

## **Tribes and tribulations: The nature of the quest of belonging**

We live in a world of fashions, of being connected to each other and to the world by brands and badges that indicate an image or portal of what our projected “self”-image is, a 3<sup>rd</sup> person view that we try to uphold. However, instead of judging this situation as a mere superficiality, the question is why does this occur? Why is it so important for us to “find” and “become” ourselves, to connect with others who are doing the same thing, a community? Why do we want to find people of the same kind, with similar ideas or the same fashion or branding, whether religious, “spiritual” or otherwise?

Originally the “self” did not exist within the human-animal. There was a simplicity of life and death that has long since been lost and fragmented into a seeming chaos of 3<sup>rd</sup> person “points of view” and thereby a total loss of the 1<sup>st</sup> person perspective. We have literally forgotten our senses. The nature and idea of the tribe is a sense of belonging, a sense of connection to the way of being of the actual body and physiology, of the ancestry, of the flesh and blood. There is no requirement for this to be thought about, it is simply a re-connection to a sense of “Home”. In the modern world we have lost our root connection with the land and therefore also with the nature of “tribe”, which results in our superficial attempt to re-create the tribe by means of a cognitive invention of ideas and fashions. Gangs, groups, religions, intellectuals, workers or slaves, medics, lawyers, you name it, there’s a group with which you can be allied and thereby define yourself, a label that advertises the tribe to which one “belongs”. But of course because these tribes are formed from the head-only, ideologically-driven, rather than through our total being, the instinct of union to the land, the people and the whole of nature, we have become cut off from all of this which creates massive suffering. This way of life is devoid of the sustenance and fulfilment that imbues the native tribal cultures even today, whose lives are deeply rich with nature.

As described in other articles, tribalism cannot be a forced or created idea, it is innate, instinctive at its root level. There is no choice about it, it is natural, it does not play a particular role in society, one cannot work at it or learn how to “become” this. This is beyond a “belonging”, it is a realization of Oneness and indivisibleness with the land and “you” or the other members of a tribal family and the so-called “me”. In fact the nature of true tribalism is background to the “self”.

Hence for the modern person, cut off in every way from cultural roots, there is always the quest to be something, to have a connection and a tribal unity with something or someone. We deify the nuclear family and the relationships in it, attempting to create a small “tribe”, but one that in fact is utterly separate from land, community and each other. We follow fashions and adopt methods to make life better, but as with our foods they are all super-size, full of growth hormones and factory farmed but empty of energy and true sustenance to bite into. We are constantly left wanting, a kind of starvation of the senses, yet superficially we seem to “have everything”.

So gradually what needs to occur is that we let go and recognise that things that are fashionable and marketed are without substance and all related to the head. As we move

away from scientification or religious ideology which in fact encompass all forms of ideology, we start letting go of the theoretical and move into the senses and the reality of what we find in front of us. As ambition and the requirement to belong starts to fade, then natural realization of what is felt in the 5 senses becomes apparent. We are spontaneously/ “magnetically” drawn to what it is we *are*, not what we want to be or think we should, could or might be, but simply what we are as part of a community of similar beings, it all happens without any “doing”, in fact because there is no intended action at all. This “automation” is really just nature forming balance. The foods and the peoples we can connect to will be those who live in lands that our bodies naturally respond to, where foods and temperatures render the correct balance with the nature of our body. Some peoples may be travellers, but do so naturally, by using their legs, not utilizing planes or cars. These people are not stoking the furnace of that which results from mis-management or power, where one side of the world is destroyed to uphold an ideology. When the global energy (Gaia) is known to be unified, then all seeming-parts sustain each other. Other people will not be travellers but will remain connected to regions of land that is tended, some will eat meat, others vegetables. When the human returns to the sensory body and earth they return to Eden.

The tribes we still see today seem to have rites and rituals which are considered akin to religious beliefs. However when these come from the core feeling they provide ways and means of creating return and recognition to the 5-senses. While today a lot of the rites and rituals may be caught in the trap of “tradition” which is not about senses and is dogmatic, there are some cultures who still draw towards their senses, which was the original meaning of the rites and do in fact originate from there, rather than an ideology of hierarchy and separation.

It is not that tribal people have “got it right” but rather that they are still in connection to what they are and usually when they do something it is with a deep spontaneity of sense. Whereas a modern person has lost this sense, their actions are conditioned by all sorts of constructs from an early age forming the idea of separate “self”. There is no blame or fault, this is how it is.

As we let go further and further we no longer feel the need to be a “mod” or a “rocker”, a doctor or a lawyer but all that counts is the most basic of sense and sensation. The 5-senses become of greatest interest as they are the whole of what is happening, without the requirement for more. It isn’t that tribalism is a rite-of-passage or journeyed quest, or something that must be done in order to get somewhere or achieve some hierarchical position, the nature of the tribe is actually that it is the flow of life through all, it is belonging without reason, without cause. There is no mountain to climb, in fact instead of always looking to the peak or “head” it is the base and the connection to the earth that becomes of more interest to rectify the balance - the roots more interesting than the flower, the background *inclusive* of the foreground is seen.

As the modern adult gets older, the process of life will be about simplicity, letting go further and further layers of baggage until the bottom falls out. This process takes us from the head to the feet, from the clouds of the ideological to the senses and the earth. Once

the head is contextualized by the feet there is a realization of a far greater sphere, the fact that the natural expression of life's propulsion is a choice-less process. The unravelling of this is occurring in larger and larger groups as people become totally disillusioned with fashions and the ways of attempting/forcing tribal culture or groupings, with the realization that when there is a natural and spontaneous letting go there is a dovetailing into the scheme of things, ordering comes of its own volition. Even the process of the pressure and contortion/contraction of "self" and the attempt to order, is part of the natural energetic itself going through transition which is what we are now in the midst of.

Belonging is not something that is found but something that already *is*, when subject and object, interior and exterior merge. To force nature into groupings is now a tired old game that will soon run out of energy. Then we will naturally reconnect with the earth and each other, we will simply draw together like birds coming home to roost. Just as we don't really need to know *how* we give birth, eat, sleep, defecate, breath or cause our hearts to beat, our connection with the tribe is the same. When there is a deep yearning for land and re-connection to the reality of sensation, then as with pregnant women, there is an innate knowing of what is right, what feels good and what doesn't. Tribe is simply our connection to the instinct of health and the instinct of health is the move to the tribal community, whatever form this takes. It is neither religious nor secular, has no motive or aim, it is simply groups, species coming together and once again finding the land and peoples that suit them. It is this recognition, not the forced union of people with lands which do not match them that they cannot survive in happily, but simply the return to a peaceful existence.

The sense of separation we feel, originally stemming from the mis-perception of the sense of "self", has taken us far away from our connection with peoples and places that are "home", in order for our bodyspirit to be comfortable. When there is at last a letting go of "self" we can naturally return to that which feels right because the 5-senses once again become primary and not secondary. In many ways it is only when the quest for something "better" lets go and there is realization of Oneness, that there is also a growing recognition of/ interest-in the senses, what feels good and what the body truly needs. Slowly conditioning falls away entirely and one returns to the native land of ancestry for this is what is most natural. Therefore the Tribe is innate, our connection to it is impossible to sever, when it is finally ripe it will reveal its potency.



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