



Dharma Circle November 2021 Summary

Locating Ourselves in a Shared History of the Dharma

From Solving Individual Problems to Evolving the Source Code

Our goal this year, in the Dharma Study Group is to revisit the fundamental structures of the Dharma, and to evolve them together. In this session Dr. Marc Gafni takes us on a journey through the history of the evolution of Cosmo-erotic Humanism movement, aka “the Dharma”, so as to locate ourselves in the history of our evolutionary journey.

How did we get here?

Until 2009 Dr Marc Gafni’s focus was in evolving the wisdom of his lineage. Deeply practiced and committed to the masters of Hebrew wisdom, he wanted to revolutionize the lineage. From 2001 and until 2011, his conversations with Ken Wilber evolved and informed his vision of an Integral Kabbalah. From these conversations, certain core lineage notions were articulated through the Integral prism. For example, the terms “3 faces of God”, “the evolution of Love”, and “Unique Self” all were all coined during this period.

In 2009, the first Integral Spiritual Experience was dedicated to Unique Self. It was followed in 2010, by the event “the Future of Love”.

In 2011, Dr Marc Gafni founded the Center for World Spirituality together with Ken Wilber, and Sally Kempton.

Solving problems in the Enlightenment world:

In retrospect, Marc understands that until 2009, he was trying to solve problems in Judaism and Integral Wisdom: As he came to the world of Enlightenment, he was noticing some flaws in certain notions which he felt called to clarify and evolve.

For example, in Integral, there was no distinction between the notion of separate self – something you needed to move beyond, and personal uniqueness. This “problem” led to Marc’s articulation of Unique Self. Another example: In the Integral world, no one talked Love. So, Marc coined the term: “Outrageous Love”, formulating Love in the Kosmic sense, as the “Love that moves the sun and all the other stars” (Dante).

Same for the notion of the “personhood of Kosmos: For Ken, Realization meant “awareness”, and personal uniqueness and praying to a personal God was not part of his teaching on Enlightenment. In their conversations Marc told Ken a story of the Master who would faint in ecstasy every time he would give a blessing: “Blessed are

you! You! You!” . He could never finish his sentence. Why would he faint in ecstasy? Not because of religious dogma, but because he was accessing the quality of personhood that animates Kosmos: God at the second person.

The 3 faces of God:

All of Integral thought changed in dialogues between Ken and Marc. This latter conversation for example, was key to articulating the 3 faces of God:

- First face of God: God lives in me.
- Second face of God: The Infinity of Intimacy that knows my name.
- Third face of God: the Eros that moves through Kosmos (Kosmos spelled with a K equals all of seen and unseen reality, as opposed to cosmos, which points to the physical cosmos).

Unique Self:

Ken Wilber however, really got that Unique Self was as a major Enlightenment tradition when he read Marc Gafni’s 1500 pages tracing back the lineage of Enlightenment tradition, which later became the books *Radical Kabbalah 1 & 2*. From then on, all the Integral scholars of the time started to talk about Unique Self. It had become a general meme, in the Integral community.

Dr. Marc wrote the book *Your Unique Self* in 2011 still trying to solve a problem: The issue that both classical notions of enlightenment, Eastern and Western, are broken models of self that generate suffering, and do not distinguish between individuation before and beyond ego. The book’s core idea is that beyond the notions of individual self, or True Self, each person in a Unique Self, with an irreducible and unique quality of essence, which transcends our social, cultural and psychological conditioning.

Evolutionary Relationships:

One last example of evolving dharma to solve a problem: While we all yearn for a soul mate relationship, we realized that just looking into each other’s eyes will not take us home. In the evolution of relationships, we need to go from role mate (conventional relationships) to soul mate (post-conventional) to whole mate (evolutionary relationships) when we don’t just look into each other’s eyes, but we are looking at a shared horizon together.

Whole Mate includes and transcends Role Mate and Soul Mate, and evolves love.

The Shift from Solving Problems to Responding to Existential Risk by Evolving the Source Code

In 2009, 2010 something shifted when Dr. Marc realized that no one was taking the Existential risk conversation seriously. Those who did were dismissed as crazy dooms day people. Dr. Marc saw this dismissal as a form of avoidance.

In 2011-2013 *The Infinite Resource* – A book by Ramez Naam, came out, laying out seven forms of existential risk ensuring however that it will be solved with innovation and free enterprise. For years, Marc had shared about his concern with Existential risk, at CIW board meeting, in Shalom Wisdom School, or at the Outrageous love Festival (then called the Summer Festival of Love). People said: "*Why are you worried about survival of the planet? We are here for personal development!*"

Marc Gafni would argue that "it is not too big to fail! The system is not too big to fail. Society can actually collapse!

Everything we do has to be to participate in evolving the source code, which is the only way we can prevent it from failing."

For the Sake of the Evolution of Love

In our circles and at the Outrageous Love Festival, we often start with sharing our intention: we practice to shift our intention **from the personal for the sake of the evolution of love.**

This is the only way we can respond to existential and catastrophic risk. After Covid happened and everything stopped, we realized how fragile it all is.

It's not too big to fail!

Infrastructure > Social Structure > Superstructure!

Existential risk can't be solved at the infrastructure (meaning roads, computer systems, planes, transportation, education structure, infrastructure of society, or lower right quadrant) and can't be solved at social structure level (the laws, legal contracts, social contract theories or lower left quadrant). These are "sub-systems".

When you optimize sub-systems, then you sub-optimize the whole system.

The changes that are needed are based on a super structure level:

We need a NEW NARRATIVE OF SELF, a new narrative of power, a new universe story, a new narrative of desire.

We need to answer the core questions of, who am I, where am I, who are we, where are we?

We have to shift our focus and look at the whole system and bring subsystems in larger harmony and they come together as a new source code, a new super structure of reality.

Two Key Pieces: Unique Self and Unique Self Symphony.

The system is made up of two questions: Who am I (Who are we), where am I (where are we). Unique Self (Who am I?) and Universe Story (where are we?) are systemic questions. The complementary context is THE UNIVERSE A LOVE STORY.

Everything else is a subsystem.

We've talked about all these questions before on a subsystem level, now this year in Dharma Circle we will look at the whole system together and evolve the super structure.

In the next seven sessions of Dharma Study Group, we will go through the basic core structures of SELF and lay them out as the ground of the story to answer the question of **HOW DO WE SAVE CIVILIZATION?!**

Because, if we don't change the source code it will COLLAPSE. It's not too big to fail!

Let's change the source code together!