

Hínhaní wašté dojo qhomb (blessings of this good day to my honored relations),

AS some of you know, each year i take the end of December to the end of January for a retreat called Crestwahl...to keep what i'm doing in life on mature bearings toward wiser ways of living, and away from those we're learning are not. the recent crestwahl saw the issue raised of "how authentic vs strategic i've been showing up in people's lives". that issue seems a worthy topic for this, first ever, disclosure of my crestwahl experience to a broader circle than the few confidantes i usually open myself to.

there's a formal format of this that includes more details on crestwahl and how it centers and grounds me, but the reason for this message is to express how i intend to root my relationship with many of you. so, to keep it as brief as i can, i'll begin using that format next winter. with this message, i'm hoping to convey why the choices i make for engaging with the world are so severe, in the authentic and strategic dimensions we all manage. it's a puzzle i wasn't concerned with enough to reflect on before, but now sense that there's an opportunity for becoming a more buoying personality in our circles by "coming clean with my ignorance of it".

crestwahl is where i seriously consider the riddles of my *state of being* while staging where next in life to take myself. and it's in the self-discoveries made during them that these retreats serve as "oxygen-masking" to confirm the interests i'm willing to accept before becoming a champion for them.

i'm re-engaging from this crestwahl a bit more respectful of where others may be in their own discovery journeys, yet still suspecting the interests i'm ally to are what many believe implausible to serve in a reality they understand. and it often seems necessary to remind folks that reaching for (what seem to be) impossibilities is called for when things that matter aren't addressed by the limitations of familiar ways to live. it occurs to me, though; that a proper regard for this may not be the single-minded "circling of the wagons" around my social change agenda¹, that i've been a siren in bringing to our tables, but rather convening council of all the perspectives i can access, and having these better inform the positions i take in any agenda. tenacity for the former often has me implicating many common ways of living as "the problem", rather than deepening connections around consensual solutions.

AS SUCH, the roles that i've been awaiting among you (personal and professional) have been idealistic ones where we're incubating visions that've already imagined our lives (or recognize the importance of doing so) beyond the difficulties of the times and into a common well-being that has surpassed and resolved, rather than eased, those difficulties. my advocacy for this aspiration hasn't changed. so, be assured that the wagon trains of my undertakings will always be on route to radical destinations of possibility rather than the familiar ports of practicality that also matter.

¹ ...to reformulate where living patterns are at least as much at issue as our differing ideologies in the common struggles that populations face.

"we don't need heroes to solve things, we need a whole bunch of awakened geniuses."
Michael Mead

A fortune (perhaps privilege) i'm very grateful to have is that of being on a path and journey that i believe in. there must be a term for the state of *becoming so sated by what has been within reach in life (either conceptually or materially) that the unreachable becomes the next fulfilling state of being to reach for...if not the only one foreseeable.* and that is my sense of what is left for me to live for. we are realizing amazing achievement across every category of endeavor, yet they don't seem to be resolving enough avoidable living struggles as they are mitigating them. my investments in society will be where it is shifting to function more cohesively and interdependently in new anchoring systems, than where it remains on the frontlines easing the damage created by its indulgence. yet i also truly want to be a good friend and solidarity colleague with each of you in the responsible living that's authentic to you, and i'm seeing the changes needed for me to demonstrate that closeness--and still dutifully question the living patterns that are involved. for those of you wondering about the silence from me over the years, and those just wondering about the soberness of my spirit, however it has shown up among us, the inspiration for this letter may provide answers. for me, there's been an under-the-surface sense of something inauthentic in how i was relating to you that was confounding my sense of interconnection with you...that we were striving for comparable understandings of worthwhile living, but not compatible, or valid, reasons for living. what i still struggle with in "meeting people where they are" is in rationales of "life is too short" and similar dubious notions.

"we are here to become our truest selves and honor the song that is to be sung through us."

Joanna Macy

notions in which some of us simply want the familiar systems of social functioning that are in place to serve us properly, while there is evidence that entirely different ones are needed in order for us to mature beyond common subsistence living into genuine collective well-being. and some of the needed systems for this either don't fully exist yet (beyond emerging developments, such as *solidarity economics* and entirely re-imagined conceptualizations such as *communal-asset resourcing*, to retire capitalism); or are being perilously undervalued (in the ways much of indigenous wisdom is being ignored). things most of you are aware of.

an example related to my circumstances is that the convenience of preserving grocery stores as a social institution is defended, while they must be sustained by economics that are at odds with wise living. and instead of turning enough effort to systematically and measuredly developing and transitioning into the next mature designs of collective nutritional security (or older ones that were more regenerative and responsible to begin with), we contentedly cling to the not-yet-entirely-obsolete but increasingly-under-serving way of functioning that too many are convinced they're dependent on.

it's difficult not to regard this as a "treading water" manner of living. and, while i acknowledge the real dilemma involved, i believe it crucial to aspire beyond perceptions like it, and on to where the systems we operate are functionally supporting our ideals, and aren't inadequate to fully serving them.

"we don't need heroes to solve things, we need a whole bunch of awakened geniuses."

Michael Mead

my nature is to seek whatever accords are reachable among varying observations on such opinions, but unless the trajectories of our aspiration are toward futures in which the systems relied on are designed to work very differently than what we're used to, i struggle to imagine us realizing a sustained well-being of all life, and will take a strategic posture here as unrelenting agent for this integral trajectory. until presented with convincing evidence of another wisdom (UPÇEAU (up - so) in my expression) much of how we function as communities, populations, and society doesn't yet invite people to be authentic enough in ourselves to be less strategic in our postures. reasoning out such conundrums is what hedges my support of many lifestyles and social change efforts. this position doesn't seem inauthentic to me, but does come across as being declarative and abrasive more than co-creative. i'll be reining in that aspect of my nature in forging the rapport i want with you. therefore, i now wish to join you all in activities that familiarize us to our respective genius more than to opportunities in our sometimes misdirected society, and to set aspirational trajectories toward collective well-being rather than docility to no-longer-supportable modes of living...and such that we are all manifesting this re-imagined society in the ways that are most naturally suited and soulfully fulfilling to us. there's a line in my song "wash" that reads *...not to drown acquiescence to ways and means, but to bath our souls of the need.* i wasn't aware when writing it that i was tapping into my intuitive imagination of the world i intend to help usher forth.

social cohesion, as a living interest, has been an undercurrent of my living agenda that was, at first, too vague to comprehend, but is now quite plain. though vague, it still lured me to join many social change efforts...only to later withdraw after realizing their scopes of aspiration concentrated too narrowly on existing ways of living and didn't consider beyond them enough to aspire for ideal possibilities in their forward planning, we must be formulating pathways or conduits from pressing realities to the ideals of promising possibilities...not just what is already realized in them-which may require investments from us that we've disparaged in the past. an example is to believe in, then ask ourselves, "when to withdraw from *money* and exchange architectures (in the form of "trade") to develop and introduce new forms of social resourcing?, when to retire leadership for co-creating in what we practice and also emphasize?, when have we adopted inherent genius as comparable to distinguishing accomplishment? these are among my concepts of just transitions in our social movements and general aspiration.

i'm now deciding to use the end of crestwahl to re-engage with my defined circles in appraising some of these findings with me. it's my hope that this ritual improves our connection in ways that you appreciate, as well as in how my spirit prefers to be in relationship...which is concert more than what often manifests as fellowship, comradeship, friendship, and other forms of camaraderie.

to "concert" is to perform ones' characteristic traits in the ways these unique qualities feed into; extend from; or would otherwise naturally react with what is unique in others. concerting is not *compromise*, nor *sacrifice*, it is *complement*. it isn't "doing what we can with what's available" (though it may begin there). it is devising and introducing what synergizes our genius with the snowflakes of distinction that are others'. concert results from the specific combination of contrasting qualities that reciprocate between respective souls...which they draw on to serve callings of purpose in ways that likely wouldn't occur in any other mingling of qualities or lived experience. concert is unique to every relationship, and is signaled by what is uniquely resonant in these relationships.

and that is why *this letter...now*. concerting, more than cooperation; compromise; sacrifice; sympathy, or even empathy is how i will mainly be negotiating and ritualizing my involvement with you going forward.

of course, these others, and more, will be considered for where they're important and applicable. but, concerting is how i'm taking a real stab at honestly presenting my authentic spirit, so that others may honestly know me, and choose how to requite.

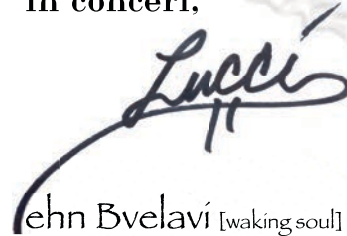
how this ritual unfolds shall be as unique between us as i've described concerting to naturally be. but just getting this letter out to you is a satisfying acknowledgement of how much you are, sincerely, in my thoughts; of my optimism for this manner of relating to you that feels more authentic to me; and of these reckonings reminding me that communicating more routinely, responsively, and openly with you, whatever the context, would make for true concert.

my sense is that what's outlined here are true bearings in which i may foster good associations...that evolve into better relationships...and futures we all believe in! i hope this letter adds to your understanding of how i intend my existence to matter in life, and with you, henceforth. confiding it to you has been useful practice at being a more candid person, and authentic personality.

thank you for being someone i'd want to know how i'm choosing to live!

if you wouldn't mind, i'd like to include you in receiving my wahlseizes when they continue next winter. before doing so, i'll ask you the next time we're in contact.

in concert,



ehn Bvelavi [waking soul]

chanté ocanku th'éča waglúla (heart path new worm) [initiated spirit]

carlucci [familiar posture]

carlos dion winborn [kinship honor]

soul urge catalyst: synergy and concert between distinguishing archetypes of spirit and nature

genius archetype: systematic imagination of ideological design for synergistic concert

life song calling: systematically ritualizing synergizing concerts of social cohesion

life song practices: interpersonal concerting through Saturn Dragon,
and social stewardship orchestrations through Swan's Reach and TSiSC

concerting agenda: dream weaving ways to function as communities and populations that realize the collective well-being of all life