

37. ORIGINAL EXISTENCE

“Either you think — or else others have to think for you and take power from you, pervert and discipline your natural tastes, civilize and sterilize you.”

~ F. Scott Fitzgerald

*E*mbbrace experience — your own unique human experience — mindful of the interplay of life at the confluence of the inner and outer. Create your life from a naked *nirvana*; avoid filtering it through mythification, consensus reality or the propaganda of certainty. From this dynamic, unburdened by the armor of pretense or blame, enter this moment now as the playground of original existence and evolve your highest potential.

Improvise your life within and beyond the global mindscape.

Be experimental.

Roam the edges.

Elevate.

Breathe more fully.

Imagine the unimaginable.

Be, all that you are and want to be.

Robert Pirsig wrote in *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*, “We take a handful of sand from the endless landscape of awareness around us and call that handful of sand the world.”

Rethink the world. Take one hundred handfuls of sand.
Challenge the assumptions behind the assumptions.

“The real risks for any artist are taken in pushing the work to
the limits of what is possible.”

~ **Salman Rushdie**

Look at it this way: awareness is an ‘always now’ dynamic. In that sense, there can never be enough awareness. Yet being present isn’t the end of all the *dharma life*. Awareness must be linked with other liberating qualities of consciousness. In other words: awareness supports one waking up from the trance of habit — the mind sees and feels itself; you are no longer asleep. Imagination is the intuitive flash of possibility illuminating your originality, your unexpressed vision. And *dharma intelligence* is the liberating force that creatively arouses you to undertake every action necessary to manifest your innermost dreams, while caring for the freedom of others.

“Freedom of expression is the matrix, the indispensable
condition, of nearly every form of freedom.”

~ **Benjamin Cardozo**

Lowry Burgess, the pioneering artist who created the first official art payload taken into outer space by NASA in 1989, when asked to describe his sculpture that was part of the payload, explained: “I gathered water from the mouths of the 18 greatest rivers in the world...distilled them into pure water on the surface of the Dead Sea, then worked with chemists to add all the elements in the periodic table. Then ... placed that

water inside a cube that was...inside [another] cube. The inner cube was a vacuum chamber, which floats in the water in the outer cube — so the “everything” surrounds the “nothing”... The whole concept of the work required zero gravity. It’s about the release of everything and nothing into floating freedom: weightlessness.”

Albert Einstein once asked himself, “What would I see in a mirror if I were traveling as fast as light?”

Locate your zero gravity, your weightlessness, your most free flowing sense of freedom, and imagine: there is nothing that you cannot do.

“The only way to discover the limits of the possible
is to go beyond them into the impossible.”

~ **Arthur C. Clarke**