Chicago and looked at the long houses that men all were in prior to the modern era, then you should do so.

They all knew that there had to be some sort of initiation, some sort of ritual software for **the erotic**. They knew a man needed to power up in the erotic and they knew that this erotic energy was the universal solvent. Without an initiation, it will dissolve anything, personalities, homes, fortunes, whatever-the-hell. We will not ask for any testimonials on this.

So there are your four initiations, the four aspects of initiation corresponding to these powers.

The Role of the Elder

All the old peoples of the earth knew that this needed to be brought on line, contained, channeled, and that men should not be thrown onto their own devices on this. They should have help from other men, especially from elders. There were elders who carried the wisdom and these elders were men who understood the wisdom of the tribe. For many of the tribes, this wisdom went back thousands of years into pre-history.

So here is the plumbing that we have as men and the old peoples of the earth had a sense that you must create myth and ritual to help contain, channel, access, and regulate this energy. This is our past and this past goes back according to Jung and Anthony Stevens and others into the thousands of years of pre-history. So this is the history of masculine spirituality. These are the energies that men all have to connect with and learn how to regulate and contain. This is our heritage.

Questions

Now let me just take a moment here and open this up for any question about this now before I move on. This is the plumbing that we men have to be conscious of and this is our heritage. Any comment or question? Most of you know this stuff so I don't need to spend a lot of time.

The Mission from the Center

What is the framework/container for all of this?

For most of the old peoples of the earth, this stuff was not seen as psychology. This was connected. All of this stuff was not cut off from the spiritual and ethical vision of the tribe. So all of this sort of thing was brought into the mission from the center. They went to the center to connect with all this energy, but it was never seen as private. In other words, this wasn't something you just went to your analyst for and you sort of got powered up so you could be a better executive and be more successful in your career and then retire and play golf. This was not their vision. All of this stuff was seen as integrated: spiritual world, spiritual cosmos. All of these energies were stewarded. Once they were accessed they were stewarded for the larger whole, for the cosmos. This is the critical distinction between the tradition and what has happened to us in the modern world.

Warrior Initiation at Mid-Life

Why are we doing a Warrior initiation at mid-life when mid-life corresponds to the Lover?

Let's talk a little bit about this mid-life stuff in us. We need to really get clear about this mid-life dynamic and how different our mid-life dynamic is from that of women.

There's enormous heart work being done in the New Warrior Network, opening up of men's hearts and working with men at mid-life in this heart work area. I think the genius of Bill Kauth and others forming this vision in the early days was not to call this the New Lover Network. We need to think about this now. Why not the New Lover Network? Men's hearts are opening up.

The Slough of Despond

One of the things we want to talk about together is this abyss, this swamp. You know, they used to call this The Slough of Despond in Renaissance poetry. For you folks that are not from the South, a slough is an old creek that is full of water moccasins. It's hot and wet and full of quick sand. The research shows that men move into mid-life and they become depressed, passive, suicidal, and addictive world-wide. Did you hear that? Depressed, suicidal, addictive world-wide. You can just see this joke. Men at mid-life move right into that heart energy, into the Lover energy and so many of them collapse in a puddle of Jell-O®. I've seen Green Berets that get to mid-life and throw away everything they ever learned about the Warrior.

So why do we have a Warrior initiation at mid-life? Get this now. Because **even if a man had a good Warrior initiation in the first half of life, he is danger of losing connection with it.**

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You've also got people like me who follow the trajectory more like a woman because of the way my family was. I knew that they were nukin' my brother's Warrior when he'd show it, so I moved into the little trickster. Some of you are academics and therapists. You know what I mean. You think you can bypass the Warrior so you move right into that trickster. You're smart and you think everything is good and fine and you've got that big grin on your face. Then you try to have a relationship, and you figure out what-the-heck is wrong with me? But the bad news is even if you were a Green Beret, you can get to this place in your life, moving over this threshold, and completely forget that you ever had any aggression. Even if you remember that you did, you are ashamed of it, you're ashamed you ever had it.

It's good to move into a new room in the house of the soul. The bad news is that when you move into this Lover thing, it will dissolve everything that you ever tried to build. Everything that you ever thought you knew goes right out the door. Well, we could have some testimonials to this, couldn't we?

Talk about our elder problem, now look at this. When the time comes for us males to accept a mantel of generativity and inclusive caring and empowerment of young men helping them deal with their fiery, fire-in-the-belly Warrior energy, about the time when we are needed for that, we couldn't find our ass with both hands much less figure out what we're going to do in eldership.

The Difference Between Men and Women

Now look at this, look at the difference between men and women. You and I know that there are a lot of women that have contempt for their husbands because their husbands have moved into this space and are confused and disoriented. When women get to mid-life, they say to themselves "Huh, I've had enough of this servant stuff, for other people that is. I've learned about boundaries now. I've figured out how I have been screwed. I'm going to get very clear about what I'm up to and if this pitiful excuse for a man that I'm married to doesn't get his stuff together, I'm going to leave him." And they are ready for that. They have Warrior virtues, friends. It's like this:

She says, "Just do it. Stop whining."

He says, "But I ... but I feel ... but I want ... couldn't we ..."

She says, "Just get out of the way, I've got stuff I've got to do."

So she decides to take the helm. She is not feeling whimped out and she is not overwhelmed with feelings of "Oh, this painful." or "This is uncomfortable." or "What will they think?" or "Will she leave me?" When she comes up, she's got that Warrior energy which says "Let's get the job done. I know what I want. I know where I'm going. If you can't come along, then I'll find somebody else." You follow this? This is the radical asymmetry.

When you look in the world, and when you look at Gutmann's book, you notice that women elders are not having as hard a time. They're still having a hard time, but not as hard a time. Why? The female initiation is not in that much better shape than male initiation. So why does Gutmann find that they are doing better than men? The reason that they can do better is because they are not in a pool of feelings when they are challenged with some responsibilities, while males at mid-life are in that Slough of Despond.

Assuming the Mantle of Elder

When you talk to a mid-life male about signing on to be an elder for the New Warrior Network and really build this network, he says, “Man, I’m about healing my wounds and as soon as I can get my wounds healed I’m going to be going on.” This is why it’s so easy for a man at mid-life to use any organization like a cult organization. The research shows that most of the folks going into these cultic organizations move in, they stay about three years while they heal, and then they move on. So you can see the temptation in men’s work in our time, I’m not just speaking of the New Warrior Network, I’m speaking of the men’s movement.

Why has the men’s movement been such a whimped-out complete disastrous phenomenon? You know in 1990 we had one of the big dreams and we had so much Lover energy we couldn’t organize our way out of a paper bag and you can see why. There’s no shame in healing wounds at all but it’s very difficult, coming into that space, to deal with having people talk to you about assuming the mantle of eldership, containing this for men following you and also creating space and a tradition for young men coming on who haven’t even come to mid-life yet.

So you see, here is the challenge, here is the difficulty. You see that asymmetry here. It is not the same for women and for men. I’m just going to talk a little bit now about how this dynamic gets behind the situation we find ourselves in, in terms of masculine spirituality on earth, in terms of the situation in our cities, in terms of our building prisons. Why are we building prisons? Well, it’s all related to this.

The Challenge of a Global Brotherhood

The Forces of Chaos in the World

I want to talk just a little bit about, about what time it is. We've looked at the plumbing. Now I want to talk a little bit about where we are and then I want to talk about why I wanted to come and talk to you men. First a little bit about the situation we're in.

I felt a little bit tonight like Winston Churchill must have felt back in 1940. You know, he was trying to speak to his people and to help them, number one, **understand how desperate their situation was**, and then he had to **counter a kind of passivity and hopelessness** that was threatening to overwhelm England. I've tried to study him and I've often wondered what it must have been like for him to give those speeches. If you haven't heard them, you ought to listen to some of them. You know, this kind of energy: "We'll kill them on the beaches, we'll kill them in the house to house, and we'll kill them everywhere until every German is dead." These were probably the most important speeches of his life, trying to get people to figure out what time it was there in 1940.

I really have felt that my discussion with you tonight is probably, very probably, the most important presentation I'll ever make in my life. I really feel that. I probably will never make another presentation that is as important as mine to you tonight. It's just not in terms of my presentation itself, but of the importance of the topic and the possibilities that are here.

I love to study World War II to understand a lot about leadership and command and things like that. I have come to believe that the summer of 1942 was the most critical period in the struggle of the Second World War. It was a time when the Allied powers were very, very weak. They were unprepared. They were unorganized. They didn't have their leadership lined up. They didn't have their resources lined up. They didn't know what they were going to do. It was a desperate situation.

Think back those of you that know a little bit about this to the summer of 1942. The ovens went into full speed in the concentration camps. On the eastern front the Russian armies were on the retreat. Hitler's Panzer divisions were having a field day. On the western front, the Luftwaffe was bombing the hell out of England, and that high-tech German war machine was cookin'. In the Asian theater, a handful of Allied soldiers in various places were being chewed to bits by an incredibly sophisticated war machine run by masculine spirituality. **Both fronts were being run by tribal masculine spirituality, racist tribal masculine spirituality, in a high key.**

If I had time, I'd talk to you about the men who started collecting themselves a little bit, talking to each other, starting to figure out what to do about it, starting to think about what they needed to do to get off the defensive and on the offensive. Some other time I'll talk to you about Operation Torch which was a first strike lead by George S. Patton, Jr., St. George I call him, at their underbelly, the beginning of change.

We are in a time that is more subtle but **the forces of chaos and destruction on our planet are far greater at this moment in time than they were in 1942, and most people are in massive denial about it.**

The Deculturization of the World

I don't know whether you have seen the recent *Atlantic Monthly* articles. There was one some months ago about the deculturization of the world. We've got a new form of chaos on the planet now that's never been seen before. It's a form of chaos that comes, not when the culture has the wrong leaders in its places of eldership that need a change, but a new form a chaos where **the whole system of elders has collapsed and the culture is falling apart and dissolving into the chaos**. You see it in Somalia and you see it in lots of places on the earth.

I'm told by the leadership here that another article has just come out in the *Atlantic Monthly* focusing more on our cities and about the emerging chaos in our cities, the **enormous increase in violent crime and murder**, especially among our young, **especially among our young males**. It fits Gutmann's research right down to the "t".

We are seeing all over the planet a new thing that is more horrible than the Nazi and Japanese war machines ever thought about being. After the war, we put in teams of people under Douglas MacArthur in Japan to inject democratic institutions into the systems that were present. We did the same thing in Germany and Italy. What we're seeing now is the structure dissolving between our fingers, the structure that is needed to be able to hold anything together.

Our uninitiated Warriors, our mobster-boy Warriors, running the gun trade in the world, are making it easy for boys twelve years old, ten years old to have AK47's and M16's all over the planet. Mobster-boy gangs are increasingly dominating community after community, city after city, all over the world. It's not just in America either. I wish it was only our problem, but it's not. Boys, unelderred boys, uninitiated boys abandoned, refused by their uninitiated fathers and uncles are terrorizing people in New Guinea. They are terrorizing people in South America. And as if the people in El Salvador haven't had enough, we are now exporting our LA gangs to El Salvador, to San Salvador. The gang boys of San Salvador are being educated by the Crypts and the Bloods.

The Lack of Masculine Initiation

Gentlemen, the time is late. This is a desperate situation and we have to look around and see what's being done about it. Look around at your mayors and your governors and your congress and your justice department and **listen for anybody that is going to step up and name the role of masculine initiation or the lack of it in this world-wide phenomenon**. You're going to listen a long time before you hear anybody that's talking about this that knows what's going on. This body of men here, because of their experience, have ways to understand what's going on. But it's amazing to me. **I look and listen to a lot of would-be leaders in a lot of walks of life and it's amazing to me how few have got a clue that it's not merely economics, it's not merely education, it's not merely any particular social location or television show or rap song, it is the whole lack of a system of masculine initiation and eldership**.

If you look in that Gutmann book, what does he say? He says in every indigenous culture the older men bonded together as peace chiefs. They bonded with the young men to help them understand what all that aggression is for. Well, look at this now. If these men were fully powered up, not whimped out, if they still had their sword, if they had some wisdom and they were not just sociopathic tricksters, ...

I didn't say lawyers, did I? My profession has just as many sociopathic tricksters in it as the legal profession, I'm sorry to say. In fact, the professions today are turning into the sociopathic tricksters from the medical profession, to my profession. It's all for the same reason that the kids

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in the streets are doing this stuff: They haven't had any more masculine initiation than those kids in the cities. But anyway, look at this:

You've got your elders. They're full of that generative power, that King energy that's taken them so long to develop. I say fifty-five at the earliest is when it's really going to be cookin'. But they haven't forgotten what it is to have a sword. They're not sociopathic tricksters. They've got a little sense of what knowledge is for. They've got some wisdom for healing and they're willing to steward it. Their hearts have been opened up. They're not the same sadistic young guy that they might have been at one time. They've been able to look their own sadism in the eye and they've been able to repent. They're not white knights anymore, they know they're not pure. They're not red knights anymore, they know that they're not so righteous, that they've been violent. They are black knights, the highest initiation of a man in the Warrior. They're men who have eaten some ashes. They've eaten their shadow to the point where they can still bring that energy. They bring the heart, they bring the wisdom, and they bring it all to this elder task. These men can help young men find their way.

The Disappearance of Elders

Gutmann says these men are disappearing all over the planet. The same men that used to carry the elder are now alcoholic or they're suiciding, or they're in major depressions or they're on golf courses and all of the above. So when these men abandon these males, we've got what we've got now.

In other words, folks, this stuff makes sense. All these folks trying to figure out what's going on and why. It's clear what's going on and why. No longer do we have a problem about figuring it out. We've got all these people in leadership positions in every walk of life, especially those who have to do with the legal system, criminology, and the public life, we've got all these people that think they can explain this without any reference to male initiation or maturation. It's impossible. It cannot be done. **You can't even identify the problem without looking at male initiation, and you sure as hell cannot fix it.**

So what time is it? It is a time when men have abdicated their responsibilities as elders wholesale. We've got all these self-righteous men all over the country who want to put all these boys in prison forever and throw away the keys because these boys are criminals, they can't be helped. This is the situation we face: Men, so called men, who will not face their shadows. They will not face their own abdication. They are willing to throw away the lives of thousands upon thousands of young males all over the country. That's where we are. That's what time it is.

An Order of Earth Knights

That gets me to the question of what do we need. I'm just going to talk about what I think we need. It may not have a thing to do with you. Y'all will just have to excuse me. I'm just going to talk a little bit now about what I think we need. **I think we need a brotherhood, what used to be called an order.**

Now what kind of brotherhood do we need? I'll tell you what kind we don't need. We don't need another SS. Why not? They were organized. They knew how to use technology. They knew how to use spirituality. They knew how to use mythology. They knew how to use ritual. They knew how to inspire men. They knew how to get men committed unto death. They knew how to make men proud. What was the problem? They had a racist, tribal, demonic vision. They made the fatal error that our forebearers have repeatedly fallen into. For thousands of

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years of our past we have done what Erik Erikson called “pseudo speciation”. We have not been able to keep the unity of our species on the screen or to make it a basis for our vision. If I had time, I’d go into it more. But we made the same god damn mistake over and over. We’ve taken these magnificent young warriors and we have offered them a bogus vision, a demonic, racist, non-inclusive vision to serve and die for. I am the descendant of a magnificent Confederate cavalry officer. Walt Whitman was a lover of men. He loved them all. He loved those Yankee boys and he loved those Confederate boys. One of these days your leaders ought to read you some of his poems about that. We’ve been sacrificing these magnificent young men to bogus visions.

Stewarding the Vision

What do we need? We need magnificent young men, middle-aged men, and older men serving a vision worthy of them. **We need to take that energy, that Warrior energy, that’s very likely the most noble thing in the male soul and bring it into the service of an inclusive non-racist, non-sectarian, non-cultic, vision about a world of justice and peace.** Do you know what I mean? Speak to our brothers and Promise Keepers. We need to warn them about the way they’re repeating the error of our forefathers bringing all that wonderful masculine energy and serving another tribal, often racist, vision. We’ve got so many men today, fine men, who’ve been seduced into a vision of right-wing, racist militias because of their knowledge that Warrior energy is important. The only elders and guides they have are men that haven’t got a clue except to repeat the errors of the past.

What do we need? We need some group of people to bring a vision worthy of all of these magnificent young men, red and yellow, black and white. We need to have that vision lifted up. But we don’t need folks just to put out a vision. We need more than just a vision. **We need an order, a brotherhood, that is willing to do what is necessary to steward that vision and to provide the containment that is necessary for initiation into such a comprehensive vision.**

We don’t need an organization that simply provides a place for men to go through their mid-life crisis and leave. Now think about this:

We need an organization which will take a young man and power him up and introduce him to how magnificent he is.

We need an organization that when he hits that white water when he’s about forty, will have men in it that love him, that will help him understand what’s happening to him and that will try to help him keep from hitting the rocks but if he does that will love him, pull him out.

We need an organization that when he gets into his fifties and sixties and starts running into some health problems, will be there for him and will help him understand ways in which he’s still strong, maybe even stronger than when he was physically strong.

We need an organization that will love a man while he is dying and be there for him while he is dying. We need an organization he knows will carry on the work that he was committed to after he is dead and buried. We need an organization that will help that man’s family bury him.

This is an inter-generational. Is this new? This is the way men used to do it. This is way it used to be done in the tribes. What is different about now? What is new? Let me talk a little bit about that. Well, I might as well turn to it now.

Horses of Power

I’ve been looking around for several years now, especially since about 1987 when I got psychotically crazy looking at all the evil in the world, trying to face up to it. **I’ve been looking**

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around for horses of power that the men of the world might ride. But you know what? I hate to tell you this, but there are not very many out there. I like to say to Dave Lindgren and Michael Greenwald and other New Warriors that I get to see in Chicago, “I wish to hell you guys had more competition.” The news is that you don’t have very much competition.

I’ve been looking at you and I’m looking at the possibilities. Now, I have a question in my mind about this. I’ve listened to you guys when you talk about being Warriors and you talk about “new” Warriors. Well, what is “new” about the New Warriors? Well, the old Warriors were tribal Warriors. They were great, they were magnificent, and they were glorious, but they were fighting for tribal visions that were not as large as the human species. I look around among the New Warriors I tend to see something interesting here. New Warriors don’t exclude people because of different spiritual traditions, in fact, they tend to welcome them. New Warriors don’t exclude men because they are different races, in fact, they’re trying to reach out their arms and to become much more inclusive racially as a movement. In Chicago, in my city, a lot of people talk a good game but you know who is trying to step up to the plate and work with young black men in Hales Franciscan High School. It’s been the New Warrior Network that’s put their asses on the line there.

I’m just looking. I’m just observing. You can’t blame me too much if I look to you guys and say, “Hmmmm. Here is a group of men that know how important initiation is. They know what happens to men when they don’t get it. Here is a group of men that are doing their best to be inclusive across economic class, across religions, across races.” This is new. This is a new kind of warrior.

Now, they said they called this an order. Forest Craver likes to talk about the need for an Order of Earth. An Order, that’s an organization of the kind we have been talking about, committed to provide containment and whatever is necessary to get this job done. An Order is something that men develop an allegiance to for the long haul, not just for three years.

Are You the One?

Do you remember that story where John the Baptist goes up to Jesus and he says, “Are you the one or shall we look for another?” To be honest with you, what I have to say to you this weekend is: We are in deep trouble folks and I wish there were a lot of other folks to talk to. If there were I would go talk to them because I’m worried about this. I have not been blessed with any children. If anything, that’s made me more interested in yours. If we don’t find an Order of Earth, we ain’t got a snowball’s chance in hell. If we did find one, we still might not make it, but we’d have a fighting chance and we’d give ‘em hell for a while. I wrote about this Earth Knight Network in that Warrior Within book. So my question is very simple. **Are you the Order that we long for or shall we look for another?** Are you the Order the inclusive Order, the non-racist Order, the non-classist Order, the non-sexist Order, the committed Order that we long for?

If you don’t believe we long for it just go to the movies. They make movies about this stuff all the time. Recently, I sent a packet of stuff to Steven Segal with a little challenge. I sent it through one of my marshal arts brothers. The message was something like this: You play a good earth knight in the movies. Are you interested in really being one? I never heard from him. Maybe I still will. But folks, that’s the issue.

Now, you do fantastic work. I’ve analyzed a lot of folks that have benefited greatly from your work. I have worked with men for years who have been locked up in themselves, in their old anal ways. They have not been able to get out, no matter how much work they do. I have had them go to a New Warrior weekend and have them break out. So I have seen the redemptive

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power of your work in healing. **If you never did anything else except continue the kind of work you are doing right now, you would be a success and people would be grateful to you.** But I just want to raise the question: **Could it be that you have a wider mission?**

Could it be that in the twenty-fifth century, some elder historian is going to be telling stories? He's going to say that it came to pass that in the later years of the twentieth century a small band of men of different races, from different walks of life, woke up. They looked around and they saw what time it was and knew how desperate the situation was and how bad the odds were that they could do the work that needed to be done. Nevertheless they said yes to this challenge, and children, though we cannot remember their names, we are eternally grateful to them.

Thank you, gentlemen.

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