

SPARK 105

(Matrix Code: **SPARK105.00** for StartOver.xyz game.)

DISTINCTION: You can awaken aliveness through nonviolent non-cooperation with what is not you.

NOTES: I could also have said, “You can awaken aliveness through resistance-free enactment of your destiny,” but that assumes you are not a sheep. In the Paul Simon song, *Pigs Sheep and Wolves*, we are the sheep. (Paul did not tell me this. It’s my interpretation.)

Ordinarily we view life as an interplay between the sheep and the wolves. (Even black sheep are still sheep...) The oversimplified myth of *us vs. them, sheep vs. wolves, good guys vs. bad guys* puts us to sleep about noticing the activity of a third player: the *pigs*. Including pigs gives a three-way dynamic that looks like this:

Sheep are us. In these days of miracle and wonder, it is not, “We the people...,” it is, “*We the sheeple...*” There is no “them.” There is no secret conspiracy of millionaires and billionaires. People live out their lives in various costumes according to what they want to experience. People working in sheep costumes want to feel safe.

Wolves are the *visible* forces of culture such as all levels of overt and covert government, police, laws, taxes, politicians, courts, lawyers, judges, schools, churches, military, social services, IRS, FBI, CIA, DOD, NSA, NSC, AMA, FDA, etc., those three letter organizations that exist for your *protection*. Wolf forces tell us what we *can’t* do. People wearing the wolf costumes want to feel right.

Pigs are the *invisible* forces of culture such as corporate brands, franchises, slogans, lifestyles, entertainment, sexual images, technologies, addictive foods and drugs (legal and illegal), health ideas, news and media channels, sports and fans, movie stars, holiday rituals, credit, investments, insurances, and so on. Pig forces tell us what we *can* do. People wearing the pig costumes want to feel successful. Pigs invisibly eat sheep and blame the wolves.

Pig forces are “invisible” because from inside the culture we regard piggish influences as *being* the culture, whereas from outside the culture they are more easily seen as *devouring* the culture, subsuming diversity with monoculture. For example, the more sheep that identify with a particular brand the more successful those brand pigs feel. Culture is naturally diverse, the creative expression of individuals. Whatever coerces individuals to use a brand name identity rather than to create a unique identity devours the culture.

This picture is rather grim. There you are, a sheep, trapped by wolves defining what you can’t do and pigs defining what you can do. Your way out of this trap is using nonlinear responsibility to create yourself as a unique human being – different from a sheep, a wolf, or a pig. But let’s face it. Against such formidable forces, a weak and tasty morsel like yourself has minimal chances of success. You are a herd animal, feeding your life force into the network of wolves and pigs so you can feel safe. If it is any consolation, sheep have a far easier time going nonlinear out of the picture than

do the pigs or wolves. This is because “wolf” and “pig” Boxes are strengthened so much when wolves are *right* and pigs are *successful* that their Boxes refuses to let them try anything else. You are a sheep, so you can try anything because what have you got to lose?

Confronting wolf or pig forces is out of the question by now, and not the purpose of this or any SPARK. But intelligently sidestepping wolf or pig forces is always an option, like a bullfighter sidesteps a bull. Sidestepping the visible wolf forces is straightforward. You can avoid joining the army or a church. You can find a way to earn a paycheck not signed by any branch of the government. You can liberate your kids from school and let them learn freely. You can obey the laws that are respectful of your dignity, and invisibly avoid those that are not.

Far more challenging is to sidestep the invisible pig forces. What makes pigs so effective at devouring sheep? The cleverness of their methodology. Whereas wolves use external threat to control the human spirit (any disobedience is *punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both*) pigs use an internal threat: insecurity. A sheep’s highest goal is security. When we sheep even for a moment *think* of doing something other than what the pigs dictate we melt into a puddle of quivering insecurity.

The most shocking element of this puzzle is that both the goal of security, and the threat of insecurity, are imaginary. We sheep live in blind obeisance to wolf and pig forces because we have adopted the absurd belief that security is a possibility.

Let us examine this belief. Holding the belief that security is possible involves using a special distortion of the mind. It is the same distortion that a mathematician uses to define a sphere even though no true spheres exist in the universe. It is the same distortion the mind uses to think of one apple even though an apple cannot exist outside of an entire ecosystem of apple trees / sun / rain / manure / bees, etc., and since the apple is getting riper or slowly rotting in our hand it is never in a steady state but always in flux. The belief that security is possible uses an intellectual distortion that excludes one minor fact about life: Sooner or later, in one way or another, you are going to die. Nothing can make you secure enough to avoid your own death and the death of everyone you know. Security is possible? Only in your imagination! What if you stopped pursuing the fantasy of security? What if you dared living your life? What kind of life would that be?

EXPERIMENTS:

This is a profound and long-term experiment. Your experiment is to take your life back from the theatrical interplay of pigs, sheep and wolves through nonviolent non-cooperation with the fantasy of security. Two elements will support your experimenting: 1) Examining how you now support pigs and wolves, and, 2) Considering nonviolent non-cooperation with what is not you.

SPARK105.01 SUPPORTING PIGS AND WOLVES Write one list of all the ways you give time, energy, attention, money, complaining, or worry to wolf forces (e.g. taxes, speeding, politics, lawyers, schooling). Take your time doing this so that the list is rather complete. Then make a separate list of how you feed pig forces, remembering that pig forces are more difficult to identify (e.g. your attitudes, your clothing styles, how

you look, your possessions, where you eat, where you go online, where you shop, what brands you buy, your involvement with sports, your health practices, your holidays, how you entertain yourself, how you are attracted or repelled by others). In each case, write specifically what you lose while maintaining your illusion of security.

SPARK105.02 NONVIOLENT NON-COOPERATION Nonviolent non-cooperation is a practice in human dignity developed and implemented by Mohandas Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr., and others. There are important distinctions to know about this practice. The central point is reserving your right to disagree with anything – not as a silent or weak expression, but rather as a clearly communicated responsible noncompliance, already knowing that you will pay a price but that your suffering eventually increases consciousness. Start with the pig forces. When you say, do, think, or believe anything that is not authentically what you want to say, do, think, or believe then your life has a false ring to it. Where could you experiment with being noncompliant with that falseness? Here are some possibilities:

- Carefully and neutrally observe yourself when waking up, washing, dressing, eating, arranging things, going places, talking with people, working and so on. What are you doing that is normal *only because it is normal*? Consider non-cooperation with the force of normal.
- Spend fifteen minutes in each of your rooms examining each of your possessions one at a time. Pick one up. Determine why you have that thing? Did it come from media or from your soul? Do you own it out of politeness and social acceptability or because it nurtures your being? Assess each jar of cream and bottle of perfume, every book, magazine, kitchen appliance, each piece of clothing and pair of shoes. Consider non-cooperation with marketing departments and social pressures.
- What opinions do you have about politics, beauty, children, work, time, or your neighbors that agree with other peoples' opinions? What happens when you express a different opinion? Consider nonviolent non-cooperation with predominant opinions.
- When do you strategize about how others might react to various things you could say instead of directly saying what needs to be said? Consider noncompliance with your social fears.
- What automatic reactions, attitudes, prejudices, beliefs do you have that a majority of others have? Can you find a place in you that has a different reaction? Consider non-cooperation with your automatic reactions.

SPARK105.03 EXTRA CREDIT EXPERIMENT Once you have created a gap between the pig, sheep and wolf forces and your daily behavior that is big enough for noncompliance to express itself, begin creating out of nothing what you truly want to do. Do not be frightened if at first there is nothing in the gap that seems to come from you. Do not let the pigs, sheep and wolves back into the void. Keep the gap open until your authentic moves create a rich and unique life of love, beauty, kindness and appreciation for you and your friends.