

New Story News for July 2021

The New Story Group at Friends Meeting at Cambridge will not meet in July. We will meet next on Monday, August 30, with a program on Drew Dillinger.

Musings

By Cornelia Parkes, July 23, 2021

I am still channeling the “Hieroglyphic Staircase” by Drew Dillinger.

*“it’s 3:23 in the morning
and I’m awake
because my great great grandchildren
won’t let me sleep
my great great grandchildren
ask me in dreams
what did you do while the planet was plundered?
...what did you do while the earth was unraveling?
...what did you do
once
you
knew?”*

The question that many of us are asking now is, “What am I supposed to do?” The power of the dragon seems so absolute—the violence so ingrained, the systems of oppressions so pervasive, minds warped by greed and selfishness so set and so wrong—that depression and apathy seem appropriate. We made the dragon; we can unmake it. We can create a new reality, a reality that is not based on separation and objectification. This is the message hidden in our Christian tradition of God’s new creation. This is the message in the work that reconnects by Jonna Macy of the great turning (See “Entering the Bardo,” below). This is the message from Charles Eisenstein in *The More Beautiful World Our Hearts Know is Possible*. This is the message from Thomas Berry:

*“The historical mission of our times is to reinvent the human – at the species level, with critical reflection, within the community of life-systems, in a time-developmental context, by means of story and shared dream experience.” (Thomas Berry, “Reinventing the Human,” in *The Great Work*, 159).*

And from Drew Dillinger in the [short video](#) “The Power of Story” that we watched at our last meeting:

We need to build a movement that connects ecology, social justice, and cosmology (worldview) using the power of dream, the power of story, the power of art, and the power of action.

When I lie awake at 3:30 in the morning, I’m crying for the birds, for the species that have gone and are going extinct. When I wake up, I remember that I am not alone in my searching. My question becomes:

What did we do when we knew?

Speaking of cosmology and a new reality, as we are in Sarbmeet Kanwal's talk referenced below, I am reading *Helgoland: Making Sense of the Quantum Revolution* by Carlo Rovelli (Rivershead Books, 2020). I should say reading and re-reading because even though Rovelli does an excellent job of explaining quantum physics without equations for the layperson, the concepts are still complicated. Take Schrodinger's cat, whom we have all met before. There are several theories that try to rationalize the quantum weirdness of the superposition of the animal who is both alive and dead (Rovelli prefers to say asleep) until observed. These include, for example, "Many Worlds," which proposes that the cat is alive in one world and asleep in another and the number of possible worlds multiplies; "Hidden Variables" a theory by David Bohm, which is brilliant and un-understandable; "Physical Collapse of the Wave Function" which posits different behavior for macro and microscopic entities; QBism.... And then there's Rovelli's proposal that:

"Instead of seeing the physical world as a collection of objects with definite properties, quantum theory invites us to see the physical world as a net of relations. Objects are its nodes." (p. 79)

Suddenly we are in the realm of [Indira's net](#), a metaphor of Mahayana Buddhism that illustrates the interpenetration, inter-causality, and interbeing of all things. And this famous quote by Thomas Berry:

*"That the universe is a communion of subjects rather than a collection of objects is the central commitment of the Ecozoic. Existence itself is derived from and sustained by this intimacy of each being with every other being of the universe." (Brian Swimme and Thomas Berry, *The Universe Story*, 243)*

Suddenly, I'm ready to read the second half of the book!

DEEP TIME NETWORK



"A Transformed Understanding of Matter"

By Sarbmeet Kanwal, July 11, 2021

Several members of the FMC New Story Group attended a special talk by Sarbmeet Kanwal to the book group sponsored by the [Deep Time Network](#) that is reading *The Depth of Our Belonging: Mysticism,*

Physics and Healing, by Mary Conrow Coelho, 2021. Sarbmeet's talk relates to Chapter Two, 'A Transformed Understanding of Matter'. We are happy to share the [video](#) and [script](#) of his talk.

Deeptime Leadership & Personal Empowerment Program

Full 9-month program starts September 22, 2021. Three Modules: Join each module separately or the whole 9 months.

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[A New Way of Leading & Being](#)

What kind of "leadership" in these times of great upheaval can help pave the way to a flourishing deep future? Seeing our place and role inside of deep time, thinking long term with the whole in mind, and understanding the powers of *Cosmogogenesis* are key. Systems-oriented, creative, self-aware, and globally oriented Deeptime leaders can inspire and support this pivotal evolutionary moment.



Findhorn New Story Hub sends us these articles

Entering the Bardo

by Joanna Macy in *The Emergence Magazine*, June 20, 2020.

https://emergencemagazine.org/op_ed/entering-the-bardo/

In this op-ed, eco-philosopher and Buddhist scholar Joanna Macy introduces us to the *bardo*—the Tibetan Buddhist concept of a gap between worlds where transition is possible. As the pandemic reveals ongoing collapse and holds a mirror to our collective ills, she writes, we have the opportunity to step into a space of reimagining.

"WE ARE IN a space without a map. With the likelihood of economic collapse and climate catastrophe looming, it feels like we are on shifting ground, where old habits and old scenarios no longer apply. In Tibetan Buddhism, such a space or gap between known worlds is called a bardo. It is frightening. It is also a place of potential transformation."

The Web of Meaning: Integrating Science and Traditional Wisdom to Find Our Place in the Universe

by Jeremy Lent. 13 July 2021

<http://newstoryhub.com/2021/07/the-web-of-meaning-by-jeremy-lent/>

"One of the most brilliant and insightful minds of our age, Jeremy Lent has written one of the most essential and compelling books of our time. The Web of Meaning invites us to rethink at the deepest level who we are as a species and what we might become." ~ David Korten

In the video Jeremy shares insights from the book. For more details visit: jeremylent.com/the-web-of-meaning

Beginning Religion with Cosmology instead of the Human

Daily Meditations with Matthew Fox-- *July 10, 2021*

Read the meditation:

<https://dailymeditationswithmatthewfox.org/?s=Beginning+Religion+with+Cosmolog>

Watch these videos:

The Sixth Extinction Official Trailer May 2, 2018 *Video by [Rye Gunter](#)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Es50z7znJo>

Thomas Berry and the Earth Community Jul 21, 2010

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e0XBltUQ8qU>

Video by [Caroline Webb](#) using words written or spoken by American writer and teacher Thomas Berry on core points of the human-Earth relationship.

Ponder these queries:

- Can a renewed awareness of the sacred cosmos bring humanity together in a common task? It must if we are to survive.
- Can all our “defense departments” turn from aiming nuclear bombs at each other and plotting new mad weapons to joining hands to pool all our resources of money, talent, and technologies toward defending ourselves from climate change itself?