



Excerpt

Sent to Soar

Fulfilling Your Divine Potential for Yourself and for the World

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Taken from Chapter Five: The Divine Convergence

It comes as an epiphany, an “Ah-ha,” a great thunderbolt of understanding for some, or the dawning of an idea for others. I call it “the Divine Convergence.” When you learn how to ask and answer five basic questions, the forces of the cosmos converge leading you to understanding your dharma.

Dharma is Sanskrit for, “Deep, deep integrity, living by your inner truth.”ⁱ Brahman planted dharma within you as a soul code holding the DNA of what you’re supposed to do in life. The power of embodying your dharma provides a one-to-one relationship with Brahman. You are doing exactly what the magnificent God sent you to do. The distinction between body and soul evaporates as you are constantly in the presence of the holy One as you live each day.

The goal of all the world religions is to bring you into complete union with the Creator as you name it; Brahman, Tao, God, Allah, HaShem, Emptiness, the Cosmos. While each religion proposes a different path of attaining this union, the common bond between them is a profound sense of identity found when we discover and embody our sacred purpose for life. The Vision Quest was central to many Native American tribes. A young boy was sent out on a solo journey to meditate and wait for Wankan-Tankan to reveal their life purpose.ⁱⁱ When a young person received the vision, they lived in complete unity with the creator -- there was no separation. Their vision was

their dharma realized. It was the movement of the Tao embodied. It was the presence of the Holy Spirit in their life. They were one with the creator. The same oneness is readily available to you.

By wrestling with five key questions, eventually an internal epiphany dawns as to what your dharma is. This is why I strongly encourage you to work your way through the journal at the end. The questions are designed to help you wrestle with these topics to discover your dharma.

The five key questions that lead to the divine convergence are: What's my passion? What's my joy? What's my fear? What's my anger? What are my gifts? As you spend time thinking through your answers your ideas will mesh. There will be a whirl of thoughts revealing deep and profound insights. Your divine destiny swims up out of the depths of your heart. Let's look at each of these questions individually.

What are My Passions?

What are you passionate about? What wakes you up in the morning before the alarm because you're excited about getting after it? What keeps you up at night thinking and planning? What books and magazines fuel your excitement? What do you daydream about? What do you aspire to? As a child what did you want to be when you grew up? What do you want to be when you *grow up* now? Even if you're sixty-five or seventy-five, hopefully you still have that child-like desire to "be" something. What is it that when you start talking about it you just can't shut up? All of these questions are hints about your passions.

The Creator did not send us into the world to work and live for something we're not passionate about. But I don't want to confuse working to make a living with working to fulfill a passion. We often earn a paycheck separate from our passions.

John Rankin is passionate about martial arts but makes his living as an engineer. He is tremendously gifted in designing buildings and gas lines. However, his imagination sparks when he talks about martial arts. He loves the tradition, the physical movement, the exercise, and the development of physical power. When he steps through the doors of his Dojang, he immediately

feels he has stepped into his divine purpose.ⁱⁱⁱ John soon realized he had a knack for teaching martial arts, especially to kids with physical, mental, and emotional challenges. These kids find a loving, accepting place in John's school.

For John, martial arts are the avenue by which the Creator works to empower these young lives. He loves to encourage and cheer children on. He has the patience of Job working step-by-step with each of them. John earns a paycheck as an engineer, but martial arts are his passion and his heart soars in a Dojang working with kids.

It's a great gift when we can earn a living doing what we are passionate about. However, we have to sometimes hold our passions in tension with the need for an income. Ideally, the two are one and the same. John's example shows how to hold the two in balance; however, it can be a constant struggle. When his life becomes consumed by his engineering, pushing out the time for his passion, he feels stifled and frustrated.

When you stand at a crossroads, when you feel torn between many different possibilities, always ask yourself, "What am I passionate about? If I go down this path will my passions be fueled and fulfilled?" If the answer is no, then don't go another step in that direction. If you're not doing something you're passionate about, you will feel bored and frustrated. You'll be wasting the precious life that the Creator has sent to you to unleash.

Remember, your passions are a direct link back to the original intentions for your life. If you stifle your passions, you're snuffing out the spark of the divine fire in your soul. Instead, you should be waving as much energy over these embers as possible until they burn hot within you.

What are My Joys?

"What's my joy?" I take Jesus seriously when he said his intended purpose was to bring us joy, "I have come that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."^{iv} The Hindu holy book, the Upanishads,^v teaches that the purpose of our union with Brahman is to bring us complete joy.

The Taittiriya Upanishad invites us to imagine a young person who is, “Healthy, strong, good, and cultured, who has all the wealth that earth can offer” and to take just one measure of his joy.^{vi} Then take this joy and multiply it one hundred times. This compounded joy is but one measure of all those who serve in the heavenly pantheon: the Gandharvas, the Pitrs, the Devas, the Karmadevas, Indra, Virat, and Parajapati.^{vii} The Upanishad teaches this great joy, hundreds of times greater than the wealthiest person on earth, is the possibility of any human who realizes the fullness of Brahman. It’s the divine intention to fill us with joy.

Your purpose is going to unfold around joy. So you need to constantly ask, “What brings me joy? What makes my heart sing? What makes me open up and want to be alive?” You were not sent to do something that dries up your soul. Like your passions, you need to constantly ask yourself, “Where’s my joy?” If what you’re doing doesn’t bring you any joy, why are you doing it?

I find angry Christians a divine turn-off. I find a lot of truth in the bumper sticker, “I like Jesus, but his fan club scares me.” I find the same is true with people of all faiths. Angry Muslims, bummed out Buddhists, hyper-critical Hindus, all of these people devour themselves and each other with their negativity. They are toxic people who do not bear witness to the joy the Creator desires to bring into people’s lives. I fear that people look at angry, judgmental people of faith and ask, “Why would I want to develop a relationship with the Ultimate Being if I’m going to end up acting like these negative people?”

ⁱ Jack Hawley, *Reawakening the Spirit in Work* (San Francisco, Berrett-Koehler Publishers. 1993).

ⁱⁱ p. 23,24

ⁱⁱⁱ Dojang is the Korean term for the place where one practices Taekwondo.

^{iv} John 15:11

^v Eknath Easwaran, *The Upanishads* (Tomales, Nilgiri Press, 1987).

^{vi} p.255

^{vii} The Gandharvas were singers in the courts of the God’s, the Pitrs are the spirits of ancestors, the Devas are the deities, Indra is the God of war and the leader of the Devas, Virat is the knowledge of the universe, Parajapati is the God of procreation and protector of life.