



Jungian International Training Zürich

Friends from Civilization in Transition:

According to all reports, the Dalai Lama is turning his attention from Buddhism toward the "secular ethics" of selflessness, compassion and connectedness. Actually, this doesn't sound too far from the Buddha's teachings, though the new approach may be from a slightly different angle.

How rare it is to see someone refuse power within grasp, pushing away adulation and insisting that he is an ordinary human being, like everyone else. When asked if he would be reincarnated once again after his death, to be reborn as the Dalai Lama in new form, he said 'No'. According to the tradition that installed the first Dali Lama around 1400, this is his 14th stint, and this is it. Ready to go elsewhere. The position is no longer relevant, he says, because the world is moving toward something new in spiritual development. But like it or not, "ordinary" or not, Tenzin Gyatso, enthroned in 1940 at the age of four, may be one of the leaders of this new movement, as people still flock to hear him when he appears in public. Interesting to see where this goes, don't you think?

Civilization in Transition conferences have tried to address the subject now capturing the Dalai Lama's attention. Asking questions and seeking direction about responsibilities to life and others is a huge and slippery topic, and answers are slightly different for everyone. To our great good luck, participants have been more than wonderful, coming from across the globe to join us, explore with us and seek an expanded understanding of what "selflessness, compassion and connectedness" mean in the 21st Century.

We're taking a break in 2016; but Civilization in Transition will be back in the fall of 2017, again in Santa Fe, with a topic we hope will get to the heart of several questions: What is "religion," anyway? Why is it such a controversial subject, not to be addressed at proper dinner parties for fear of offending someone? How are we to understand its eruption on today's political scene? How did fear, suspicion, hatred, exclusion and intolerance come to be a part of religious baggage, and what meaning can we retrieve from religious traditions? What part will quantum physics play in a new approach to meaning? And maybe a more whimsical subject (or possibly not so whimsical): Can robots make soul?

We're lining up some thoughtful people to be with us: **Craig Stephenson**, Zurich-trained analyst/author/scholar; innovative Rice Professor of Philosophy

and Religion **Jeff Kripal**, (<http://kripal.rice.edu/faq.html>); a **Navajo Shaman**; the Foundation's own **John Desteian**; and our beloved musician **Jacque Hairston**. If there's time I'll bring something about the enigmatic Gospel of Thomas. Here is a [video made by John and Murray Stein](#) (click on link) for our past participants with the hope that it will provoke your own ideas and questions.

We also hope that those of you who have been with us before will join us again, if you can, for an exploration of new crevices appearing in spiritual experience and religious movement when we meet October 26-29, 2017, once again at Santa Fe's IMH Retreat Center. In the meantime, stay with your thoughts and meditations about the new world we're stepping into, strange though it may be in this particularly odd election year, and your part in making it whatever it becomes.

Sending peace, love, and courage,
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