



## OCTOBER DHARMA CIRCLE RECAP

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### *First Principles and First Values, their applications and why they are so urgent?*

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#### **PART ONE: Context**

##### *Language and Story*

In “Homo Sapiens”, Yuval Harari describes language as that which defines Homo sapiens.

Why? Because language allows human beings to tell a story, which creates the possibility of co-operation.

Pre-language human beings could only work together under physical proximity.

Language allowed to change that through generating the ability to **cooperate** through creating a "fictional" (Harari) reality with language. If we change the story - we alter reality.

The passage from p24 – p35 of Homo Sapiens dives into these ideas specifically, and is worth reading. Essentially, For Harari - There is no inherent value in Kosmos, all stories are social constructs: they are made up by human beings, and society can only be altered by changing the story.

Other leading edge neo-liberal writers, such as Joseph Stiglitz and his student, Umair Haque, agree with Yuval Harari that in the face of this existential lack of meaning, there are only two responses possible: “existential humanism” (Camus: “*once we realize that we are all doomed, let’s all hold hands and take care of each other!*”) or “existential nihilism’ (“*once we realize we’re all doomed , let’s just take care of ourselves*”).

### *The age of surveillance capitalism*

Similarly, Shoshana Zuboff in her book "Surveillance Capitalism" denounces Google's business model based on their use of data, and she intuits there is a huge violation but she can't formulate her outrage. Violation to whom or to what? Without first principles and values to stand for, she can't express what the violation is about.

The only alternative to this postmodern lack of shared narrative today is the Pre-modern narrative, with all its classical problems based on totalizing dogmas, which understandably, no one wants to return to. **Conclusion: We need a New Global Story**

### ***PART TWO: First Principles and First Values are the building blocks, of this new global story***

First Principles and First Values are other words for "Dharma". By "Dharma", we mean the weaving together of the most crucial validated truths from all the wisdom streams – premodern, modern, and postmodern – into a new whole greater than the sum of its parts.

#### *What is the difference between First Principles, First Values?*

Examples:

Love and Eros are First Value of kosmos

Love evolves, the Evolution of Love = First Principle of kosmos

Love = First Value

Love evolves = First Principle

1. Reality is relationships (=First Value)
2. Reality is evolution (=First Principle)
3. Reality is the evolution of relationships (=First Principle and First Value)

We live in a relational/ conversational kosmos

Conversation = a First Value of kosmos

1. Reality is relationships (First Value)
2. Reality is evolution (First Principle)
3. Reality is the evolution of relationships (First Value AND First Principle)

When polarization becomes so intense in culture, that you can't have a conversation it's a violation of kosmos. Because conversation is a First Value of kosmos).

Evolution is a First Principle and a First Value - it's both how the kosmos operates and an inherent value of kosmos.

*What is a distinction ? What is the difference between First Principles, First Values and distinctions?*

Distinction : role mates, soul mates, whole mates.

Role mate - conventional roles

Soul mates - Shared wounding and living together

Whole mate, not just looking deeply at each other's eyes but shared horizon

Each level transcends and includes the next one - it evolves

These are not First Values and First Principles, but Distinctions

Within First Values and First Principles there are distinctions.

**Example Distinction:**

Example of First Value: Uniqueness

That's the value. Reality is unique.

Reality deploys uniqueness

Reality is the evolution from unconscious to conscious uniqueness.

Unique Self is a meta-theory of identity based on this First Principle of uniqueness.

**Unique Self** = distinction = metatheory of identity - of the First Value of uniqueness.

***Weaving the New Story***

First Principles and First Values are the threads through which we weave a new story.

"The seamless coat of the universe is seamless but it's not featureless". First Principles and First Values are its features.

We now have a base for the New Story.