

Caroline Casey's Thoughts (KPFA, Thursdays at 2:00 PM)

- The situation is so dire that we can't afford the luxury of realism.
- Believe nothing. Entertain possibilities.
- Create theatre or live melodrama.
- Imagination lays the tracks for reality to follow.
- Better to create prophecy than live prediction. What makes us passive is toxic. Predictions make us passive, but prophecy is active co-creation with the Divine.
- The invisible world would like to help, but spiritual etiquette requires that we ask. Help is always available; operators (and cooperators) are standing by.
- The only way that the gods know we're asking for help is through ritual.
- If something is a problem, make it bigger. If you cook rage into outrage, it takes it from personal tantrum yoga into the realm of useful action.
- We only possess the power of an insight when we give it expression.
- Creativity comes from paradox. We aspire to be disciplined wild people who are radical traditionalists.
- Critique without vision is complicit with dominance.
- Reframing "cancer": Inappropriately enthusiastic cells that have lost their capacity to cooperate and have no respect for boundaries.
- The wandering sage is the one who voyages outside the norms, whose task is to change conflict into creative tension.
- Medieval maps of the world would delineate the boundaries of the known, and then beyond that would be the sign, "Here be where dragons and unimaginable demons reside, where fools wander and only poets and dreamers shall be safe."
- The alpha wolf, the most influential wolf, is the one who is most playful, and who has the lowest resting heartbeat. Dynamic calm is that which will make us effective in these hot times. The Yoruba, who gave us the word "cool", popularized by jazz musicians in the 30s, tell us that in Yoruba "culoo-culoo", means qualities of Saturn, someone who is response-able, who takes care of business, and that, as in English, it also means cool as in temperature. They guide us to literally imagine our heads as cool, and our hearts as slow and steady that we may enter hot situations as transformative agents, not caught up in hot reaction. A cool head has the capacity for enhanced super-conductivity, the capacity to easily synthesize myriad complex stories.
- Slow way down to speed up. By slowing way down, and focusing, we strengthen our signal, so that we more quickly connect with dynamic allies with whom we are resonant. Farmers tell us that the more we slow water down when we run it through a field, the faster it infiltrates. As we slow down, so we infiltrate. Let all natural facts be social strategy metaphors.

-- America has had such a challenging time distinguishing between the Prankster, the Con-man and the Trickster, for it is the latter that liberates us from the two formers. The prankster is a trickster without a democratic heart, intrinsically elitist and therefore tyrannical. (To put one over on someone is petty tyranny, often of a compensatory function. Revenge of the geeks, I'll show them, kinda shadow. And it all comes down, with Saturn, to unresolved Daddy issues.) And the conman (usually much unresolved, unworked Daddy material here as well) suffers from the greatest soul-loss delusion of all: that anyone could possibly profit from another's pain. Cultivating the qualities of the compassionate trickster within allows us to strip the prankster of his elitist charm.

-- The Compassionate Trickster within us all holds a mirror to the world (look, how terrible!) then with a wave of her hand, turns it into a window, the vision of how it could be; then with another wave of the hand turns the window into a door: "Let's go through and animate the desirable story."

-- Because we are friends of their souls, we are enemies of their actions.

-- Dissolution is the secret of the great work. We dissolve certainty so that vision can come in.

-- Do not stare at your enemy's weapon; he will terrify you. Do not stare into his eyes; he will mesmerize you. Create your own dynamic circle, and then you can sit anywhere you like. The truth of what we worship is that on which we primarily focus.

-- If you want people to get nothing done but conflict, convince them they are on one side of something. Only violence will result. What two needs is to become three. The unifying story is the crucial third factor which turns opposition into a spiral.

-- We've got to change the story. Remember the crucial story told by a UN relief worker, about the scariest moment in his life when he was kidnapped with colleagues in a war zone, right after they had found friends slain by the side of the road. Guns were trained on them in the back of the van, by men with cold murder in their eyes, and they felt they would all die. But then my friend said to his colleagues, "We've got to change the story. We're not being kidnapped, we're being helped." So they began to thank their kidnapers for keeping them safe in such a complex environment. And their kidnapers were puzzled at first. (Trickster says, unexpected is good.) But later that night as they were being locked up, the leader said to them: "Don't worry, we're putting a guard outside so you'll be safe. And three days later, they let them go. At any moment, in all circumstances small or dire, we have the imaginative necessity to go backstage into major story re-write. You're no longer kidnapers, now you're heroes; we're no longer in the role of martyrs. Now we're grateful. Ok, back on stage.

-- Leo is the realm of theatre (create theatre or live melodrama.) and the commerce between backstage and on stage. So it is incumbent upon us all who have the luxury, and therefore the responsibility, of being backstage, we who have not seen someone we love die in front of us, literally have the responsibility to be non-re-active, to re-write the story of now.

-- If we are dedicated to freedom, and the democratic experiment, and salvaging democracy, then we remember that to react is not free. But to cultivate an ever larger repertoire of responses is to align ourselves with nature's evolutionary drive.

-- The medicine Mars: meticulous, pragmatic cultural alchemy along the lines of Hafez: "The small man builds prisons while the wise woman ducks under the Moon and tosses keys to the beautiful and rowdy prisoners."

-- The antidote to feeling poor is to perform acts of spontaneous generosity to participate in the intrinsic fluid swirling generosity of creation.