



Victoria Harbor

Hong Kong

vignettes, mythology theory, new myths, articles, poems

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Hong Kong

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vignettes

apples for the queen

We find ourselves sitting under a grand old apple tree somewhere in the south of France. My Queen is stretched out on a purple blanket, enjoying the view from a hill overlooking several vineyards and a small village.

"Look my King, there is the B+B!" Hazel, the owner, is snapping up freshly washed sheets in the backyard.

"Honey, it doesn't get any better than this!"

A cheese and French white wine course is lifted out of the travel basket. "Please hand me the corkscrew."

"Don't you see the obvious, she laughed." She handed her man an apple to be eaten with the appetizers.

"How do you mean, Ms.?"

"Adam and Eve."

"Yes, there is a story within a story here."

The morning Sun soon turned its warming face on the travelers.

"I think we are global people, searching for a new world."

Fresh sheets await the couple that evening as a new tale awaits.

Prague Dream

We are in a fancy hotel room in Prague. Lying on a huge bed together after a day of discovery. There is a cool breeze wafting into the room from an open balcony. I'm tickling you and your laughter fills the space with joy. I play with your straw-like blonde hair as we make-out. Love seems to lift the ceiling off of the room as darkness falls. Very wet showers under a Crimson Moon. Your beating heart puts me into dreamland.

purple pink colors glow

We are on a big, deep lake, and I'm rowing you to a cabin in the near distance. We stop to cast a line and find fish for dinner aplenty. We swim in the cool water. On shore, I make a fire and cook dinner. For the sunset, I put my arms around you and we see the purple pink colors glow. Now night, you shiver in your pajamas and I take you to bed. Two children adults, two lovers in a dream.

mythology theory

Adding Resilience to Joseph Campbell's Four Functions of Mythology

Resilience is the innovative community code that can create and disseminate new values and refocus our view on Nature and consumerism. Mythology Scholar Joseph Campbell introduced one of his principal theoretical constructs in his Masks of God series. In Occidental Mythology, Campbell outlined the four functions of myth (wiki definitions are included):

I. The Mystical Function

Mythology must inspire awe for the universe

wiki: Awe is an overwhelming feeling of reverence, admiration, fear, etc., produced by that which is grand, sublime, extremely powerful, or the like: in awe of God; in awe of Nature.

II. The Cosmological Function

Mythology has to explain the shape of the universe

wiki: The cosmological argument is an argument for the existence of a First Cause (or instead, an Uncaused cause) to the universe, and by extension is often used as an argument for the existence of an "unconditioned" or "supreme" being, usually then identified as God.

III. The Sociological Function

Once we understand that nothing in nature lasts, we are free to design our own social order in accordance with that process. The sociological function validates this.

wiki: Sociology is the scientific study of social behavior, its origins, development, organization, and institutions. It is a social science that uses various methods of empirical investigation and critical analysis to develop a body of knowledge about social order, social disorder, and social change.

IV. The Pedagogical Function

How to live under any circumstances

wiki: Pedagogy is the science and art of education. Its aims range from the full development of the human being to skills acquisition.

V. Adding the Resilience Function

Resilience is the innovative community code that can create and disseminate new values, refocus our view on Nature and consumerism. Resilience is protection and includes a community safety regime; eyes on the land.

Community-driven Resilience Circles connect us to the DIY and Transition movements. Many people in Circles highly value the natural world around them. For example, one group is working hard to protect the local bees by engaging in educational campaigns concerning which lawn treatments kill bees. They knock on doors in their neighborhoods. Many groups value local food and farms. They join together to start community gardens.

* * * * *

Our understanding and manipulation of the Universe has changed radically since the "awe and wonder" of the Campbellian era. Clearly, we require a new global pedagogy and a radical shift in how we deploy the old myths and create new ones.

Texting Joseph Campbell

: I N D E X :

1. Building a Mythology Generator for the Sustainability Age
2. Mapping Future Myths for the Transition -
Workshop & Video, First Study of Myth Symposium, Pacifica Graduate Institute
3. Myth Lab
4. SCORE: sounds symbols myths
5. Mythic Engine

online: <https://www.communityalchemy.com/TJC/TJC.pdf>

new myths

The City of Ragstock, OR

In (classical) mythology, Joseph Campbell's hero's journey, also known as the monomyth, is a common template for myths that involve a hero who goes on an adventure, is victorious in a decisive crisis, and comes home with a reward, and changed or transformed. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hero's_journey

New Mythology offers a new definition of the hero's journey ("text poem story song journey community reward hero"), as an alternative template for creating myths. Here the 8 stages involve a community, not an individual, that experiences a journey, is victorious in a crisis, receives a reward, and is transformed as a Hero. (W. Paul, 2024)

* * * *

Reese, age 9, is texting, working on a poem to his friend Bea, promoting resilience in their community. At this time, The City of Ragstock, OR Citizen's Resilience Committee (CRC) is nurturing the healing and well-being of members and the wider community, rejuvenating ecosystems while building soil and benefiting the climate, providing simple, affordable, low impact housing, and regeneratively producing much or most of its own food and other necessities. It's been a 10-year journey to now.

Reese's poem goes like this:

River's run clean

The sky blue and clear

Compost is keen

Children best hear

Bea writes a short story for the CRC story contest, keeping Reese's poem (and lyrics) in mind. It's about two kids who visit a magical place at the base of Mt. Hood, stopping in towns along the way that are ramping up their resilience programs. As hard work and luck would have it, The CRC has just won a grant for community storytelling from the State Dept. of Ecology.

The City of Ragstock: Community Hero.

The Localization Rangers

New Myth: "The stages involved in creating a New Myth are a creative community that undertakes a journey, is victorious in crisis, receives a reward, and is transformed as a Hero."

###

Transition projects include grassroots community work that aims to increase self-sufficiency, and to reduce the potential effects of peak oil, climate destruction, and economic instability through active localization strategies. Target sectors include food production and energy production and use. Transition initiatives depend on the needs and characteristics of the local area. There are Transition, and Permaculture, heroes.

###

A transitional or circular economy is a model of production and consumption, which involves using materials and products for as long as possible. The Localization Rangers are a music group of five college kids that give Transition concerts and workshops to local civic and governmental groups, emphasizing the seven R's from circular economy theory:

Retaining - holding a vision for change

Rethinking - being critical of the status quo

Regenerating - using Nature to revitalize a person or a system

Reducing - eliminating waste

Reusing - putting used resources back in the system rather than in the garbage

Recovering - creating a healthy community and/or ecosystem

Redesign - improving form and function

Emily and Stewart are co-band leaders of the Localization Rangers in Minneapolis, Minnesota. They wrote a song for Youtube radio called "Transition Hearts."

chorus:

hey, it's in the food we eat

hey, it's energy, we think

hey, it's in the designs we bake

hey, it's the love we make

verses:

as we look down the road,

the stories will get told

why can't we use less and get more

for our children's sake

the garage used to be for cars

now it's for innovation

reusing, recovering

we write the new code

hey, it's in our blood

pouring out of our strings

light a candle and some incense

we are transition hearts

###

Emily and Stewart always open and close their Transition workshops with "Transition Hearts." The workshop features the seven R's from circular economy theory and other quantitative measures like an energy audit, a sustainability road map, and a food waste calculation. Each Transition workshop is added to other workshop data for a community-wide journey for environmental integrity.

The town has been struggling with R4: Reducing - eliminating waste - for some time and the Transition Band is collecting food waste calculations from each neighborhood on their local tour. It turns out that restaurants and schools are failing to compost their waste responsibly. A consultant is hired to implement a town-wide compost program.

EPA Region 14 honors The Localization Rangers and their town with a Sustainability Grant to write a long-term "Transition Plan" that can amplify the work already begun. The Mayor deems the town a "hero" and honors the band with a proclamation of appreciation.

The Sand Bag Factory

Johnny is an Assistant City Planner at the Town of Corral Rocks, FL. He is spearheading the Resilience Initiative (RI) for the town, working with local schools, churches, government, businesses, and nonprofits to prepare for tropical storms, rising tides and sea level rise.

DeeDee is on the RI steering committee and she is working on song lyrics for the (RI) campaign:

hear the ocean roll
and the tide crashing
let me know what's rising
no man laughing
ankle deep water
where dry carpet began
the sea wall is surrounded
families without land
oh Atlantica
I see you coming
save us sandbags folks
before the flooding

She texts her draft song lyrics to her friends and the other members of the RI. One of the solutions to combat climate change is sand bags for low lying residential areas. Johnny has recruited low-income people to work in the new sandbag factory, producing jobs and hoped for security from storms and sea level rise.

"Community Resilience is a pre-natural disaster training and preparation journey for the community," Johnny exclaimed at a meet-up at City Hall.

The hand-out for the gathering includes the following information for the community:

Successful community resilience requires:

Improving social connectedness.

Increasing government integration and involvement in planning, response, and recovery.

Ensuring effective risk communication to the population and especially to at-risk groups.

Bolstering the physical and mental health of the population.

###

In three weeks, Tropical Storm Sandy blew her hurricane force winds into Corral Rocks like a run-away freight train. Over the next year, sea level rise is dangerous, climbing over 4 inches.

The properties that are surrounded by sandbags stayed a lot dryer than those without. The City received a grant to continue its RI work and to fund the Sand Bag Factory for another year.

The Town of Corral Rocks, a small coastal town in southeast Florida, is a Hero!

articles

How routine creates trust and faith

Routine is defined as "a sequence of actions regularly followed; a fixed program."

Trust is defined as "a firm belief in the reliability, truth, ability, or strength of something."

Faith is defined as "a complete trust or confidence in something."

Repetitiveness and reliability create routines; routines create trust; trust creates faith:

1. (repetitiveness) Maintenance is mandatory and expected.
2. (routine) Frequent recharging is necessary; but sometimes routines can get stale?
3. (trust) Tesla cars will never run out of power. Is trust built on experience and subject to change?
4. (faith) Resale value will remain high. Faith might be a stronger belief based on experience (1. - 3.).

Trust and faith built by routines can give us a sense of security and stability in a world that can be unpredictable.

moral compass and resilient community

A moral compass is a set of beliefs about what is right and wrong that guides a resilient community's actions. A moral compass can help the community make decisions in daily life, but it can also help the group find meaning and purpose in life. The Resilient Communities Project defines a Resilient Community that:

- * nurtures the healing and well-being of members and the wider community
- * rejuvenates ecosystems while building soil and benefiting the climate
- * provides simple, affordable, low impact housing
- * regeneratively produces much or most of its own food and other necessities

A resilient community's moral compass is the foundation for ethical decision-making and involves some basic principles and values to support the moral compass. They are:

- * We are all in this together
- * People Care, Land Care, Fair Share
- * Love of the natural world
- * Roots in land and community
- * Healthy bodies, minds, and interpersonal relationships
- * Individual or collective spiritual foundation
- * Self-motivation and resourcefulness
- * Integrity and financial responsibility
- * Creativity, collaboration, and courage

It seems self-evident that the RCP moral compass is largely fueled by Nature and the land. By joining a Resilient Community, ecosystem and settlement are coupled together, a moral compass driven by Mother Nature.

Discussion about wants and needs

Question One: "What do you want to know about the people you might start a Resilient Community with?"

Member Input:

- Their moral compass
- Do I feel safe with them?
- Core agreements we can make
- Ability to navigate unknowns
- Mutual passion

Member Input:

- Some degree of living their dream
- Healthy choices
- Unifying goals
- A record of good relationships
- Compassion and forgiveness
- Self-acceptance
- Self-acknowledgement
- Being present
- Building trust together

Member Input:

- Common values, interests, visions, and goals
- Trust

Member Input:

- Ability to flexibly collaborate
- Willingness to learn new skills and awareness
- Values

Member Input:

- Interests and lifestyles
- Shared interest in Nature
- Capacity for appreciation and consideration
- Focus on solutions
- Individual respect

Member Input:

- Shared core values
- Ability to keep agreements and resolve conflicts
- Integrity
- Do they admit mistakes and take responsibility?

Member Input:

- Can they cook?!
- Spiritual compatibility

Member Input:

- Shared values
- Ability to follow specific processes for certain situations
- Record of responsibility
- Ability to move past mistakes
- Member Input:
- Ability to work out problems
- Emotional intelligence and functionality
- Health practices

Question Two: "What are key ways to get to know each other..."

Group Input:

- Values discussion
- Communicating with each other
- Explore stories from when things were difficult
- Discuss hypothetical situations
- Simulation of a hypothetical project
- Read about emotional intelligence and discuss
- Resolving disagreements (or not)
- Test levels of trust
- Camping and traveling together

To get in touch with RCP visit us at <https://resilientcommunities.network/>

poems

a telegram goddess

She keeps me connected

Here she comes, with her polite stare

I know what's underneath that science

It's her strawberry blonde hair

She is a journey with us

ready to go, ready to stay

don't tell me it's sugar time

I prefer a roll in the hay

a telegram goddess

parked out front

the back seat is full

from love making and magazines

She keeps me connected, a journey with me

a telegram goddess, of love making and magazines

figure head

mystery guider

light beacon

provider leader

sustenance keeper

diver gift figure

founder

what a woman is

open

sensible

loving?

transparent

empathetic

thrifty?

sustainable

spiritual

honest?

poetic

grounded

educated?

visioning

mindful

organic?

She is Sun Flower!

Fire Woman

Dream Chaser

Soul Builder

Earth Cooler

Spark Flier

Sleep Maker

Soil Shaker

Ocean Waver

She is Sun Flower!

The girl in the sky

The girl in the sky

floating with the falcons

cloud brothers and sisters

The woman in the river

swimming with the creatures

warm pools swirling

The people in the city

holding hands pretty

children laughing with God

