

SPARK 145

(Matrix Code: **SPARK145.00** for StartOver.xyz game.)

DISTINCTION: You are not what is written in your passport.

NOTES: You have a self-image and self-experience which define the “proper” ways to show up in your life, relationships, and work. Role models and schooling suggest that who you are is your body and your mind. You use additional Box layers to further anchor your identity, such as your family name, your city, your religion, your education diploma, your race, your marital status, your familial role, your employer’s brand, your bank balance, your military rank, the make and model of your car, your clothing labels, your fan club, and your national passport.

But in terms of growing up, clinging to your body and Box identities is like a thirty-five-year-old still living at his parents’ home. There is something sad about this, potentials rejected, invitations turned down, unopened gifts.

Adulthood initiations gradually loosen the grip of identity labels until you discover that you are Gaia. Your physical body has been exuded by the ecology of Earth like a finger of a glove. Your energetic body is no more separate from Gaia’s consciousness than an animal-shape is separate from the cloud you see it in. The pathway of archetypal adulthood is walked by identity layers melting away.

It is an unimaginable transformation: from being someone who must leap out of bed in the morning to fight rush-hour traffic to start working on time so you can make enough money to “survive”... to being the 4 body space-of-Being through which your archetypal lineage can do its work in the world. How does that shift happen? It happens when it is impossible not to happen – the same way it is impossible for a hollow object in the shape of an airplane not to lift into the air when pushed down the runway at a certain speed. *It cannot not fly.* Identity-shift is not something you figure out; rather it emerges from your changed energetic shape. So how do you change your energetic shape? You build new matrix through experimenting!

EXPERIMENTS:

SPARK145.01 During the next few years live within 10 diverse cultural contexts. Each new culture you live in reveals the utter arbitrariness of your birth-culture identity. By doing this, the Boxes of race, creed, politics, color, and nationality that constrict your participation in life will have less and less influence. Instead you gain experiential certainty that who you are is a present-tense noticing Being, a space of possibility through which your archetypal lineage can do its work in the world.

It’s easy. Instead of going on “vacation,” go on *walkabout*. Be sure to take your kids (but not their hand-held devices), and maybe also some of their friends – even if this means taking them all out of school. (STRONG HINT: One of the fastest ways to enter a new culture is to dress as the local people dress. This may be as simple as wearing natural fibers or second-hand clothes. Other times it involves obtaining locally made garments, or assembling an entire medieval outfit.)

Here are some walkabout ideas: Spend a couple weeks at an ecovillage or intentional community anywhere in the world, even if it is right next door! Find them at <www.ecovillage.org> or <www.ic.org>. Visit permaculture experts using waterless composting toilets that separate urine from feces <www.siebenlinden.de>. Or groups putting all personal money together without accounting for who puts in or takes out what amount <www.kommune-niederkaufungen.de>. Or who all wear similar clothing <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amish>> or <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Akha_people>. Or who stand in a circle together silently just after breakfast holding hands for a few minutes <www.schloss-tempelhof.org>. Or who have a less possessive relationship to love, eroticism and sexuality <www.tamera.org> or <www.zegg.de>. Visit temporary communities who come together to un-civilize <www.dark-mountain.net>, or to live in Medieval times <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Renaissance_fairs> or <www.spectaculum.de>, or to abide by 10 principles of creative-collaboration <www.burningman.org>, or to meet indigenous cultures and join in their daily life <www.pachamama.org>. Visit cultures where for millions of families the bedroom is the same as the kitchen is the same as the livingroom is the same as the... they live in one room houses, more oriented towards living than sleeping. Their “bed” is wherever they happen to lie down when they get tired enough. (I once entered a pension in India late at night to find the 40-year-old manager happily asleep on the reception area floor with his wife and children – *in their own pension* mind you, with vacant rooms which they rented out to the strange foreigners who would pay good money just to sleep in a private room – and the manager had his whole right arm slung over the chest of his father who was sleeping next to him. I was touched to the point of jealousy.) There are so many astonishing opportunities available out there. Please go look for yourself.

While preparing to hit the road, kill the fantasy of staying at 5 star luxury hotels. “All inclusive” resorts are like America’s “green zone” in Baghdad, a malignant tumor. Staying in hotels is *touristing*, not traveling. Try it, if you must, to get it out of your system, but notice the unfulfilled longing in your heart to be connected with the local people, to learn something of their ways and views. Instead, stay in hostels or pensions, or in local people’s homes www.servas.org, www.couchsurfing.org, or other coops listed at this info-rich wiki http://wikitravel.org/en/Hospitality_exchange. *Shoestring travel costs less than living at your normal home!* Especially when your journey takes you through Southeast Asia, Africa, South Pacific, and South America (see the shoestring travel guides www.lonelyplanet.com). Stay on walkabout until being the Earth has greater reality for you than the words printed on your passport or the color of your skin, hair, and eyes.

By visiting a multiplicity of new cultures you are warming up for the next experiment, which is to accept your own nondefineability. Who are you previous to Box-layers of cultural identity? Walkabout helps you inhabit parts of yourself not recognized or appreciated by the culture you were born and raised in. You may not have detected these parts before because you smothered them so as to fit into your family. The more adult you become the less interesting it is to fit in, when compared to being yourself. Many parts of yourself may have been neglected until now, but they wait attentively inside you, ready to power-up for your further explorations.