

>> Drum roll. Let's go to the next level.

## PLEASURE LEVEL 6

Now, the nature of the next level, Level Six. The first time Level Six has ever made a public appearance, so we're going to be very nice to Level Six and gentle and kind. We'll let whatever needs to happen there, happen. What are we doing, trying to open it? Trying to shut it. Got it. Why don't you take a couple of seconds to work with that, whatever we need to do.

So, this is where it comes all together. **Level Six Pleasure. So, Level Four Pleasure is true self, knowing the true nature of everything. Now, Level Five is the pleasure of Unique Self creativity.** So, now, remember, what's the rule? This is a tall order here, I've got to say. It's a big order. In other words, Level Six Pleasure has to be such that all of Level Five Pleasure will not get you any of Level Six. That's not an easy one to fulfill. It's a big deal. It's got to be its own quality of pleasure, and it absolutely is. I want to introduce it.

So, before we introduce it, let me just say one thing. Now, we don't have quite enough time, now, to deploy all the Principles at the Unique Self level, but I think you get a sense of how they work, at this point, pretty clearly. So, let me say one more thing about Unique Self. In terms of our puzzle piece image, what is Unique Self? Unique Self is there's a puzzle piece. Unique self is your puzzle piece nature, which means that if you want to become part of the whole, you don't round out the contours of your puzzle piece. Let's meditate. Let's round out those jagged contours of a puzzle piece. Then, you try and put the puzzle piece in the puzzle -- oops, it doesn't fit.

Then, you wonder why and, then, you do a study, "Why is there psychosis from certain kinds of meditation?" You're not sure. Well, your answer is, you're doing the wrong thing. It's actually fundamental, in the process. You're actually asking a person to violate their own essential nature. You're telling them that their own essential nature is merely their grasping separate self.

I had a dinner with a couple of fantastic people, working on this project. I didn't say this quite this vociferously, because they're awesome people. But, actually, there's an essential structural problem in the whole deal. You're actually misidentifying a person's most essential yearning, and you're saying that's merely separate self, when, actually, it's Unique Self. It's a big deal, which is why meditation will always cause "X" amount of psychological breakdown. It just will. Zion's mother, Mariana, actually, her basic field is she deals all of her entire therapeutic practice -- she's the person in the country who does that -- she works with people who have actually had some sort of breakdown through meditation and the spiritual path. That's her entire field. That's what she does -- Mariana. She wrote a book called, ***Eyes Wide Open: Cultivating Discernment on the Spiritual Path***, about that. But you can't share everything in one dinner. But it's fantastic, and it's gorgeous. If you really get this, it's fantastic.

Now, what we now have to do is, we now have to say, the puzzle piece image is Unique Self. Unique Self, with its uniquely contoured, textured puzzle piece, which, then, fits into the puzzle. So, it's your uniqueness, which is not the currency of alienation. It's the currency of separation. I'm just going to do

a one minute Harville Hendricks story, because I'm just madly in love with him and Helen, these days. He first got the book, *Unique Self*, to review and he said, "I don't want to review a book on self." That's what he told me. He said, "I don't want to read a book on self." He just told me two days ago. He's said, "I don't believe in this." Somehow, it made it into his bathroom, and he was dismissing it. Then, he started reading it, and he wrote this beautiful, beautiful endorsement of the book. I've never actually called anyone who's endorsed a book, because why would you? You got your endorsement. For some reason, I had this intuition that we need to talk to each other. So, I called him and, as I mentioned the other day, we've become fast friends. Him and Helen are both absolutely wonderful. But here's the key thing we talked about, this past Wednesday. You see, Helen's assumption was -- they're brilliant assumptions, which is shared by most of humanity -- is that uniqueness creates separation. That's what most of us intuitively feel. I'm unique. It means I'm different than you, so, therefore, I'm separate than you. That's not a bad thought. All of the enlightenment traditions made that assumption. It was just a given.

Remember, also, when the enlightenment traditions were formed, it was a world that didn't have a lot of room for uniqueness. You've got to remember that. The enlightenment traditions were formed in a cultural matrix, where doing Julie Cameron's "The Artist's Way," just wasn't big. There was no sense of radical uniqueness. You've got to keep that cultural context in mind.

But having said that, I was 26, teaching at Temple Emeth, in Delray Beach, Florida, when this just exploded in my head. And of course, it only explodes in your head because of Sangha. I was with 500 people, and I didn't know how to reach them. Nothing I said -- I couldn't get through. What, basically, came down, was this idea of Unique Self, which I then called "**Soul Prints.**" We went into that idea, and you literally felt the entire room shift. Everything moved. I knew that something had come down. I've spent, since that time, unpacking this idea. But the core of the realization was that uniqueness doesn't create alienation. Uniqueness is the currency of connection.

So, if you can imagine uniqueness as a puzzle piece, the puzzle piece, then, fits in. It's through your unique puzzle piece that you become part of the larger picture. What do you feel, as a puzzle piece? Just to into the interiority of a puzzle piece, for a second. Sentience all the way down. You're an awake, alive puzzle piece. You're held in the puzzle. You fit perfectly in. You've got perfect intimacy. That's our part of our project. Your perfect intimacy can't come from couplehood, itself. Your perfect intimacy comes from the Unique Self interlocking Kai and Chris. Deep bow. Perfect intimacy. You don't disappear. Kai and Chris didn't disappear. They're both fully Unique Self. Then, that created a "we," that created a perfect intimacy. Even though I met Kai and Chris in Maui -- God knows when, in some wild, weird week that I was teaching with Ram Dass -- then, we never saw each other again. But, somehow, I would get the emails. I didn't put together that Kai had anything to do with Shalom. I didn't get that. I was friends with Gerry at the same time I was getting it. I just didn't know these people had anything to do with each other. I would read the email, and I'd say, "These guys have perfect intimacy." Amen. When you have perfect intimacy, it doesn't end in the body. It's perfect intimacy. Deep bow. Amen.

That's Unique Self. You don't disappear into each other. You fully appear into each other. Do you get the difference? You're not gone, but you don't appear as grasping, fighting, separate self egos, although you may have normal fights. But that's not what it's about. You appear into each other, and a larger "we" space is formed. That's perfect intimacy. So, a puzzle piece in a puzzle has perfect intimacy. No distance. Isn't that fucking awesome? No distance. No separation.

The Imago way of getting together will always leave interlocking puzzle pieces that don't come together. Because if you haven't developed Unique Self, ultimately, then, the couple becomes another form of tyranny. Tyranny appears in many distressing disguises. Couplehood is another one of them, if you don't have a Unique Self relationship.

So, this is the core of the whole thing. It's core. It blows the world open. So, there's a puzzle piece, and the puzzle piece fits into the puzzle perfectly; and, yet, it's separate, at the same time. Isn't that gorgeous? It's located and held -- it's getting fucked by the puzzle, and it's fucking the puzzle, even as it's fully autonomous. So, autonomy and communion then merge into one. So, that's Level Five.

Now, do we have a drum roll? Our last one. What do we still need to solve? Remember, we need something which, all of Level Five doesn't get you Level Six, A. And B, as you're saying to yourself, correctly, I hope, "When are we going to close the gap between the ability to heal and the ability to feel, which we said, downloads addiction?" Now, we've got to come full circle. And, again, you see the elegance of the Dharma? It just comes full circle by itself. I didn't sit down and plan out the full circle. It just is. It's full circle. That's just what it is. They say in the book of Yetzirah, the Book of Creation, which was written probably the first or second century, before the Common Era, has about 470 words in it. It's the first mystical Kabbalistic book ever written. They say, [00:10:58\*], the end is in the beginning, and the beginning is in the end. So, whenever you're in a real sacred conversation in a Holy of Holies, it all comes together. You can't quite organize it. It's self-organizing.

So, let's stay with that word "self-organizing." Let's stay with this.

So, Level Six is Evolutionary Unique Self. Now, let's go slow, because I want to unpack the steps, with the grace of the Goddess. So, Evolutionary Unique Self. What is evolution? Evolution is the essential nature of reality. Life is evolution. That's what it is. They're the same. Life evolves. Life reality is growth. Life is growth. That's what it is, at its very core. Things are always growing. All of reality, however you tell the story, all of life is always growing. Sometimes there's periods of creation and destruction and new creation. But there's a trajectory of growth -- always, always.

Now, what does that mean? Let's stay with this. The single most destructive word I know in the English language, is the word "grown up." It's a really bad word. I stand with Peter Pan. Wendy, you and me. It's a threesome. I knew I'd finally get there. So, here we go. We stand with Peter Pan, and Peter Pan says to the adult world, "I don't want to grow up." He's right. That's when you watch Peter Pan, when you access that energy, he's absolutely right. The word "grown up" means you're grown up. The process of growing is over. That's the single most destructive idea, which is at the very source code of our culture. "That's a grown up." Really? Peter Pan says, "I don't think I want to be that." Now, what's

Peter Pan about? Peter Pan's about eros. Peter Pan is saying, "If I'm a grown up, then, I've lost the whole game. I don't want to grow up. And, then, the tragic, English aristocratic ending of Peter Pan -- Peter Pan is forced by reality to grow up. But, actually, you don't want to grow up. You don't want to regress. You don't want to be an infantile Peter Pan. But you want to be always growing up.

According to the best statistics we have today, average adult development ends at age 26. That's a big deal. A cornerstone book of the Center for Integral Wisdom, where this material will appear, is a book called, *Integral Wisdom: A User's Guide to the Universe*. I'm doing this with Wilber, with Ken. That's where this material, that we did this weekend, is going to find its home. One of the key structures is adult development stops at age 26. That's shocking. Now, it gets even more shocking, and it gets even more interesting. It all comes together, now. So, let's take a look.

So, what is the nature of reality? Reality is growing. I'm going to look at this in a few ways with you. So, let me do it the way that you heard me say before. I'll repeat it, to get us, musically, into the space and to invite the new people into the space. Then, we'll add to it and deepen it. So, what's happening? Let's go back. What's happening. You're a quark. You're hanging out. Heather's a quark. She's hanging out, doing her thing. Heathering. And, then, moving through Heather is this powerful source of erotic attraction, allurements, coursing through her body -- awake, alive, aware -- and she reaches out to another quirk and boom! They're together. A single boundary falls around them, *viola*, an atom is born. Then, the atom feels this force of allurements, rising through it. The atom reaches out -- it takes about a billion years. There's a few dates, a few bad dates, a couple of bars. In the end, it comes together; *viola*, a molecule is formed. Then, the molecules comes together. You have a complex molecule. So, you begin to see what's happening. Then, that complex molecule gets even more complex. Then, strangely - - strangely meaning statistically impossible -- strangely, this complex molecule, then, awakens as life. At each stage of this process, there's what we call -- big word -- *emergence*. What emergence basically means is there's no way that the new thing came from what was before it. That's the simplest way to summarize *Emergence Theory*. Emergence Theory was big in the '30's and '40's and, then, disappeared. Then, with *Systems Theory*, is what you might call in the Academy today, the re-emergence of emergence -- correctly so. Emergence is actually being taken seriously again, correctly. Emergence means that something novel and new is created, that actually is drawn forth, as Stuart Kauffman writes, it's drawn forth by an internal eros, by an evolutionary attractor that actually draws forth the new emergence. That doesn't happen, in any sense, randomly, by chance, from that which came before it. So, is evolution absolute fact? Absolutely. Everyone who tells you evolution is not a fact is just dumb, because evolution is a fact of the cosmos. Is evolution a chance, meaningless process? That's dumber than saying that there's no evolution. It's just not true, in any sense, shape or form. There's actually a deep, inherent creativity; a ceaseless creativity in the cosmos, which is the eros of evolution, itself. It's generating, constantly and consistently, higher and higher levels of emergence. That's how Ken and I were talking about this, now. It's a big deal.

So, what it means is, is that reality is always evolving. So, these quarks become atoms and these atoms -- what's moving this process of evolution? Eros -- *love, by any other name. Meaning a movement and*

attraction to higher and higher levels of mutuality, recognition, union and embrace. Love causes the quarks to come together. Love causes the atoms to come together, to molecules. Love causes the molecules to come together, to form complex molecules. Love is not just Level Two Pleasure. Love is, actually, evolutionary love, which animates all of reality.

When we said your Unique Self, what did we say? You're an irreducible, unique expression of the love intelligence and love beauty that is the initiating and animating eros of all that is. So, that eros lives in you, but it's not you. You're an expression of that eros. You're a unique expression of that eros. That eros moves quarks to become atoms. It moves atoms to become molecules. It moves molecules to become complex molecules. It moves cells to become organelles, or, first prokaryotic cells and eukaryotic cells and, then, more complex cellular structures, and then, early plants, and then, early animals and then, early mammals -- all the way up through the humanoids, who walk the plain. And, then, right to this huge process. So, what did we just describe? We just described cosmological evolution, which goes to higher and higher levels of growth. It's growing, growing, growing. Then, it wakes up as biological evolution -- second Big Bang. First Big Bang, cosmological evolution. Second Big Bang, biological evolution. Then, it goes through higher and higher levels of growth, all through biological evolution. Then, we hit the humanoids, about a million years ago, still biological evolution, walking around the planet.

Then, somewhere between 35,000 and 200,000 years ago, what awakens is cultural evolution, a whole new arena of growth. When cultural evolution starts, a whole new set of lines of growth are unfolded. But from the beginning to the end, the entire story is a process of growth. Let's just throw you a couple of images. I want to get this really clearly, because we're not going to be able to get to the pleasure without this. What are we doing now? We are up-regulating our dopamine receptors. That's what we're doing now. You need this to up-regulate your dopamine receptors. It changes your ability to experience pleasure.

So, here we go. You're a little child. You have, Julie, a cat in front of you. You see the cat, and you say, "Wow." That's called impulsive. It's a response to impulse. Then, Julie is six months older, and we show Julie a picture of the cat. Now, six months ago, we showed Julie, a little baby, cute Julie -- a picture of the cat and Julie is indifferent. The real cat, Julie is like "Wow." So, she responds to impulse. She doesn't respond to images. Six months later, we show Julie a picture of the cat, an image. She responds the same way that she would respond to the impulse. So, she's growing from impulsive to image. But if you would just say to Julie "Fluffy," Julie would not respond at all. Because she doesn't respond to symbols. A year later, you say, "Fluffy," you get the same response from Julie that you get from her actually seeing the cat or from seeing an image of the cat. We've moved from impulse to image to symbol. But if we just say the word "cat," she's completely indifferent. That's a concept. But a year later, you say the word "cat," you get the same response as if she seen the actual cat in front of her. So, what did we just do? That's a growth line -- impulse to image to symbol to concept. That's a growth line. That's what it is.

Let's give you another one, just for fun. How do you provide nourishment to yourself? Well, another

line -- techno-economic based. Hunter/gatherer, level one. Then, hunter/gatherer grows to early horticultural, simple farming instrument. Then, early horticulture grows to agrarian, which is plow, more classic farming societies. And, then, there's this huge leap, as agrarian gets more and more sophisticated. We go from a lower agrarian to a higher agrarian, meaning better and better farming tools. Then, we get to industrial. It's a big, huge leap. After industrial, we get to informational. That's a growth curve. Hunter/gatherer; horticultural; agrarian; industrial; informational. That's a growth line in your techno-economic base.

Or how do you organize reality? You organize reality in, we might call it, a magical way. Level one would actually be animistic/primitive -- survival. Level two would be tribal/magical. Level three would be through structures of power. Level four would be mythological, what we call a mythic membership society, putting different parts of Integral Theory, together with Gebser. After a mythical membership, you'd have a rational, enlightenment society, meaning Western enlightenment. After that, you'd have a pluralistic, bolder, Shalom Mountain society. But if you're actually going from **animistic/primitive; survival; to magical/tribe; to power; to mythological membership, kind of Church Empire; to meritocracy, Western, rational enlightenment; to pluralistic.** Those are six levels of consciousness I just described. We actually spent a full afternoon, one day, here in this room, describing those in great depth, which Tom eventually did transcribe and get to me, which was awesome. Those six levels of consciousness, that's a growth curve. That's growth. I could go on, literally, all day and describe a hundred of these, because growth is happening all the time.

Evolution is the nature of reality, itself. So, what does it mean, in a culture that says, "You're a grown up?" You're dead. If you're a grown up -- remember, language reveals everything. **[00:24:10\*]** had it going on. Language reveals everything. So, if you're a grown up, you're dead. But if you actually awaken -- now, here we go -- and you realize you're an evolutionary, unique self -- and now, we've got the last seven minutes -- this word comes together, so stay with us. It's a good time to sit up for a second. You don't want to lose this, because this is where it comes together. Let's make it happen.

So, Level Six Pleasure is, I am an Evolutionary Unique Self, meaning I'm not only Unique Self -- which means I'm me, living in my environment with the four people, my family and my tribe -- I'm an Evolutionary Unique Self. Meaning evolution, itself, the process of evolution, the great, sensual process -- that's what Marx was pointing to. He felt evolution. He felt it, and he down-leveled it. That was his problem. He reduced it. He was a reductionist. But he felt evolution. He emerges out of Hegel. You feel evolution, itself, the actual power -- Aurobindo called it "the evolutionary impulse," actually awakens inside of you. You actually feel the evolutionary imperative awakening in you, as you and through you. You're not merely a Unique Self, which is the unique expression of true self, that's part of the static, eternal all that is. You're not just the unique expression of being. You are the evolutionary impulse of becoming uniquely expressed as you. So, you're evolutionary, Unique Self.

As evolutionary, Unique Self, you actually feel, awakening in you, the evolutionary impulse. You actually feel that evolutionary creativity -- evolution's next move -- is going to happen through you. That, actually, the entire cosmos is on a scale, and it's 50/50. And your next fucking move weighs the



scale. That's the experience of the evolutionary impulse. You actually feel like, "I'm sitting in the seat." I'm not sitting in the Sangha, watching it happen. I'm in the seat, and it's me. The whole thing depends on me. That's not an illusion, and that's not a delusion of grandeur, as early Freudians would say, that's actually a true and accurate experience of reality. That, if you actually understand, that reality is inner connected. It's not vacant, as Lynn said, when you talked about that beautiful world that you brought into the room. Reality is wholeness, and I'm an irreducible, unique expression of that wholeness. That wholeness is -- here's the addition -- evolving. It's evolving, and it's evolving, awake, alive and aware, in me, as me and through me. I actually feel the coursing, sensual, erotic power of the evolutionary impulse awakening in me. I actually have the realization that I can actually shift the entire trajectory of the entire story. Do you understand the pleasure in that?

Do you understand what begins to happen? The evolutionary impulse provides a level of pleasure, which you can't exchange. All of Unique Self will not get you Evolutionary Unique Self. It just won't, because as you Unique Self, you're still part of the static eternity of the seamless code of the universe. But you haven't yet felt the pulsing source, awakening as you. When the pulsing source awakens as you, oh my God. Now, let's keep going.

Now, how does the world get healed? How does it all shift? So, if you ever looked at a slime mold. How many people have done a little hiking? You come across a slime mold. How many people have met a slime mold one day? About half. How many people have met an ant hill? A little more familiar. E.O. Wilson wrote really important work on anthills. Now, when you meet an anthill or a slime mold, here's what happens. Let's do the slime mold meeting. You meet a slime mold. You say, "Hi." The slime mold says, "Hi." You say, "How are you doing? You're looking pretty good today." Slime mold then, says, "Well, come see me in two days." You come back two days later, because you got an invitation from the slime mold, and you can't turn down an invitation from a slime mold. You come back two days later, and the slime mold is gone. It's completely gone, in a thousand different directions. It's dead, obviously. It's completely disappeared. If you're following, electronically, photographically, you'll see that all the little dimensions of the slime mold have all gone in different directions. It's completely dissipated. "I guess the slime mold broke my date." You come back two days later, there's the slime mold, again. All gathered back together, perfectly. Keep tracking it. How is that happening? So, science says, "Pace yourselves," meaning, there must be somebody in charge who's making it happen. Because there's no other way it can happen. Somebody's making this happen. There's got to be a CEO, a staff. Something's happening here.

Well, so, they worked in trying to find the "Pace yourselves," for about 20, 25 years. They never did. Because there are no "Pace yourselves." Then, they started thinking about an essay, written by a guy named Turing, who did the Turing Test in Artificial Intelligence, if you recognize that, wrote an essay in 1950, 51, called "Morphogenesis." It's one of the great essays. Morphogenesis is about the idea -- just to summarize it, at its core -- is about the idea that the core of reality is, what we call a self-organizing intelligence. How does an anthill organize itself? There is no chief ant, that actually gives orders. What actually happens is, is that every ant is responsive to the ten or twenty ants that they meet,

in the course of time, during that day. Now, that's shocking. Then, those ants give the individual ant indication of what the individual ant should be doing.

Then, that, then, exponentializes. That happens to every ant in the system and, then, the anthill self-organizes. But one second -- who made the blueprint? In other words, who downloaded the blueprint for how this is supposed to happen? No, the blueprint is actually inherent in reality. There's actually an inherent amount of wisdom, what science likes to call "information," but not the way we're using information, as a counterfeit. It's another word for Wisdom, because science is afraid of a word like Wisdom, which is so value-laden, there's no way you can use it in science. But, actually, there's Wisdom, in reality. There's actually an intelligence in reality. We know two things about reality, and the [00:30:48\*] teachers just know one, which is being. Being is only one. But the second one is intelligence. Reality has two properties that are undeniable. Reality is being, and reality is intelligent. From the first second of the Big Bang, there's intelligence in reality. So, that intelligence self-organizes. There's a self-organizing intelligence which is the animating eros of the evolutionary process. Each time it self-organizes, something new, emergent comes to bear. Then, it transcends the previous level. So, we call it **self-organization through self transcendence**. It's a great phrase. If you don't get it, just delete it.

Self organization through self transcendence, meaning that reality self-organizes; then it gives birth to a new level of emergent, of newness; which, then, gives birth to something new; and, then, to something new. It keeps getting more and more complex and more and more conscious. That's a self-organizing intelligence. Now, we haven't gotten to the exciting point yet. This was just background. Here's the exciting point. Let's get this. How does an ant know what to do? So, we just said, a couple of minutes ago, you look at the ten ants around you. In the literature, what they call that is, you look at what your neighbor is doing. That's the actual word they use. Look what your neighbor's doing. They call it in another article, you look at street level.

The reason they're using these metaphors is because one of the defining factors in the theories of self-organization was a series of studies on cities, on how cities emerge and how cities develop. One of the things we learned about cities is, is that cities self-organize. Actually, there's a great essay by Engels, which is actually about how cities self-organize. How does that happen? How do cities become cities? So, at street level, there's a way that things organize. All the shop keepers of this kind go there, and the prostitutes all go there. That was a big question. How did the prostitutes all know where to go? Is there a manual? "Prostitutes in Manchester should be on this block." How do you know? So, there's a self-organization that happens inherently in the system. How do cells know, I'm going to form a kidney and not a liver? How does that happen, from that initiating burst of life, which happens through the grand symphony of mitosis and meiosis. How does that happen?

Whenever I want to do meditation today -- for the last year I've been doing this. I've been reading molecular biology. Molecular Biology just blows you the fuck out of the water. When you actually get a sense of the intense gorgeousness of self-organization happening in your body at every moment --



let's stay with this for a second. The world is filled with pain. We live in a world of outrageous pain. The only response to outrageous pain is outrageous love. The world is filled with problems and filled with challenges. Who's going to solve them? Remember, the ending is in the beginning, and the beginning is in the end. So, we used to think -- we said two days ago -- there's some room, in some company, in some corporation, in some State Department office that's actually going to solve this all. It doesn't exist. That room doesn't exist. It's nowhere. Part of actually, genuinely becoming an adult -- not growing up; becoming an adult, is giving up the fantasy that that room exists. That room does not exist. Nowhere. Anywhere. That's a shocking and frightening release. That room doesn't exist, and we're in great danger.

So, what can we do? Close our hearts? Because the gap between the ability to feel and heal is so great? No, we actually realize that we are part of a self-organizing universe. The core principle in the self-organizing universe is Unique Self and Evolutionary Unique Self. Unique Self tells me I have a unique perspective, which creates in me unique insight; which manifests my unique gifts; which allow me to address the unique need in my circle of intimacy and influence. In our vision of integral wisdom, *The User's Guide to the Universe*, those are the core. That allows me to address a unique need street level -- my neighbor, in my circle of intimacy and influence.

If I fully live my Unique Self -- but not just my Unique Self, my Evolutionary Unique Self, meaning I actually experience the evolutionary impulse awakening in me, as me and through me. So, I feel the love intelligence, which is the initiating and animating eros, love, of all that is, awake in me -- that's outrageous love. That creates in me outrageous acts of love to perform that are irreducibly unique, unlike those of any other.

What does an outrageous lover do? An outrageous lover commits outrageous acts of love. Which outrageous acts of love? Those that are yours to commit. Which ones are yours to commit? The one that emerge from, they're emergent from your Unique Self, unlike any other. Who are you? You are an irreducible, unique expression of the love intelligence and love beauty that is the initiating and animating eros of all that is. Once you realize that, you realize that what's happening in the world is, in **potentia**, a Unique Self symphony; an Evolutionary Unique Self symphony. Actually, although we have limited resources, we have infinite creativity. **Source is infinite; resources are limited.**

The way to unleash the unlimited, infinite creativity, is why I'm a capitalist. Because capitalism allows, for that releasing. Not in its Crony form; not in its corrupt form; in its conscious form. It says, let's unleash -- the world is an entrepreneurial universe. When quirks seek other quirks, and they form atoms, they see an opportunity. They create a connection. They merge. They create a larger hole, which creates more value. **The world, at its core, is entrepreneurial.** So, being an entrepreneur is not a violation of the world reality. It's a natural extension expression of the nature of reality, itself. The entrepreneurial move that's mine to make is to actually be the Chairman of the Board of My Unique Self Corporation. What's its product? The outrageous acts of love that are mine to give in the world, and no one else's, alone to give. When I do that; when everyone in the world does that, you actually unleash the creativity necessary to solve every issue in the world. My friends, cell phones; medical

advances, airplanes -- none of those were done by governments. Every major innovation, in the last couple of hundred years, was done by some group of people -- usually, it wasn't an individual. Usually it's a group of people. You need Sangha. But that's critical -- innovation almost never happens, only through a Unique Self. It usually happens through a group of Unique Selves, who are in some proximity, which is why cities were so important for the unleashing of innovation. Because you created Sanghas in cities. You created intersections of people. It's why, by the way, the virtual world, where everyone works at home, is also problematic. Because you miss a certain face-to-face interface, which is critical for creativity.

But, imagine a Unique Self symphony, in which everyone on a street level responds to the unique need in their world. But they respond to it, not tepidly; not gently -- outrageously. That's my outrageous act of love. In my circle of intimacy and influence, I am the outrageous expression of love intelligence. What that does is, it creates a viral, Unique Self symphony. All of the sudden, the gap between the ability to feel and the ability to heal is closed. Because I realize that I'm an instrument in the Unique Self symphony.

So, what am I supposed to do? I'm supposed to be an outrageous lover, within my circle of intimacy and influence. When I actually express myself, as an outrageous lover, in my circle of intimacy and influence, I feel fully realized. Even though I can't address all the suffering in the world, I realize that what I'm doing is, I'm waking up, in the fullest way, as an outrageous lover, addressing the unique needs that can be addressed by the unique gifts that come from my unique insight, that emerge from my unique perspective. They're an expression of my Unique Self. I'm fully awake and realized.

Now, if I live and kind of give what I can and do what I can; do my best; try and make my world work, then, I don't close the gap. That's not being an outrageous lover. That's not an outrageous lover. An outrageous is not, maybe I'll put Unique Self Recovery into the world. Perhaps, if it all works out, I'm going to move the world. I'm going to shift reality, because my entire life puts me in a situation to be able to do this, and I will fight fiercely and level any obstacle in my path, with utter, radical conviction. That conviction that I hold will sweep the day. Because that's outrageous love. Whatever that is for you; that's outrageous love. Outrageous love is you've got so much conviction. You've got so much fierce grace, moving through you. That outrageous love invites; seduces, in the highest sense of the word; allures, in the deepest sense of the word; attracts, in the most magnetic sense of the word, and it happens.

Now, you overreach, that's the voice of ego. If you under-reach, it's the laziness of ego. Goldilocks -- just right. Just right.

What does an outrageous lover do? An outrageous lover commits outrageous acts of love. Which outrageous acts of love? Those that are yours to commit and no one else's. Which are they? Those that emerge from your Unique Self. Because there's a corner of the world that's unloved, that can only be healed by the love intelligence coursing alive, in you, as you and through you. The pleasure that emerges from the evolutionary impulse awakening in you -- really? Wow. But it's the seduction of that pleasure as a cause that actually created the horror of Communism. So, you can't have evolution

become your cause, at level three, without True Self and Unique Self. In Unique Self, you don't get to kill 17 million collective Ukrainian farmers, because they're all Unique Selves, with irreducible, unique stories, to be live. They're irreducibly valuable. They have infinite dignity and infinite value.

So, what is the counterfeit of Evolutionary Unique Self? Precisely, Communism; precisely, evolutionary spirituality, which devalues the individual. In other words, the seduction of the process, without the irreducible dignity of Unique Self, is destructive. So, the counterfeit is the pleasure of being part of the process is so seductive, it sweeps everything. It's counterfeit. Remember what we said -- Remember the Principle -- the higher the level of pleasure, the more subtle is the counterfeit. And, the next Principal -- the more damaging is the counterfeit. So, it's wild when you get it. The elegance of it blows you away. In other words, the highest level of damage is from the highest level of pleasure. Of course. It's so subtle -- and, again, when I say Jews, I don't mean it as a kind of me, Jewish thing. I use that, meaning, all New York Intellectuals in the 1930's were all Communists. They're talked about being Jews. Half of them were Jews; half of them weren't. But the point was, they're all Communists. Because they couldn't get the subtly. They didn't get it. It was so seductive, that we're going to actually be the face of the process. But when you get, actually, Unique Self, you get that you're the personal face of the process.

Let me just hit you with a last, two minute piece of Dharma. Here it is. This is what you need, to get these levels of pleasure. Level One, personal -- separate self is personal. Level Two -- True Self is impersonal, which is why people talk about enlightenment being impersonal. A dear colleague of mine started something called "The Impersonal Enlightenment Fellowship." Because True Self is, you're beyond personality. It's impersonal. Now, what usually happens is, the impersonal is the end of the story. You've got to move beyond the personal to get to the impersonal. How many people here have heard a thousand times, in some setting of teaching, you've got to leave your personal story behind? How many people have heard that? Everybody. It's part of the lexicon. It's wrong. To say it more accurately, it's true, but partial. Meaning you've got to leave behind the story of your separate self ego, which is the story of your grasping. You, then, merge into the personal essence of True Self, the singular that has no plural. The total number of True Selves is one. So, it's impersonal. That's Level Two -- let's not call it Level Two, let's call it Part Two. I don't want to confuse you with "levels." But that's Step Two. So, Step One -- personal. Step Two -- impersonal. Step Three -- the personal comes back online, as Unique Self. Now, that's a hard thought realization. I fought for that realization for 20 years, argued with every single teacher in the world about it, and everybody said I was wrong, without exception. Every enlightenment teacher and my friend, Ken -- everyone said it was wrong. It wasn't wrong. How did I know it wasn't wrong? I knew it. You know it. At this point, thank God, I would say half of the enlightenment community has come along, shifted their position. Because you really get it. It's wild. Actually, beyond the impersonal is the personal. It's the personal face of essence that lives in you, as you and through you.

So, if Shaun says to Victoria, "I saw Marc this weekend. He's a little impersonal." He's not saying, "He's so enlightened." He's saying, "What an asshole. He didn't say hello to me." In other words,

personal is a quality of essence. Shaun's not saying our personalities didn't get together. He's saying there was something missing, in the God field. So, when we say, "That's impersonal," we're not saying that's enlightened. We're saying it's missing something. So, there's something true in that -- it's personal is a function of essence. So, there's personal before the impersonal, which can become ego and grasping. Then, there's the personal after the impersonal.

Now, watch for a second. So, Unique Self is the personal face of essence. Evolutionary Unique Self is the personal face of the process. Unique self is the personal face of being, of essence. Evolutionary Unique Self is the personal face of becoming, and essence, of course, really contains both being and becoming. So, when you awaken as Evolutionary Unique Self, when that evolutionary impulse awakens in you, as you and through you, and you feel the enormity of that pleasure -- because, remember, now you're connected to the essential movement of growth, itself. The entire pleasure of growth, itself, moving and living at every level of reality, is now awake and alive in you. That's a pleasure that's indescribable.

So, when you align with the evolutionary impulse, you evolve beyond exclusive identification with ego. You waken as Unique Self, and, then, you awaken more deeply and aligned with the evolutionary impulse. The pleasure is beyond imagination, and all of Unique Self can't get you there. Evolutionary Unique Self adds an entire quality of pleasure, which is, you are growth, itself.

So, last paragraph. Level Four, True Self -- gnosis; knowledge. Level Five, Unique Self -- creativity. Level Six, Evolutionary Unique Self -- growth. The actual pleasure of growing. Life is pleasure, and the highest pleasure is to grow.

Ken and I were talking about this idea, and we were talking about the book about three weeks ago, on Monday call. Ken said it very beautifully. He said, after you've done all the drugs that are available, and you fucked everyone in the world, and you have to live forever. What do you do, then? Which, I thought, was a stark way to frame the issue. [laughter]. What he meant was, you grow. It was his way of saying -- we were in the middle of this conversation -- you grow. There's nothing left to do. What are you going to do? You've done everything. You grow. That's the highest pleasure. That's the pleasure of growth.

Now, what we've done is, we've closed the gap between the ability to feel and heal. Because when you awaken as Evolutionary Unique Self, you're part of the whole thing. You actually have the experience that by playing your instrument in the Unique Self symphony, you're actually affecting the whole. That last sentence is so subtle, but it's beautiful. Because you're no longer just in Unique Self, which is part of static eternity. You're part of the evolutionary process, so you're part of the becoming. You're part of the healing. Then, naturally, like any instrument in a symphony, you play your instrument, and your instrument is part of the larger symphony. It creates resonance, throughout the field. So, you get to actually feel the fullness of your power. The infinity of your power and the infinity of your intimacy with all of reality come together.

So, finally, the image of the puzzle piece -- it's a puzzle piece that's connected to the whole puzzle, not

just to the four puzzle pieces around it. That's the difference. The Unique Self is a puzzle piece. It's connected to the four puzzle pieces around it. It's got some sense of the whole puzzle, maybe, as being eternal, but it can't really vision the whole puzzle. But when you're Evolutionary Unique Self, you realize that, by you connecting to the four puzzle pieces around you, you're actually completing the entire puzzle. That lived, first person sense of completing the entire puzzle is awake, alive and filled with eros and pleasure. So, it's a puzzle piece -- it's still a puzzle piece. You're connected with the whole puzzle, but this time, when you connect with the whole puzzle, which is the four pieces around you, you actually realize you're shifting and evolving the entire puzzle. That is, my friends, a Dharma that can change the source code. It changes the game.

There's one thing that's enormously boring, which is knee-jerk humility, which is simply a function of ego. This is the best single Dharma that I know, in the world today. There's one Dharma we can put into the world that actually wraps the whole thing. Everything's in it. The whole entire physical world is in it; the entire emotional, affective world is in it. The whole body is in it -- in Level One, obviously. Level Three -- the whole issue of meaning and cause is in it. The whole enlightenment world is in it. Individuation, uniqueness is in it. The entire Evolutionary Systems Theory is in it. It, actually, organizes all of reality. You can actually live in this.

As Jeff's beautiful distinction yesterday -- this is what Bill is missing -- it doesn't get you there. So, it does what it does, but it doesn't get you there. That's why I think it's so critical. So, this is going to, hopefully, appear as *The User's Guide to the Universe*, at some point. I wildly invite your feedback, your deepening. In the email we send with the *Unique Self* book, that's my gift to you. I'm going to also give you one private email, which I use only for comments on the Dharma, with your name. Anything you comment and share, if it works with Dharma, we'll cite it. Because, actually, no one person can emerge this. It's got to emerge from everything, from all of us. We need a new vision of the patterns that connect.

But, most of all, we need to awaken and know that we're outrageous lovers. That's really who we are. There's two questions -- and with this, we finish. Question one is, are you ready to play a larger game? That's the big question. To play a larger game in your particular life, what's your intention? Remember, we started with intentions. And the question we asked is, are you willing to play a larger game? Are you willing to participate? The core to any Dharma I want to offer in the world is that sentence -- are you willing to participate in the evolution of love? Because you have an irreducible, unique gift that Nance can't give. No matter what she does, Nance will not give that gift. Jerry's not going to give it. Marc's not going to give it. You're going to give it.

But when you really get that, depression dissipates. It doesn't mean you should do away with your drugs. Things work in four quadrants. Any regulation necessary, stick with it. Let's play all the bases, here. But at the core of things -- this is what Lynn and I were talking about. Depression comes from futility. In the ideology of depression, futility is essential. Futility is just another way of saying the gap between the ability to feel and the ability to heal. So, the way you actually heal depression is through joy, and joy is a byproduct of living your Unique Self. That's where it comes from. It doesn't get better.

Are you willing to play a larger game? That's question one, and I ask myself the same question. Everything I'm asking you, I ask myself. Am I willing to challenge myself to play a larger game? I'm looking every day for how can I find the entry to that larger game, to give more; to be more committed; to be more involved; to stand more firmly; to stand more clearly.

Sometimes, you play a larger game by healing something internal and private in you. Playing a larger game doesn't mean a more public game. I want to make that clear. Larger doesn't mean more public. That would be a very bad equation. That's a "People Magazine" equation. Large/good means fame. This has nothing to do with fame. Fame is an idea that appeared in the Renaissance -- see Jacob Burckhardt's essay on fame, cited by Fromm in the footnotes to *Sane Society*. Fuck that. It's not about fame. It's about a larger game. A larger game might be healing something in the structure of your psyche that you could never heal before, and you're going to say, "Enough. I'm going to play a larger game." So, that's question one.

Question two is who are you? That's the question. Who are you? Are you a separate self? Okay, that's one way to play. Are you True Self? It's getting better. Are you Unique Self? Wow. Are you Evolutionary Unique Self, an outrageous lover. If you're an outrageous lover, and you want to know what the first outrageous act of love is to commit, the answer is: write an outrageous love letter. So, I'm going to leave you with that. Write an outrageous love letter. It's the first most available act of outrageous love. Write it to God. Write it to the universe. Write it to a beloved. Write it to someone neutral in your life, that you just haven't really noticed. Write it to someone you're alienated from. But the first act of outrageous love that you can actually perform in your circle of intimacy and influence, is to write an outrageous love letter. That's the invitation. So, the invitation is, some time, in the next 48 hours, to write to someone in your circle, so, actually, this becomes not the close of this weekend. It becomes the opening. The opening is, write an outrageous love letter.

So, I just want to get a show of hands, it can be four lines. It can be an outrageous love note. How many people are willing to commit to the Dharma, to the extent that we're going to write an outrageous love note to someone in our lives -- to someone in our lives. Because who we are is I am an outrageous love letter. It's just what the cosmos is. Remember, Nance, Book of Chan, logos -- the word. What is the cosmos? The Cosmos is God's outrageous love letter to reality. So, the infinite, outrageous love letter is the finite. That's what the world is. The world is logos. It's the word. The word is an outrageous love letter.

So, who am I? I'm a unique letter in the cosmic scroll, meaning I am a unique, outrageous love letter. My life is an outrageous love letter. Do you understand how that shifts self-perception? Who am I? I'm an outrageous love letter. You know how that feels, when you really get that? That's what emerges from the Dharma. It's that last sentence that emerges from the whole Dharma. Who am I? I am an outrageous love letter. That's who I am. My life is about sending that letter into reality, because all of reality, the entire ecosystem of reality, is an outrageous love letter, from the infinite to the finite. That's what it is.

That's what the New Testament meant when it said, logos, the word. That's how we have Sacred Text. It's trying to capture that idea. Sacred Text is an outrageous love letter. That's what it is. But we



actually realize that we're each our own Sacred Text. That your sacred autobiography is the Sacred Text of your life. You've got to methodology your life and not pathologize it. So, your sacred autobiography, my sacred autobiography is our Sacred Text, which is our logos, our outrageous love letter. I'm adding these sentences for those who get the theology in it. It's deep. It's not casual. It's, I am my Sacred Text. So, in the old world, there were Sacred Texts that told me how to be. Now, I'm informed by Sacred Text but actually emerged. I am a Sacred Text, because I'm irreducibly unique, which means I'm an emergent. There never was, is or will be, so how can one Sacred Text guide me? My sacred autobiography is Sacred Text, which is the outrageous love letter that I'm born to write and to live. **[00:59:05\*]**, I am the Lord, your God. We said it two days ago. **[00:59:08\*]**. Four letters. **[00:59:12\*]**. I am my soul. I write. I give. "I" as in "I am the Lord, your God," is I -- is me. I am my soul. I write I give. What do I give? What do I write? An outrageous love letter. What is that? It's my story in the world. It's my Unique Self.

So, we're not going to do a closing circle, because we're late, and I want to respect and honor time and people who are late for appointments and places. But what we like to do is, just close with -- come on to the dance floor. We're going to do three songs, in the exact order. We're going to dance those songs. Find someone to give a huge hug to, as those songs dance. Give a huge hug -- find each other. Find someone you don't know. As we finish the last song, we'll just finally do a deep bow to God, in the center of the room. And we'll have finished this Wisdom School.

And so it is. Let's hold Silence of Presence. We're on the dance floor. We're going to do that order of songs. We good? Meet you on the dance floor.

Hold the Silence of Presence. Everyone who's going out, make sure you come back in. We're going to wait for you. We're going to wait until everyone is back. Let's create a circle. We'll wait until everyone comes back.

Closing matters. If someone would just let the people know that we're waiting for them. Closing matters, so let's find a way to really close of all of us together. We'll wait for the rest of our gang.

**[01:02:36]**

[Marc chanting]

[Others chanting]

>> MG: We're going to stay with this chant to close. Just begin to move around and give people hugs who needs hugs, which is everyone.

[chanting]

>> MG: For our last 30 seconds, Silence of Presence, and, then, we're on into life, without a story. We usually do it with a story. Half of you know this story.

>> So we're not doing an appreciation thing, so that we can close on the story. Deep bow to you, Teacher and Dharma master and the outrageous lover, in the world and in this Sangha. Deep bow. Deep

gratitude. Amen. Thanks for doing it so boldly.

>> MG: Amen. Deep bow to the Sangha. Deep bow to every Unique Self in the Sangha. Amen.

We close with what creates the Sangha. We close with the same story that we all know or most of us know. I'm going to do it in very, very short form, then, we're off with our rituals and the planes, but this makes the Sangha. It's right before the Day of Atonement. Those of you who know this story, you can just tell it in your heads with me. It's right before the Day of Atonement. The Book of Life is open; the Book of Death. The Master says, "Do you want to know how to outwit the Angel of Death?" The students say, "Of course." It's the day when the Book of Life is open. Everyone is decreed. Who knows, in this Sangha, where we're going to be and what's going to happen, and what plays and how it unfolds? The master says, "If you pray to be written in the Book of Life, by yourself, death always wins. But if you're in the Sangha, and you turn to the person next to you, and you say, "I'm not willing to be written in the Book of Life without you," the Sangha is eternal, and death is outwitted."

So, if you feel like it's in you, and it's true, turn to the person next to you -- and if it turns out to be a threesome, make a threesome. I'm going to ask us to do it together, as a Sangha. First, the person with the shorter hair goes first and says, "I am not willing to be written in the Book of Life without you."

And the other person says, in response, "I am not willing to be written in the Book of Life without you," and they say to each other, "I am not willing to be written in the Book of Life without you."

And so it is. Amen.

Deep bow to the God in the center of the room. Amen.