

An Invitation to Wilderness Dance Camp 2012

“What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us. And when we bring what is within us out into the world, miracles happen.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson

We know many challenges face the human species. Almost everywhere we look – the environment, institutions, economic systems, technology, population – systems are in upheaval and approaching or exceeding the limits of sustainability. Our response to these challenges is sometimes to contract into fear or apathy. We may also try to search within the field of the “known” for some new answer, something the mind may have missed that explains or shows the way out of this chaos. But after a while we might begin to ask: “Can these problems ~~even~~ be solved on the same ‘level’ at which they were created?”

Throughout the 4.5 billion year evolution of life and consciousness on this planet many critical junctures were encountered where the whole thing might have suddenly ended. For instance, primitive life forms overcame the accumulated toxin of carbon dioxide by inventing photosynthesis, producing oxygen as a by-product and opening the way for a whole new phase of life evolution. As physicist Brian Swimme has said, the faith we need now is in the deep structure of the Universe that brings forward the creativity and innovation needed exactly when it is ripe and necessary.

Faith in the light of our very own being - this is the theme of Wilderness Camp 2012, using lines drawn from the Quran – *“Light Upon Light Upon Light”*¹. Our 2011 camp was a beautiful exploration into sustainability with a strong Earth-centered and youth focus. We aim in 2012 to continue this inquiry from the “roots” of our being in the earth upward and inward into the trunk, branches and leaves of life, reaching toward the Light of the heavens. One mark of the Divine in the human includes our innate capacity to look within and know the truth, which is alluded to in many of the sacred texts. Adhering to our capacity to see the truth means facing our challenges with a calm and steady gaze and being willing to follow it all the way to the end.

This Light of our very own being can be experienced and lived as Truth, and also as Presence, as Guidance, as Healing, and in many other ways. Our Dances of Universal Peace are set to texts that flow from these insights. The wisdom expressed by Ralph Waldo Emerson in the epigraph, reminds us that when we manifest and live our unique expression of Light in the world the Universe lines up behind our work. What We Are is always beyond words and prior to concepts; we each have the capacity to see the truth.

I invite everyone—especially the young people who helped us form a beautiful multi-generational community at Wilderness 2011—to come, inquire, and have

fun as we explore our true being in wholeness. Together we will find a creative and profound spark as we bring forth the light of our being together.

See you at Wilderness Dance Camp 2012!

Munir Peter Reynolds, Camp Director

¹ *“Light upon Light upon Light...Back and back we trace it to its Source, From this One comes the ultimate ray of Light and sound, A voice, an echo guiding those who hear the desire behind The unfolding Universe’s story, Who come to its call, like a flock of thirsty birds to water.”* — From the Quran translated by Saadi Neil Douglas-Klotz in his book *Desert Wisdom*.